

(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.
The gifts are ready.

You are invited to receive them.

Communion is shared

Bread of life, bring forth life in you
Wine of grace, refresh your spirit.

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.**

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.

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

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is exchanged

*Liturgy for Holy Communion Ann Siddall,
Stillpoint Faith Community. Uniting Church SA.
Advent candle prayer by Jolene Cadenbach.*

Please join us for a light breakfast in the Lounge after the service concludes.



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am
Morning Eucharist

Sunday, 1st December 2019

Advent 1
COCUIA

Come into the quiet and find grace and peace to restore your soul

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

In joy and thanksgiving we gather together today. We stand on land curated for centuries by the Kurna people, and in a building sanctified by the prayer and praise of this Christian community. In silence now we open our hearts to God, and to each other, in welcome and love.

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.

(Light the first purple candle)

PSALM of the day

GATHERING

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. In silence we remember who we are and the greater community of which we are a part. *Silence*

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 begin our worship.

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SONG: Come away from rush and hurry (Lyrics: Marva Dawn, Tune: Beach Springs)

1. Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's face.
2. In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.
3. Come, then, children, with your burdens -
life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus;
take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them -
he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
when to self we gladly die.

RECOLLECTING

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.

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.

READINGS: Isaiah 2: 1-5 Matthew 24: 36-44

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.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God,
the whole of creation sings to You, angels and prophets,
women, men and children,
whole communities,
the trees of the earth,
and the stars in the heavens.**

We who gather today can only say "Blessed ... Blessed are you, O God. and blessed is Jesus Christ, who comes in Your name.

Praise to You, Holy One!

In this community of Your people,
we acknowledge and greet the One who comes among us,
Bread of Life, hope of the world.

Christ is with us, Christ is one with us,

and we are invited to participate in the celebration of this holy meal.

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.

Silence

(In the silence, we pause to contemplate and prepare ourselves to receive the One who comes to us in bread and wine).

We say together:

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RAISING OF THE CUP

(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 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 STORY

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.

REFLECTION

SONG: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,
as once an exiled Israel you found,
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.
2. O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.
In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.
3. O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,
help us restore a world we've let decline.
Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.
4. O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.
Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the quietness you are invited to offer a brief prayer, or to name a person or situation you would like us to pray for.

This is my prayer / **This is our prayer.**

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

SONG: TIS 538 Feed us now, Bread of life

(Words & Music: Robin Mann)