



## **Sunday Worship Service**

28 November 2021 (Advent 1)

We are waiting the coming of Christ Child! This Advent (The name was adopted from Latin *adventus* “coming; arrival”), four Sundays before Christmas (This year, Saturday 25 December), we will continue our faith journey to find hope, peace, joy and love in meditating on the life of Jesus Christ like us. In the first week of Advent, what would you hope for in Christ?

This liturgy of the service is prepared and led by Carmen Lam (Bible Reading), Alan Keast (Kids Talk), Rosemary Brook (Prayers of the People), and the music team. We thank them for their huge commitment to all God’s works that may bring hope to us all this week.

**Acknowledgement for the First Peoples:**

We acknowledge the Wallumettagal people of the Eora Nation, and their elders past, present and emerging, on which we celebrate Jesus Christ our Lord. We recognize their special custodianship and relationship with the land and all creation. And thank them.

### **Call to Worship:**

Lead us in your truth, O God,  
**for you are the God of our salvation;  
in you we have trusted all day long.**

Teach us your way O God:  
**all your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Remember, O God, your compassion and love,  
**for they are from everlasting.**

*From Psalm 25*

Let us worship God!

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle (Hope):**

The first week of Advent is all about hope.

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.*

*Psalm 25*

We light the first candle of Advent,  
the candle of hope.  
Jesus, light of our world,  
we hope for change  
in our own lives and in your world.



**We watch and work  
and wait together in hope. Amen.**

**Song: Christ Be Our Light**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Bernadette Farrell | CCLI #260394

**Prayers of the Day:**

Righteous one,  
to you alone  
we lift our souls;  
in you alone  
we place our trust;  
for you alone  
we wait all day long.

For you are the God  
of our salvation,  
abounding in mercy  
and steadfast love.

Help us remain alert and watchful  
for the coming of your promised one—  
the one who comes with power and glory,  
the one drawing near  
to bring our salvation. Amen.

Let us continue our prayer,  
especially for the country  
where this Christmas Bowl will bring hope this Christmas.

Jesus said,

*“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,  
and on the earth nations will be in distress,  
anxious over the roaring of the sea and the surging waves.”*

Jesus, the One  
coming on the clouds with  
great power and great glory,  
we pray for all those people  
around the world  
who are suffering from the effects of  
natural disasters and climate change.

We pray especially today for  
the people of the Indonesia  
as their livelihoods continue to be uprooted  
by climate disasters and the pandemic.

**Bring hope and courage to all  
who suffer,  
to all who support them  
and to all who work for the healing of the earth.  
In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## **Bible Reading: Carmen Lam**

### Gospel Reading: **Luke 21:25-36**

<sup>25</sup> “And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides.<sup>26</sup> People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken.<sup>27</sup> Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory.<sup>28</sup> So when all these things begin to happen, **stand and look up, for your salvation is near!**”

<sup>29</sup> Then he gave them this illustration: “Notice the fig tree, or any other tree.<sup>30</sup> When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near.<sup>31</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near.<sup>32</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things have taken place.<sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

<sup>34</sup> “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware,<sup>35</sup> like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth.<sup>36</sup> **Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough** to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Hymn: Fairest Lord Jesus (TIS 203)**

Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Lord of all creation,  
Son of God, and Mary’s son:

you will I cherish,  
you will I honour,  
you are my soul's delight and crown.

Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands  
robbed in the greenness and bloom of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
he makes the saddest heart to sing.

Fair are the flowers,  
fairer still the children  
in all the freshness of youth arrayed;  
yet is their beauty  
fading and fleeting;  
Lord Jesus, yours will never fade.

Fair is the moonlight,  
fairer still the sunshine,  
fair is the shimmering starry sky:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines clearer  
than all the heavenly host on high.

Jesus, all beauty,  
heavenly and earthly,  
in you is wondrously found to be;  
none can be nearer,  
fairer or dearer  
than you, my Saviour, are to me.

## **Sermons: Seung Jae Yeon**

*Let us pray:*

May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing to you, O LORD,  
my rock and my redeemer.

[Psalm 19:14](#)

The best place to begin is on safe ground. For instance, your home, family, circle of friends, peer group, school or community of heart including Boronia Park Uniting Church, we may feel comfortable to begin something new. And from there, we might begin again if we already attempted but failed. There would be something that make people to unpack their dreams, opportunities of growth, and abundant giftedness. From those safe grounds, you and I have done humongous achievements, no matter how great or little they were.

I began my entire life – 26 years in South Korea and 20 years in Australia, from the love-filled nest that my wonderful parents prepared. I assume that they didn't know how to prepare the nest for their son, and then later their daughter. They were not perfect but did their best in married life to sustain the life of growing family. Thinking of their age when I was born, they were young, and still increasing their capacity in parenting and socio-economic position in life. From my parents and their loving relationship in married life, I inherited my characteristics of resilience and perseverance from my father who became responsible for his whole family at his age of 17. From my mother, I got musical talents and the inheritance of her introversion and sensitivity. In all of this, I was able to build a foundation of who I am, practising every single gene that my biological parents pass on to me. And then one generation after, Grace and I raise three children, providing them a safe ground where they can begin and begin again their foundation for today, tomorrow and years to come. I don't know whether Grace and I are

good at letting them have a good start in life. I believe that the task that I evaluate my achievement of provision of safe ground for my children will be judged not by myself but my Joshua, Daniel and Heather when they would become a parent. What I will continue is that with my best effort and heartfelt prayers, I keep creating safe ground for them while I am alive. I don't mean that I will make their future great by giving any form of earthly things. I mean that I will provide a sacred and safe place where they are always welcome and feel safe whenever they need it. The place where they can begin again although they attempt but fail. The place where they can find hope – a hope where they can find the love of Christ available to them all the time.

For this hope, I believe that Jesus came down to the earth, bringing the kingdom of God among his people many years ago. The kingdom was only available for those who lived in Judea and the surrounding regions like Galilee, and the city of Jerusalem, the centre for their religious life. People who lived in the part of the Roman Empire and believed in Jesus Christ as their Saviour were able to begin to dream of the coming of the Son of Man in the midst of them. However, the Romans would come and lay siege to the city. The result would not be in doubt. When that happened, those who were able to run away should do while there was time. Jesus' instructions at this point are quite specific that the followers had a duty to stay in Jerusalem or wherever they were located. Violent persecution and enforced deportation will await those who are staying in unsafe ground. The Temple and the city will be destroyed by the Roman rule and the kingdom of God seemed to be destroyed too. The disciples, followers, believers, and communities of Christ totally lost their safe ground where they could begin their faith journey and celebrate what they believed. When they were forcibly scattered and persecuted by the Romans, they seemed to lose everything, including community of faith where they belonged. What a miserable reality the early Christians and communities were confronted!



Here, Jesus speaks, saying, “People in Jerusalem, lift up your heads because your liberation is near.” This is one of Luke’s significant encouragements toward his community. Luke’s gospel began with songs of liberation sung by Mary and Zechariah. Prophet Anna was longing for the liberation of Israel. The disciples continue to share this expectation after Easter and then Jesus approves which we can find it in the book of Acts. Joseph of Arimathea, who gave his family tomb to the disciples for burying Jesus’ body, was waiting for the kingdom of God in the same way. True and faithful Jews and followers of Jesus made such liberation hope the centre of their faith. Jerusalem is not the centre of religion anymore but liberation hope in Christ Jesus is now the safe ground for everyone where all dreams, visions and purposes can grow. From there, Jesus reveals himself. Jesus manifests the kingdom of God when liberation hope appears. And Jesus manifests himself when we live out the expectation that the coming of the reign of Christ is nearer than ever, and the good news for the poor brings life and revival of God’s image in each and everyone’s life. Jesus invites us into this hope today. And Jesus invites us into solidarity to build a safe ground where our neighbour and we should begin and begin again our journey to the promised end. This invitation moves us more and more to bold and urgent proclamation of hope. I truly believe that you and I are called to proclaim hope in our daily life. A question to myself is this: How would I match my daily life where I struggle to hope with liberation hope that Jesus has revealed to me from the empty tomb?

The answer is the same for me as Jesus told his followers: Firstly, Jesus said, “Keep alert at all times.” To me, resilience and perseverance are the key. I know I am not perfect so that I have failed so many times. But I am able to begin again because of Jesus Christ, Friend of friends. He is the safe ground where all my weary things are buried, and I am able to gain the source of hope which is the life everlasting. Every day and night I invite him into myself, relationships, and communities I belong, and every moment that is sometimes unknown to me. So I can put my trust in Jesus more and more because I choose to.

Secondly, Jesus stresses the importance of prayer life. He said, “Pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.” Prayer life may give me strength to keep on my feet. It’s not an easy task every day. I know there are times where my eyes are shutting with tiredness and anxieties that wear myself down. But I pray because I live with it. And we pray because we can hold each other in talking to God and taking all our burdens before him, which results freedom hopes. I give thanks to God for those who pray for me and my ministry all the time. I am sure that you always include me in your prayer life, so I thank you. My mother who passes me her beautiful talents in music, and characteristics of maturity, love and sensitivity prays for me. My mother-in-law, who gave her one and only youngest daughter to me prays for me day and night. All of you may bring hope into my life and ministry here at Boronia Park. So this hope sustains me as I am making a safe ground for my children and for those who seek to find Jesus Christ anew in their life’s journey. Through the prayers that we offer for each other, we are forming and becoming a community of hope here at Boronia Park. Acts 2:42 has a clear picture of how a community of hope reminds one another of what Jesus said in order to keep alert all the time while they are awaiting the coming of Jesus Christ.

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, let us remind one another of what Jesus said. And let us remind each other of how we should live as a community of hope this Advent. Let us make a safe ground where all are welcome and begin our journey with Christ Jesus. From there, or from him, nothing is impossible. Even the power of death cannot hold us back. Let us seek Christ’ enabling to speak of him this advent and Christmas, and live hope for him and for our neighbours as we are awaiting his coming as human form, Christ Child, the hope for whole God’s creation. Amen.



## Prayers of the People: Rosemary Brook

Heavenly Father,

On this first Sunday in Advent, we wait for the birth of your Son....

### ADVENT

- A** – **Awaiting**, in awe of your audacity to let your precious only Son be born in a truly dangerous time, to a gentle, loving couple of deep faith
- D** – knowing this birth is all part of your heavenly plan~ in which your **Divine** grace and love overcomes humiliation and death
- V** – a **Venture** of the God who is beyond time and who threw the stars into space
- E** – the **Eternal** made known to us through a tiny babe
- N** – who came in the quiet of **Night** to make all things New
- T** – for you so loved the world, you **Trusted** that this was the only way to confound our expectations; to show us the Truth; and to be Truly, deeply with us and beside us – for all Time. *Emmanuel.*

Let us now take a few moments for silent prayer from our hearts: thanking you for all your blessings in this past week; asking you to be with so many who need your tender, loving care; asking you to disturb the powerful who need your divine disruption to help make this a more just, compassionate and safe world; and being especially close to our beautiful young people as they think about their next steps and their place in your world.

Continue to inspire, guide and bless our dear Minister Seung Jae and his family; all our loving church family; your churches nearby including Glades Hill Presbyterian Church and Kalos Korean Church – and churches far away, particularly in Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore. We also pray in earnest for Christians who are alone or imprisoned or facing persecution. May your deep peace be with them and with all who seek you.

**Heavenly Father,**

May we wait for your coming this Christmas,  
and as Walter Brueggemann has said,  
*from the bottom of our toes to the edges of our fingertips.*

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

我們在天上的父，  
願人都尊祢的名為聖，  
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지，  
아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며，

your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

願祢的國降臨，  
願祢的旨意行在地上，  
如同行在天上。

아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며,  
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이  
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.

我們日用的飲食 今日賜給我們，  
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고，

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債  
如同我們免了人的債  
우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을  
용서하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고，

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，  
救我們脫離兇惡，  
우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고  
악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，  
全是祢的，直到永遠。  
나라와 권능과 영광이  
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

## **Offering And Dedication:**

The love of God is revealed  
in the gift of Jesus, bringer of hope.  
**In our giving of what we have  
and who we are may we,  
with Jesus,  
bring hope to the earth. Amen.**

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

**Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church**

**BSB: 634-634**

**Account: 100023784**

**Reference: Offering**

**Mail to: Mrs. Robyn Harvey  
96a Champion Rd. Gladesville NSW 2111**

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or [robyn.49@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robyn.49@bigpond.net.au) for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

## **Song: Where is the Room?**

Where is the room,  
where is the house of Christmas?  
where shall we welcome Jesus,  
where are the signs of home?  
where are the signs of home?

Let Christ have space,  
place at the heart of living,  
centre for birth's new breathing,  
cradle for hope and peace,  
cradle for hope and peace.

Let there be room,  
room for the friend and stranger,  
room without hurt or anger,  
room for whoever come,  
room for whoever come.

Let love be here,  
love from the Christmas stable,  
love at our open table,  
love to be shared all year,  
love to be shared all year.

Music: David Dell | Words: Shirley Murray  
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### **Sending out:**

Stand up, says Jesus  
and raise your heads,  
for your redemption is drawing near.

Let us go from here with courage  
to face the struggles of our world,  
knowing that Jesus is coming  
to make all things new.  
Let us go to prepare the way of Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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

**Sung Blessing:      Shalom to You Now (TIS 778)**

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friend,  
May God' full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Elise Shoemaker Eslinger  
CCLI No. 260394

The Boronia Park Uniting Church communications team who recorded and edited the videos, ensured all the videos ran as they should and designed the invitation and order of service.

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