

The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta

The Parish of Kilmore

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

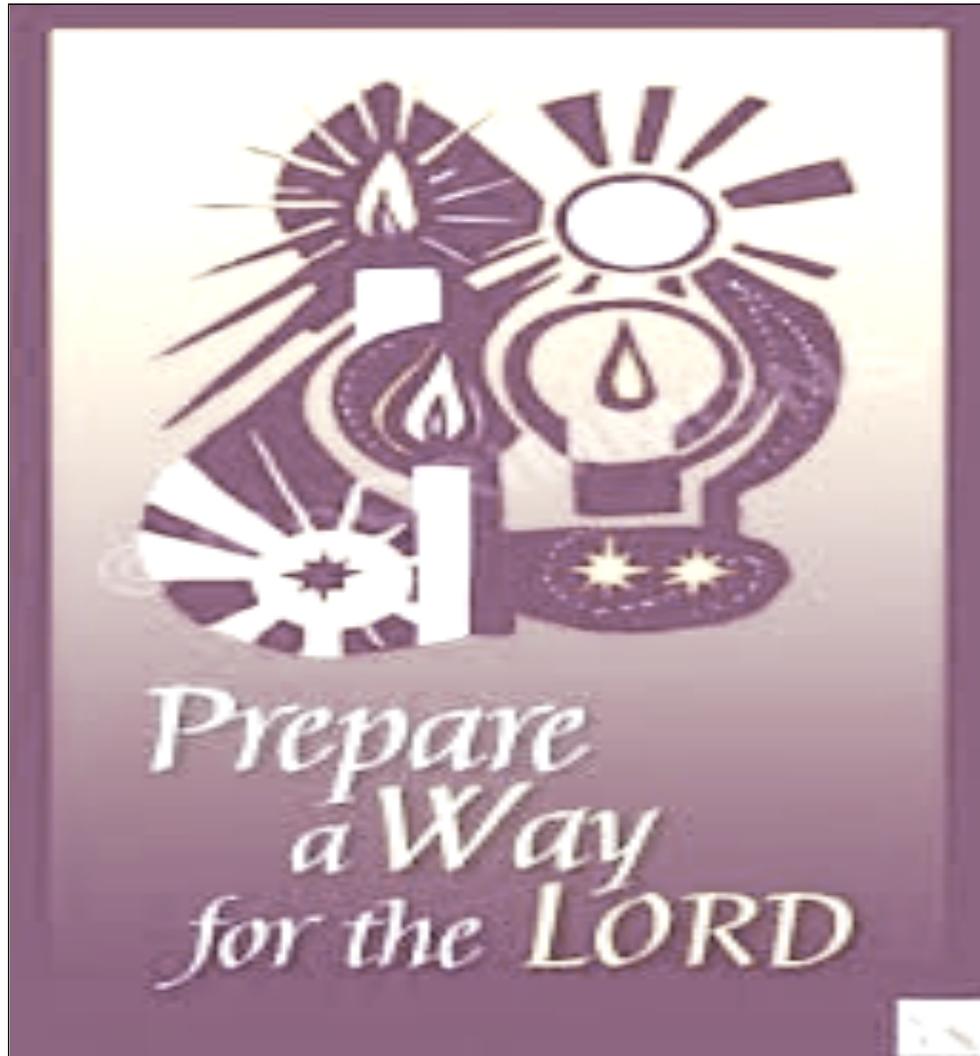
6th December 2015

Second Sunday of Advent



Hymns: 158, 270, 217, 272

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



Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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

Second Sunday of Advent

On the first Sunday of Advent 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 second candle, the candle of peace is lit.]

[All Sing]

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



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

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.

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 worthy of the Gospel.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.78-79*

Invitation to Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

The Trisagion *[following the Confession and Absolution]*

Cantor:
Ho - ly God,

All:
Ho - ly and migh-ty, Ho - ly and im-mor-tal, Have mer-cy on us.

THE COLLECT

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin: keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Malachi 3.1-14

[God is sending God's messenger to prepare for God's coming, and God's people and God's priests will be refined and made pure.]

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. 'So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,' says the Lord Almighty. 'I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty. 'But you ask, "How are we to return?"' 'Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. 'But you ask, "How are we robbing you?"' 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – your whole

nation – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. ‘Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘You have spoken arrogantly against me,’ says the Lord. ‘Yet you ask, “What have we said against you?” ‘You have said, “It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God

FOR THE PSALM [Sung as a Hymn Tune 235]

Song of Zachariah

[Zachariah’s song of thanksgiving for God’s rescue of Israel, and his proclamation of John his son, as the messenger who will prepare the way for God’s coming.]

Now bless the God of Israel who comes in love and power,
who raises from the royal house deliv’rance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,
that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year.
And you, my child, shall go before, to preach, to prophesy,
that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One, O worship and adore.

To God the Father, fount of grace, through his beloved Son,
with God their Spirit, bond of love, be glory ever One.

Ruth Duck

SECOND READING

Philippians 1.1-11

[Paul’s prayer of thanksgiving for the Philippians; may they grow in love and purity, with the assurance that Christ will complete the work begun in them.]

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or

defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 21.25-38

[John the Baptist is seen as fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord calling people to repentance and baptising them in the Jordan as a sign of their willingness to change, and of God's forgiveness.]

,A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." "

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Gracious and loving God, we praise and thank you for the cleansing waters of baptism and our adoption as your heirs and co-heirs with Christ; may we know your peace in our hearts, in our relationships, and in the world; bless all who are preparing for baptism and those searching to know you.

Lord of peace: **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, we pray for the missions of the church and those called to preach the gospel; help us to prepare the way for the gospel by pursuing justice in our society. As your church prepares for the celebration of the birth of Christ bless all tasked with liturgy and worship; for musicians and singers, preachers and

teachers; for John our Bishop, and our parish; guide our Advent journey reflecting and help us to renew our spiritual and material lives leading to repentance and deeper faith.

Lord of peace: **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for your world, for those impacted by disease, famine, strife and disaster; we pray especially for the politicians and scientists working to counter climate change; for all infected with HIV and those working to eradicate this disease; for peace in the Middle East; for the people of Syria and Iraq laid waste by civil war and terrorism; we continue our prayer for all refugees and displaced; for the people of the USA faced with yet another massacre.

Lord of peace: **hear our prayer.**

God of the red earth and blue sky, we pray for our own country; for those tasked with leadership; for all inflicted by drought and fire; pray support for all people in their various vocations and support for the unemployed; bless artists and culture makers, especially the first peoples of Australia; for scientist and technologists, and all places of learning; we pray for all affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Lord of peace: **hear our prayer.**

God who comforts, we pray for the sick and suffering; for the lost and the lonely and those caught in the cycle of addiction; for the broken-hearted and those who mourn; for all in trouble and those in need, 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 blessings wherever received.

Lord of peace: **hear our prayer.**

God of the eternal, we pray for the saints who have gone before us into glory; for the recently departed and for those years mind occurring at this time;

6th George Poulter, Joan McLean, Edward Kennard; 7th Edith Whittingslow; 8th Ray Jackson, Eric Beaumont; 9th Michele Potts, Tara Alexander; 10th Clarence Parkinson; 12th William Isbister, Grace Patterson, Harry Lazarus.

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

Lord of peace: **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, as your servant John the Baptist called your people to prepare a way for the Lord, let us always be prepared to receive the blessings that you freely give us through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reflections on the readings

This week the focus is on prophecies of God's coming, God's restoration, and God's justice and peace. Yet, in each reading there is a call to prepare to receive

the promise in some way. In Malachi, there is the purifying work that will happen when God’s messenger comes, and the people are to seek for, and take delight in, the coming one. In Zechariah’s song, John is to be the one who prepares God’s people for the coming salvation, and to lead them into forgiveness, which implies that they will respond to John’s message and follow him into the restoration he promises. In Paul’s prayer for the Philippians he expresses his desire for them to grow in love and wisdom, and to trust that God will complete the work that God has begun in them. And the Gospel narrative of John’s coming speaks of John’s call to the people to repent and be baptised in preparation for the coming one. Preparation means we must develop a willingness to examine ourselves and be prepared. We may need to slow down, reflect and then act with wisdom and grace. Preparation – particularly of the heart – is restorative. It’s a proactive stance that frees us from our selves and our destructive or unhelpful patterns of behaviour and moves us into a life that more easily considers, serves and brings restoration to others. This work of heart preparation includes the discipline of repentance, the constant awareness of God’s forgiveness and transforming work, the patience to allow God’s work to unfold in a time frame that ensures thorough healing and restoration, and the openness to be a voice that helps others to see God’s work. In a world of suffering and conflict, it can be difficult to remember and cling to God’s promises of justice and restoration. This is why the work of preparation, both individually and collectively, is such an important and constant spiritual practice. Only when we make listening and watching for God’s messengers a constant discipline can we perceive what God is doing and cooperate with the Reign of God in our lives.

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

Christmas Services

Sunday 13 December	7pm	Community Carols	St Stephens, Tallarook
Thursday 17 December	10.00am 2.30pm 4.00pm	Christmas Service	Willowmeade Caladenia Dianella
Sunday 20 December	5.00 BBQ 6.30pm	Festival of Carols	Christ Church, Kilmore
Thursday 24 December	5.00pm	Christmas Mass	Transfiguration, Pyalong
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Matthews, Broadford
Friday 25 December	9.00am	Christmas Mass	Christ Church, Kilmore
	11.00am	Christmas Mass	St Stephens, Tallarook

NOTICES

Christmas Singers Next Practice Wednesday 6.30pm at Christ Church - some really lovely pieces to prepare for the Festival of Carols.



Next Monthly Parish BBQ 12.30pm next Sunday 13th - host Beris Hannam, 37/33 The Elms Blvd, Kilmore.

Parish Councillors for 2016 A list of Wardens and Parish Councillors confirmed at the AGM are posted on the notice board. Grateful thanks to Joan Grimwade who has stepped down. Her commitment and work on Parish Council is much appreciated.

Parish life this week

Monday 7th *[Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher (d. 397)]*
Tuesday 8th *[The conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary]*
5.00pm Bishop in Council - Wangaratta
Wednesday 9th 6.30pm Christ Church Singers rehearsal
Thursday 10th 10.00am Eucharist, St Matthews
10.00am Eucharist, Willowmeade
11.30am Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist, Dianella
Friday 11th 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House
5.00pm St Matthew's Village Board Dinner
Saturday 12th 10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House
12.00pm Christmas lunch for Diocesan Clergy - Wangaratta
2.00pm Holy Baptism - Christ Church

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

13th December 2015 – Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3. 14-20; A Song of Isaiah; Philippians 4. 4-7; Luke 3.7-18

Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No Service this day

Parish Clergy

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764 Ph 5782 1155
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Honorary Deacon Revd Maryann Leonard, 262 High Street, Nagambie, 3608
Ph 5794 2858 m 0439 066 553; maryann.leonard@bigpond.com

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young, 9/40 Powlett St, Broadford, 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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