



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta

The Parish of Kilmore

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

22nd November 2015

First Sunday of Advent

[Transferred from 29th November]



Hymns: 271, 265 vs1 (candle), 279, 282 [Tune 259], 272

A warm welcome to everyone, please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.



Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

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

Advent Candle Liturgy

First Sunday of Advent

Leader

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ, and then the Christ Candle at Christmas. It is significant that the church has always used that language - the *coming* of Christ - because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is *always* coming, *always* entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so as we light the first candle, the candle of hope; we dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

[The first candle, the Candle of Hope is lit]

[All sing]

*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.*

[The people are invited to join in the dialogue responses.]

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season;
**we open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.**

May the candle of hope burning in our lives;
reveal the creative power of hope.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you;
that we may walk in the light of Christ.

For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this; Christ is coming!

Christ is always coming!

We welcome Christ into our hearts;

Come Lord Jesus, come!



The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

‘Heaven and earth will pass away,’ says the Lord, ‘but my words will not pass away.’ *Mark 13.31*

THE COLLECT

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33.14-16

[God promises to raise up a descendant of David to reign over God’s people and to bring goodness, rightness, justice, and security to Israel and Judah.]

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfil the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 25

[A prayer for God’s compassion and forgiveness, and to reveal God’s ways and truth to the Psalmist. For God is good and righteousness, guiding the weak to justice and leading those who keep God’s covenant in paths of love and faithfulness.]

Response: To you O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Response Alan Rees
v. 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated./R

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long./R

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love./R

Gracious and upright is the Lord;

therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O Lord, be merciful to my sin, for it is great./R

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

[The apostle gives thanks for the Thessalonian church, praying to see them and help them grow in faith. He also prays that they may grow in love, and have strong and holy hearts when Jesus comes.]

A reading from the Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord raises up the poor | from the dust,
to make them inherit a | seat of honour.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 21.25-38

[Jesus teaches the disciples to be watchful for the signs of the coming destruction, using the apocalyptic language of signs in the heavens, dismay among the nations, and unusual behaviour in the natural world. After these signs, people will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud in splendour. So, his disciples must be watchful, ready to read the signs and keep their hearts faithful.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of

the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’ Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Arouse us, O God, and prepare us for your coming into the world, that we may cooperate willingly in your work of healing and reconciliation, as we pray:

Let your Spirit awaken us; **let us walk in the light of Christ.**

Gracious and loving One, grant your Church the gift of peace, that glad people may go to the house of God where you will teach us your ways, bless our Diocese, John our Bishop, our clergy, and all who minister in your name.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Almighty One, judge between the nations and mediate for all peoples suffering conflict and war; that all in authority will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, so that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. We pray for all suffering the impact of recent violence, for the people of France, Lebanon, and Kenya, and for those who are responsible for acts to terrorism.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the sacred touch and spark that vitalises all living things. Be with us in our celebration of life and help us to be good custodians of your creation, and to be mindful stewards of your resources.

As bushfire threatens we pray protection and wisdom for our community and pray for all in Western Australia impacted by fire, and for those who have lost homes and enterprises.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Compassionate One, inspire us to respond to the needs of our community and grant us your grace so that none of your people shall feel unwanted or unloved.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Wounded Healer, come; bind up all broken bodies and wounded spirits, that the sick and the sorrowing may be comforted and restored. We pray of those mourning loved ones, for those of our community and those in WA; for all in need, for those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Tom Scrivens, Franca Caia, Tom & Sandra Davidson, Bianca Davidson, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Seth Gunter, Barbara Kaye, Sarah, Lisa, Alex Impols, Elizabeth, Mark Bennetts, Penny, Belinda Shannon, Eric Javor the Bott Family, Bruce Scott.

We give thanks for healing and blessing wherever received.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Eternal One, bring into the fullness of your light those who have died, and those whose years mind occurs at this time.

22nd Reg Walker, Frank Stevenson; 24th Harriet Ashton; 25th Albert Newbold; 26th Emily Smith, Horrie Tanner; 27th Jessie Foster, Sylvia Bannon; 28th Thelma Wajsbrum.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Come to us in judgment and grace, O God, hear us as we pray for ourselves...., and arouse us to your purpose, that we may be instruments of your peace, ready to meet the Son of Man at an unexpected hour, in the power of your Spirit.

Let your Spirit awaken us; **that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

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

Our Father ... [pg. 124]

Reflections on the readings

The season of Advent calls us to remember the God who comes to us – past, present, and future for God’s reign returns in this week’s readings. Through Jeremiah God promises a leader like David for God’s people. The Psalmist prays for such leadership and guidance. In his prayer for the Thessalonians, Paul asks them to place themselves under God’s reign, and to grow in love, able to show how they have lived as Jesus did when he returns. Finally, in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus calls for us to be watchful and aware of what is happening around us, and open to the signs of the coming of God’s reign in the midst of great turmoil. While it may be tempting to push all of these promises into some future event, our scriptures show us to be open to God’s coming at all times – including in our lives. And, while it also may be tempting to view God’s promise as an escape from the world’s turmoil, the readings this week call for us to recognise God’s presence – God’s coming – in the midst of the world’s suffering and struggle. The call, then, is to learn to be those who live with a constant sense of God’s presence regardless of our circumstances, and who cooperate with God’s work of justice, righteousness, goodness, and love. In the light of God’s eternal reign, we cannot help but reflect on our own priorities. The mark of Christ’s disciples is our love, faithfulness, righteousness, justice, and peace. These are values that last and that have universal value. But, we can only live these values when we trust in, and take notice of, the signs of God’s Reign working in our time and space. Advent calls us

to be people of this kind of awareness, recognising the signs of God's reign that are already visible in our world – in places of peace, restoration, and sacrificial service – and calling out the signs of God's reign in other places – places of need, violence, and self-interest. This means means that we need to take care to live according to the values of God's Reign, and avoid falling into the self-gratification that arises when we lose faith, or grow despairing of change. Ultimately, as we work for justice in the world, we need the Advent hope to keep us from cynicism, despair and expediency. We need the reminder that God's Reign is at work in our world, in order to keep us faithful to what we proclaim and believe. Then, whatever we may encounter, and whoever we may have to confront or work with, we are able to embody the life-giving, hopeful Reign of God.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2015) www.sacredise.com

NOTICES

Today we commenced the season of Advent - this day was transferred from 29th November to allow for the Feast of 'Title for Christ Church to be celebrated on the 5th Sunday.

Church4Kids 5pm this evening Christ Church - preparation and rehearsal for Festival of Carols. If you have a child prep to teenage who has not been before or will be visiting on 20th December they are most welcome.

Parish Fete A big thank you to everyone for making the day so successful and a special thanks to the committee; Caroline Burge, Robyn Whitehouse & Lucy Staring and to all those who set up and staffed the stalls an assisted with the day.

NEXT SUNDAY - 10.30am Feast of 'Title Eucharist for Christ Church.
There will be only one service in the Parish.

PARISH AGM - 11.45am Christ Church following the Eucharist. After the AGM a shared luncheon. Please bring finger foods to share (food you can eat with fingers from a paper plate) sandwiches, savouries, quiches, slices and cakes etc.

Christmas Singers Practice

In preparation for the Festival of Carols there will be a practice for the singing group this Tuesday 1st at 6.00pm in Christ Church. If you haven't volunteered your talents, please consider this. There will only be a few practices between now and Christmas. Please contact Caroline if you would like to assist.

EFT / Direct Debit Offerings - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'; BSB 063-698; Account Number 1018 4649.

Parish life this week

Monday 23rd	<i>[Clement of Rome, bishop & martyr (d. 100)]</i>
Tuesday 24th	<i>[Hilda of Whitby, abbess (d. 680)]</i>
Wednesday 25th	<i>[James Noble, pioneer Aboriginal deacon (d. 1941)]</i>
Thursday 26th	10.00am Eucharist, St Matthews 10.00am Eucharist, Willowmeade 11.30am Eucharist Caladenia 4.00pm Eucharist, Dianella
Friday 27th	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House
Saturday 28th	10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 29th November 2015 – Christ the King

2 Samuel 23.1-7; Ps 132. 1-18; Revelation 1. 4b-9; John 18. 33-37

Christ Church	10.30am	Holy Eucharist / Feast of Title
St Matthews	11.00am	No Service this day
St Stephens	11.00am	No Service this day
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No Service this day

Parish Clergy

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Honorary Deacon Revd Maryann Leonard, 262 High Street, Nagambie, 3608
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Visit our website www.anglicankilmore.org.au

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Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning.