



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

11.00am Choral Eucharist

Sunday, 1st December 2019

Advent 1
COCUJA

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.
Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting.*

COMMUNION SETTING Mass in Miniature Kim Worley b. 1984

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Vesper Responsory G.P. da Palestrina 1525-1594
arr. Philip Ledger 1937-2012

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 32 O Come, O come, Emmanuel

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Those who wish to do so may share a sign of peace with those immediately around them using words such as 'God's Peace be with you / and also with you'. Please respect those who wish to use the time for quiet contemplation.

The community of Christ's Church gathers and scatters, again and again. In gathering we renew our strength, deepen our understanding about who Christ calls us to be, and pray for the world. In scattering we go to live out the life of Christ on earth through our prayers and our work. Gathered, and scattered, we are part of a movement which has carried the presence of Christ for over two thousand years, through change and suffering, through renewal and revelation. Here, now, in the holiness of this present moment, surrounded by choirs of angels and a great cloud of unseen witnesses; in unison with the birds of the air and the creatures of the land; and in community with all on earth who worship God, we offer our worship.



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LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

We are a people of hope.

Our hearts are full of anticipation for the coming
of the Christ Child.

For God is to be among us,
when we will see a great light in the midst of our night.

Let us light the Candle of Hope.

The candle is lit

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us take a few moments to reflect on these past days since we have gathered. In silence let us remember where we have responded to God's love - and where we have resisted it. Let us become aware of how our living has expressed the Way of Jesus Christ - and where we have neglected to do so. And let us remember where the Spirit has inspired us to see things differently, and where we have chosen the security of our own preferences. A silence is kept

For our resistance to God's love,
for our reluctance to live out the Way of Christ,
and for our deafness to the Spirit's inspiration,

O God, forgive us and set us free.

KYRIE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we can live with the confidence of knowing that our oneness with God endures for ever, and that every day offers to us a new beginning.

Thanks be to God.

The children leave at this time for special activities in the Lounge.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

For the Word of God, breaking open the meaning of life
in Scripture and story, in poetry and prayer,
in art and nature, and in the witness of human experience ...

Praise to you, living Christ.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2: 1-5

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Go now with the blessing of the Holy Three -
Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier,
and be a blessing to others. **Amen.**

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,
or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.*

POSTLUDE Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland J.S. Bach 1685-1750
(Now come, Saviour of the Gentiles)

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.

Presiding Minister	Rev Sandy Boyce
Scripture Reader	Ian Giles
Organist & Choir Director	Peter Kelsall
Assistant Organist	Christopher Bridge
The Choir of Pilgrim Church	

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***Please join us for a shared lunch and fellowship in the Lounge
after the service.***

*Some prayers have been adapted from 'A Liturgy for Holy Communion'
by Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Faith Community.*

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We call now upon the Spirit's presence at this table, so that this bread and this wine may be infused with the Christ-presence, and that we may be bearers of this presence in our life together, and our life in the world.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(the bread is broken, and there is a moment of silence)

The bread of Christ, broken and shared;
our source of life in all its fullness.

(The cup of wine is raised high, and there is a moment of silence)

The sanctified wine, poured out for us,
to satisfy our deepest longings
so that we may never thirst again.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward in double file down the centre aisle to receive the elements, and return by the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please indicate to the ushers who will arrange for communion to be brought to you. There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the glasses. Please place empty glasses in the baskets.

COMMUNION MOTET Advent Prose

Plainchant arr. Stephen Cleobury 1948-2019

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most Holy God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, for the nourishment of his life and teaching, the power of his death and resurrection, and for his invitation to enjoy life in all its fullness. As he allowed your life and your way to become visible in him, may God's presence also be revealed through our lives. We ask this not in our own strength but through the grace and help of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

As we prepare to leave our time of worship and to take up the rhythm of our daily lives, may we hold within us whatever the Spirit has given to us during this time of worship, and may our prayer and our contemplation allow it to grow and to flourish.

And may God bless us with imagination and courage,
may Christ be our companion and our guide,
and may the Spirit provoke us and empower us
to be all that we were created to be.

PSALM 122

- 1 I was glad when they said unto me
We will go into the house of the Lord.
- 2 Our feet shall stand in thy gates O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself.
- 4 For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord
to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there is the seat of judgement even the seat of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
- 7 Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness within thy palaces.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes I will wish thee prosperity.
- 9 Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God
I will seek to do thee good.

Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy / Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be
world without / end. A / - / men.**

SECOND READING Romans 13: 11-14

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for and face the gospel

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24: 36-44

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN 39 Wake, O wake!

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 26 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

*During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.
Please remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The promise of love is wider than the sea,
deeper than the earth,
and higher than the skies.
Let these gifts and the gift of our lives
express the hope and joy of love,
that none need wait for peace. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we bring our prayers together, we add to the light of the world.
Our prayers are an act of faith, a way of watching for love,
attending to its presence, trusting in its truth.
*A time of silence for prayer - for ourselves, for those we know and love,
for those whose situations are known to us but whose names we may
never know, and for the world God loves.*

O God, You re-create, shape and fashion us to bring forth Your life in this world.

**You help us to recognise goodness, truth and beauty,
and help us to quieten our hearts so that we may be wise and discerning.**

May we grow in kindness and compassion, and share your longing for a world made whole.

**Receive our prayers, and help us to see the world as you see it
- and to be part of all that you are creating it to be.**

We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

Jesus invited us to life in all its fullness. All are welcome at this table.
In this meal we remember and celebrate his presence with us
and our community with each other.

THE NARRATIVE

On a night long ago, in an upper room where he gathered with his
companions, reaching out in love and promising that wherever this meal
was re-enacted he would be present, Jesus took bread and wine -
everyday, familiar things -
and named them as symbols of the most holy mystery of God.
Taking the fragrant, newly baked bread in his hands - hands that had
healed and blessed, hands that had been lifted in celebration,
and wrung in grief and pain;
hands that had overturned tables,
and lifted up those who were bent-over with suffering;
hands that had been clasped in prayer,
and stretched out to gather in the excluded,

Jesus took the bread in these hands, broke it, and blessed it, saying
"This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
Then he took the cup - filled with rich, red wine,
pressed from the fruit of the vine; purified and matured;
symbol of human and divine hospitality;
poured out generously into empty vessels;
a gift which words and rituals cannot fully describe but which we receive
in faith and hope;
a sign of the great oneness between holy and human;
the holy wine of God's never-ending grace,
and blessed it, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this
as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11: 23b-25)
Let us, as the companions of Christ, gathered in this time and place,
know ourselves to be invited and included in the sacred meal which
began that night, and which has never ended.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The presence of Christ be with you,
and also with you.

Be encouraged, dare to be hopeful,
we lift our hearts with hope and joy.

Let us be profoundly thankful

We give to God our thanks and praise.

God, before time you were present. You burst into creativity and
everything began. The Universe and its galaxies exploded into life,
dancing spirals and fiery stars played across the heavens.
The earth cooled, and water came, and over millions of years life on
earth flourished and changed, died and gave way to new life. And in all
this Your very self was being expressed and made known to us.
Here in Australia the rocks and oceans, deserts and rainforests,
creatures of sky, sea and land, and human life, came into being, and an
ancient people told their stories and cherished the creation. Wisdom was
present on earth, speaking through religions and prophets, through story
-telling and myth, in word and ritual, giving meaning to mystery, and
charting the story of humankind.

In the Ancient Near East, as prophets had foretold, Jesus the Christ,
revealer of God, holy one born into our humanity, came and lived and
walked among us, teaching, healing and calling for justice. Through his
life, death and abiding presence a confused and hurting world received
a new message of hope, reconciliation, and liberation for all God's
creation. A new community and a new story began. The story continues
through all who follow the Way of Christ as the Holy Spirit directs them to
in their time and place. Recalling this, and remembering the splendour,
complexity, and eternal possibilities of God's creativity we can only bow
our heads in gratitude, and say:

With all the company of heaven and earth we offer our praise.

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS