



## WORSHIP BULLETIN

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 4 December 2022

God welcomes us:

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Psalm 72:1-7,18,19

P: Thank you, God, for the power you've given to your Son. And for the just and fair way in which he exercises this power.

**C: He's promised to judge his people with unconditional mercy and to bring justice to all the oppressed.**

P: In him the poor and downtrodden find relief and consolation; in him the needy are given freedom and deliverance.

**C: Thank you, God, that your Son will always have this power; for ages to come people will bask in his authority.**

P: His supremacy makes life possible in the same way that rain produces growth in a field, and showers water the ground.

**C: With him in control his people flourish forever; they prosper for as long as his power is there.**

P: Praise to you, Lord, our God. You do awesome deeds.

**C: Let the whole world be filled with your glory. Amen and amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**C: Merciful God, you sent your messengers to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Turn us away from our sins, so that we greet our coming redeemer, Jesus Christ, with joy. Amen.**

We Light the 2nd Advent Candle:

**Reader One:** For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

**Reader Two:** There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

**Reader One:** The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains levelled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

**Reader Two:** We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.

*Light two candles of the Advent wreath.*

We sing: We're almost home

**Don't drop a single anchor, we're almost home  
Through every toil and danger, we're almost home  
How many pilgrim saints have before us gone?  
No stopping now, we're almost home.**

**That promised land is callin'  
We're almost home  
And not a tear shall fall then  
We're almost home  
Make ready now your souls for that  
kingdom come  
No turning back, we're almost home.**

Refrain

***Almost home, we're almost home  
So press on toward that blessed shore  
O praise the Lord, we're almost home.***

**This journey ours together  
We're almost home  
Unto that great forever, we're almost home  
What song anew we'll sing 'round that  
happy throne  
Come faint of heart, we're almost home.**

Refrain

**This life is just a vapour  
We're almost home  
That sun is settin' yonder,  
We're almost home  
Take courage, for this darkness shall  
break to dawn  
O lift your eyes, we're almost home.**

Refrain x twice

Writer(s): Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Lauren Papa. Used by permission

Confession:

***C: We confess to you, almighty God, before the whole company of heaven, and to each other, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to eternal life. Amen.***

God forgives us

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. So by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

***C: Merciful God, you sent your messengers to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Turn us away from our sins, so that we greet our coming redeemer, Jesus Christ, with joy. Amen.***

We sing: *Come people of the risen king*

***Come, people of the Risen King  
Who delight to bring Him praise  
Come all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in.***

Refrain

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ,  
rejoice!***

***Come, those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night  
Come, those who tell of battles won  
And those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change  
And His mercies never cease  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace.***

Refrain

***Come, young and old from every land  
Men and women of the faith  
Come, those with full or empty hands  
Find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world, His people sing  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age:  
"Our God is all in all!"***

Refrain x twice

Songwriters: Townend Stuart Christopher Andrew / Getty Julian Keith / Getty Kristyn Elizabeth Rebekah  
Come People of the Risen King lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 - *The longed-for Messiah*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. This is the word of the Lord.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13 - *Good news for the Gentiles*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the word of the Lord.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 - *The kingdom of heaven is at hand!*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke

when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' This is the gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

We sing the Offering Song: AT#172 - *May we be one*

**May we be one,  
Bound in love for ever,  
Growing close together day by day;  
Growing as God fills us with His life;  
We are joined in Him, He makes us one.**

**May we be one —  
Jesus' truth to bind us.  
With His body He unites us all;  
Dying our death, He restores our life;  
Living with us now, He makes us one.**

**May we be one,  
As our Father planned it.  
May the love of Jesus make us strong.  
No one can harm us when He is near;  
He has brought us peace, He makes us one.**

**May we be one,  
Sharing life together  
With the Father and His only Son.  
Now we have life in this world of death;  
Heaven has begun, He makes us one.  
Heaven has begun, He makes us one.**

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Offering Prayer

**C: Great and loving God, we thank you for all your goodness. Help us to prepare a road for you by the way we live. Use us and our gifts in building up your kingdom. Amen.**

Sermon

Let us pray for ourselves, the church and the world

**C: Father in Heaven guide your church to show your grace and compassion to all who we meet, that all peoples may be drawn to glorify you.  
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: Let your Spirit guide the leaders of our land, that they may judge with righteousness for the poor, and decide with equity for all in need.**

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

**C: Creator God, we pray for all those in farms, small towns, and cities in Australia whose lives have been disrupted and whose dreams have been dashed by the floods that have devastated the country. Be with and sustain those whose entire world has been torn apart and washed away. Grant them patience and hope that eventually they can rebuild their lives and start afresh. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: We are grateful to the emergency flood workers and all who helped those in distress during the floods. Be with those who are caring for flood victims that their compassion and presence will be life-sustaining. May they continue their missions of mercy.**

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

**We are thankful for those who serve others and provide us all with the inspiration to do the same. We are sending love, peace, strength, and courage to all our brothers and sisters in Australia. May this nightmare end shortly. May healing begin swiftly.**

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

**C: Merciful Father and eternal judge, your Son will come to judge all people and will reveal the secrets of all hearts. Make us trustworthy servants, so that we may praise you on the day when Jesus Christ returns. Amen.**

We sing: *I will wait for you*

**Out of the depths I cry to You  
In darkest places I will call  
Incline Your ear to me anew  
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord  
Were You to count my sinful ways  
How could I come before Your throne  
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze  
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

Chorus

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You,  
On Your word, I will rely  
I will wait for You surely wait for You  
Till my soul is satisfied.***

**So put your hope in God alone  
Take courage in His power to save  
Completely and forever won  
By Christ emerging from the grave.**

Chorus

**Now He has come to make a way  
And God Himself has paid the price  
That all who trust in Him today  
Find healing in His sacrifice.**

Chorus

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You  
Through the storm and through the night  
I will wait for You, surely wait for You  
For Your love is my delight.***

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The Lord's Supper

Blessing

**P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you † His peace.**

**C: Amen.**

We sing: *Lord of all hopefulness*

***Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could  
destroy:***

***Be there at our waking and give us, we  
pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break  
of the day.***

***Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the  
plane and the lathe:***

***Be there at our labours and give us, we  
pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the  
noon of the day.***



**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to  
embrace:  
Be there at our homing and give us, we  
pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of  
the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose  
presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping and give us, we  
pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end  
of the day.**

Jan Struther 1901-1953. From *Enlarged Songs of Praise* by permission of Oxford University Press.  
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## NOTICES - COMING EVENTS

**Worship 9.00am** – Every Sunday  
**Sun 4 December** -- 9.00am Worship with Holy Communion  
 11.00am Baptism of Georgia Crow, daughter of Matthew & Melissa  
**Wed 7 December** -- 9.30am Christmas Morning Tea with entertainment



## ADVENT DEVOTION BOOK

An Advent Devotion Book *"Gifts from God"* has been printed with a devotion for each day of Advent, which commences 27 November 2022. There are copies at the front entrance of the church. Please take one for yourself and a friend.

## THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE SUPPORT!

Your gift provides a way to express gratitude, generosity, service, and care for one another through the ministries of St Mark's. The church only survives because of the generosity of its members. Your contributions allow us to:

- Maintain the buildings (church, office and manse)
- Support our internal ministries
- Invest in our community and outreach.

God's love for us is greater than we can fathom, so also is God's vision for St Mark's larger than we can imagine. It will take all of us to live into God's dreams for us.

*"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?  
Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."*

1 Chronicles 29:14

If you're unable to come to worship or would like to make a donation or regular deposit, would you please transfer to: St Marks BSB 704 942 - Account 54740 (100378501 if from LLL acc)

## PASTORAL CARE

You're welcome to contact one of the Deacons for pastoral care.

Pastor Ray	0429 856 532	Ann Aiken	0412 321 030
Mary Engel	0412 771 718	Julie Martin	0410 492 740
Bruce Heirdsfield	0466 103 173	Cedric Smith	5492 8684
John Kleinig	0417 837 678		

### Saturday, 24 December – Christmas Eve



5.00pm

German Carols Service

6.30pm

Carols & Communion Service

### Sunday, 25 December – Christmas Day

9.00am

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion