

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



**Pilgrim Uniting Church**  
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide  
9.30 **COMMUNITY WORSHIP**



**ADVENT 1**

**30 NOVEMBER 2014**

**'Learning to walk in the dark with hope'**



**About silence**

When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities. But in the depths of our being Christ is praying, far more than we imagine. Compared to the immensity of that hidden prayer of Christ in us, our explicit praying dwindles to almost nothing. That is why silence is so essential in discovering the heart of prayer.

Although God never stops trying to communicate with us, God never wants to impose anything on us.

Often God's voice comes in a whisper, in a breath of silence. Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Spirit, is already prayer.

It is not a matter of trying to obtain inner silence at all costs by following some methods that creates a kind of emptiness within. The important thing is a childlike attitude of trust by which we allow Christ to pray within us silently, and then one day, we will discover that the depths of our being are inhabited by a Presence.

*(Preface to 'Songs and Prayers from Taize 1991)*

## Welcome

## Acknowledgement

### Lighting Advent candle

In the beginning

darkness covered the face of the deep.

**And God was present in that darkness.**

When the sun is shadowed

when the moon and stars are hidden from our eyes

**we trust that darkness to be full of newness and hope.**

God of light and darkness we light this first Advent candle

**to affirm the presence of God as hope.**

### Gathering Song – 'In the Lord I'll be ever thankful' *(sung twice)*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices the Lord is near,

Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

*(From Songs for Pilgrims 26)*

### Prayers of who we are

Let us confess our sin and admit who we are

We are impatient and bored.

We are often undisciplined and irresponsible.

**That's the way it is, and we are sorry.**

Although we care about the poor and the oppressed;

and enjoy cool buildings, comfortable chairs and three good meals a day.

we fail to ensure that others can also enjoy them.

**That's the way it is, and we are sorry.**

We are not sensitive enough of others

and too sensitive of ourselves.

**That's the way it is, and we are sorry.**

*(from 'Women and Worship', Sharon & Thomas Emswiler)*

### Song SfP 16: 'God weeps'

**Time for reflection** *(Some quiet music will be played during this time.)*

Reading

Praying

Thinking

Writing

Lighting a candle

**Offering:** Bring your offering and order of service to gather around the table

### Offering prayer

### Prayers for others

### Song at the end of the prayers: 'The Reign of God'

The reign of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Come, Lord, and open in us the way to compassion.

*(adapted from 'Songs from Taize, 2005-2006')*

### Blessing and passing of the peace to one another

### Farewell song: 'Jubilate, servite'

Raise a song of gladness peoples of the earth

Christ has come bringing peace. Joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart. *(from 'Songs for the People of God' 38)*

*This service was prepared by Jeff Telfer and Margaret Chittleborough  
using some songs from the Taize community in France.*

*Thanks to Rod Curtin and to the musicians who added so much to our worship.*

*Jenny Ward played the chamber organ.*

*Please join us for morning tea and conversation in the hall.*

as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Song:** 'Lord Jesus Christ' (*sung 3 times*)

Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,  
Let my doubts and the dark speak grace to me;  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us,  
Let our hearts always welcome your love.

*(adapted from 'Songs for Pilgrims' 31)*

**Gospel:** Mark 13: 28- 37

*Jesus repeatedly urges his disciples to watch; to be ever ready for the time which will suddenly come.*

*The Lesson of the fig tree.*

Jesus said: "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

*The necessity for watchfulness*

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware; keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." *(from NRSV)*

**Song:** 'Wait for the Lord' (*sung 4 times*)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

*(from 'Songs from Taize 2005-2006')*

**Homily**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Even our own foolishness is forgiven.

Even our own self-righteousness can be gathered into the heart of a hopeful God,

and love is forgiven in ways beyond our understanding.

We are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(from "Liturgies for Daily Life", Dorothy McRae McMahan)*

**First Reading** Isaiah 64: 3-9

*A contrite plea to God for merciful justice.*

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people. *(from NRSV)*

**Song:** Our darkness (*sung four times*)

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight;

The deepest night is clear as the day. *(from 'Songs for the People of God' 37)*

**Second Reading:** Corinthians 4-9

*In this reading Paul greets the new disciples in Corinth, telling them of his gratitude to God on their behalf, and offering comfort and assurance.*

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift