



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

St George's, Trentham 9.00am | St Mary's, Woodend 11.00am

LOVE



23rd December, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

We acknowledge the Jaara Jaara people,
of the Woi Wurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung language groups,
the custodians of this land where we gather.
We pay our respects to their elders past and present and pray for
reconciliation.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn – 265 O Come O Come Emmanuel

In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

THE ADVENT WREATH.

Celebrating past, present and future in one place

The advent wreath is sprinkled with holy water and blessed:

May this sprinkling of the waters of baptism remind us of our first sharing in grace that we may prepare for the Lord's coming among us today.

The fourth advent candle is lit:

St George's – we sing Advent Candles tell their story

St Mary's – we sing There is Love

The Confession

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

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

**Holy God,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
You create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Trisagion

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us

Let us pray

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of Micah chapter 5 verses 2 to 5

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Psalm 80.1-7

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

**Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts:

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You have fed them with the bread of tears:

and given them tears to drink in good measure.

You have made us the victim of our neighbours:

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews chapter 10 verses 5 to 10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Alleluia Alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke, chapter 1
beginning at the 39th verse*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

The Sermon

The affirmation of faith (page 123 of the prayer book)

The Prayers of the People

The Greeting of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn – 287 No wind at the window

We give thanks for the offered gifts

God our sustainer,
receive the gifts we bring before you,
and feed us continually with that bread which satisfies all hunger,
and the wine that quenches all thirst,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

During the season of Advent we use the preface on page 147 and then return to page 130 to continue the Eucharistic prayer, saying together

Holy, holy, holy Lord....

We say together...

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

...in songs of never ending praise

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

With our hearts set on the kingdom and our hands open to serve, we pray as Jesus taught us...

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

**Jesus, wisdom and mighty Lord:
You take away the sins of the world.**

**Jesus, true branch of Jesse's tree:
You take away the sins of the world.**

**Key of David and Dayspring from on high
You take away the sins of the world.**

**Desire of nations, our Emmanuel
You take away the sins of the world.**

Everyone is welcome to share God's great feast

The Sending out of God's people

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.**

The Notices

Final Hymn – 161 Tell out my Soul

The Blessing and Dismissal

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the One who loves you,
the One who calls you,
and the One who makes you holy,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

****some thoughts from Rev. Mel*

A few weeks ago during our Tuesday night conversation group, the talk turned to how we prove God exists if we are ever challenged by someone.

It is an interesting concept, being asked to prove that God exists, because all we can do is share our experiences or point to gifts that we believe are given by God to humanity....and let's face it, not everyone is going to be at a point where they can accept that in faith.

And so one of the members of the group said if we are asked if God exists then perhaps we can return a question and ask if love exists.

Of course love exists, those of us who have felt love and been loved know that, but how do we prove it? Do we prove it by our actions, or by our words, or by our thoughts? Yes, but to someone who perhaps has no concept of love it still isn't proof.

To be asked to prove if God exists is in fact to be asked if love exists.

In reality though we don't have to prove anything about God because

God does that every moment of every day. We are loved by God and we see this all of the time. We are carried through our hardships and challenges, we are surrounded by each other in communion, and we know that in Jesus we are forever and always invited into relationship with God.

These are our final few days of waiting for God's promise of love in the incarnation. Have you spent the last four weeks racing about trying to 'get stuff done' or have you managed to spend some time praying in the light of hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent invites us to?

I haven't been completely successful at remaining calm in the face of all that I have to do this past month, but I have managed to eek out some time to give thanks for all that God has given me, and that includes the times that we get to spend waiting together in church as God's people, where God's love is so completely and utterly evident.

O come, O dayspring

Love, Mel

Pew Bulletin

Safe Church

There will be a safe church refresher workshop in Woodend on March 30. If it is three years since your first workshop then you'll need to book in.

First Friday Films

Our First Friday of the month film for January will be 'Heaven is for real'; a story about a little boy's encounter with angels and Jesus. January 4th at 6pm in the hall.

Other Diary Dates

After church at St Mary's today shared lunch at Derek and Trudy Shepherd's new house. Bring a dish to share.

TCCC Christmas Carols in St George's this evening at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service at St Mary's December 24th at 6.00pm
Christmas Eve 'not quite Midnight Mass' at St Mary's December 24th
10pm

Christmas Morning at St George's 9am
Christmas Morning at St Mary's 11am

Intercessions – our prayers are asked for: Sam, Andrea,
Alison, Ethan, Kirsten, Carole, Wendy, Jeanette,
Trevor, Rudi, Trish, Hugh, Joshua and family, Alan,
Faye, Lynne, Kay, Don, Kristina and John, Carmela, Heath, Jim, Lindy,
Judy and John, Hayden, Jason, Sandra, Emma, and Sheryl.

Birthdays and anniversaries

Happy birthday today to Peta Sherlock

Years Mind and those who have died recently

We remember George Williams this week

Readings for next week

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Ps 148

Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.41-52

Mission and Parish Giving

If you would like to participate in the direct debit offering option our
account details are:

BSB 633 000

Account 1498 24906

Ref: Parish Giving



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