

# Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

*Advent 2 2020*



## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

**HYMN: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (TiS 273)**

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures forever.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## *Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—The Candle of Peace*

P: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

The Candle is lit, and a new decoration is placed on the tree.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.

**Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

LA: We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we gather today – the Yuggera and Ugarapul people –and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

LA: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a

LA: [Let us pray.]

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleans the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Merciful God,  
you sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:  
give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy  
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Isaiah 40.1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord 's hand  
double for all her sins.  
<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord ,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,

'Here is your God!'

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 85.1-2, 85.8-13**

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you were gracious to your land:  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people:  
**and covered all their sin.**

<sup>8</sup> I will hear what the Lord God will speak:  
**for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.**

<sup>9</sup> Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:  
**and his glory shall dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth are met together:  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other;**

<sup>11</sup> Truth shall flourish out of the earth:  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup> The Lord will also give us all that is good:  
**and our land shall yield its plenty.**

<sup>13</sup> For righteousness shall go before him:  
**and tread the path before his feet.**

### **2 Peter 3.8-15a**

<sup>8</sup> But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God**

**Hymn: Touch the World Lightly (TiS 668)**

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 1 beginning at verse 1  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

<sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

For the gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Sermon**

*Silence*

**LA:** Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who calls, equips and sends out God’s people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

**This is our faith, the faith of the Church:  
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**LA: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

LA: Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

LA: The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

LA: Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.*

**HYMN: Jesus, Lover of My Soul (TiS 211)**



*Note that we cannot pass collection bowls around at this time. There is a box at the back of the building to receive your offerings. Alternatively, please consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420*

P: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again  
in power and great triumph to judge the world,  
we may with joy behold his appearing,  
and in confidence stand before him  
who redeems us from sin and death  
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.'

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Special Covid-19 Guidelines: Please come forward to receive communion (bread only). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move forward. Queue close to the pew – not in the centre of the isle – in one line. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.*

*While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the communion hymn while remaining seated.*

**Communion Hymn (Not announced): O Little Town of Bethlehem (TiS 316)**

God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,  
you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

*Announcements*

*Please stand for the blessing:*

May you know the peace  
Of loving hands reached out across  
All borders, ideologies,  
Races, creeds and genders:  
Hands that bring  
Healing to age-old conflicts  
And the demolition of ancient walls.  
May you hear its gentle voice say,  
    “You are enough.  
    You are loved.  
    All will be well.”

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Take your encouragement from Christ,  
that your joy may be complete.

**We will share in the Spirit;  
We will find consolation in love.**

Practice a ministry of humility and compassion  
For God is at work in you, empowering you

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.  
We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.  
We will go forth in hope and in peace.**

LA: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

**HYMN: May the Mind of Christ My Saviour (TiS 609)**