



Sunday Communion Service

5 December 2021 (Advent 2)

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 second week of Advent, we are called to become a peacemaker in our midst, hoping to bring justice and fair play in our daily life.

This liturgy of Holy Communion is prepared and led by Isabella Lee (Bible Reading), Barnabas Joo (Prayers of the People), music team and the minister. We thank them for their huge commitment to all God’s works that may visualise peace of Christ to us all this coming 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:

Blessed be God who has redeemed God's people:
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.**

From Luke 1

Let us worship God!

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Peace):

*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

We light the second candle of Advent,
the candle of peace.
Jesus, light of our world,
we hope for change in our own lives
and in your world.
**We watch and work
and wait together for peace.
Amen.**



Song: Christ Be Our Light

Longing for peace, our world is troubled,
Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us
Make us your living voice.

*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:

Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your kingdom.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.

[Retrieved from Ministry Matters](#)

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

John the Baptist proclaimed
with Isaiah:

*'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.'*

Jesus, Dayspring of God,
shine your morning light into places of injustice
and deep-rooted conflict around the world.

We pray especially for the people of Gaza*
as they live under ongoing occupation
and as they work towards a more peaceful future.
**Give strength and hope to all who suffer,
to all who work for change in Gaza
and to all who work for a new dawn
of peace in the world.
Amen.**

Bible Reading: Isabella Lee

Gospel Reading: **Luke 3:1-6**

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Tracónitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. ² Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. ³ Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁴ Isaiah had spoken of John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!

* Around 1.85 million Palestinians/Arabs live on some 362 square kilometres, the Gaza Strip.

⁵ The valleys will be filled,
and the mountains and hills made level.
The curves will be straightened,
and the rough places made smooth.
⁶ And then all people will see
the salvation sent from God.”

Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Epistle: **Philippians 1:3-11**

Paul’s Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Every morning I spend my very first moment of day in enjoying my garden. It gives me life because I can see all plants and trees, its branches, leaves and flowers, kookaburras sitting on the fence, buzzing bugs, and the growth of my little creation. Recently it had rained a couple of days, so they have grown so much including the lawn. Then surprisingly I found that there is a strip of lawn which looks like a footpath where lawn didn't grow out. Did you know it was made by our dog Arong and his tiny paws running over the lawn? He runs over the lawn during the daytime restlessly. He seeks to find toys, treats and things that are stinky and smelly. For that activities, he has to run using his tiny paws, marking his steps on that part of the lawn. A little tiny creature, Arong has made his own footpath and remarkable footsteps on earth. While I was amazed by what Arong made, a quote from Lu Xun's noble, "The Old Home" (1921) came to my mind. It is written:

“(H)ope cannot be said to exist, nor can it be said not to exist. It is just like roads across the earth. For actually the earth had no roads to begin with, but when many men pass one way, a road is made.”

I never made footpath for Arong in my garden. But when my Arong runs over the lawn, the footpath is made. Last fourteen months, he has made his own footpath in my garden. The little puppy has made such a great scratch on earth, telling me that he is living with us here.

John the Baptist was one of many men and women in our church's history who passed one way to Jesus. We would say he prepares the way. Yes. But, there have been huge populations of Christ's followers who prepared the way of Jesus in various ways. It does not matter how big or little they prepared the way of Jesus. I believe that we are also preparing the way of Jesus particularly in Gladesville-Hunters Hill, and wherever you live today.

What John the Baptist did significantly is to baptise his cousin brother Jesus of Nazareth in the Jordan River. Then he continued his ministry of preparation of the way in the kingdom of God then at last he was beheaded. For the life and ministry of John the Baptist, Luke's gospel tells us where and when his ministry of preparing the way of Jesus begins. In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, the Roman Emperor, and under the government of Pontius Pilot, he was called to proclaim the message of repentance and the coming of God's salvation. And there were a kind of three kings who were holding powers given by Roman rule – Herod, Philip and Lysanias. And then there were two religious power holders in the city of Jerusalem, High Priests Annas and Caiaphas. The empire, the rulers and the religious leaders who could dominate that part of ancient world as the centre of all earthly powers and authorities. It looked fantastic and seemed to go forever on earth. However, we learned that Roman Empire would be divided into two empires and then fall because of the movements of Germanic Peoples and the rise of the Arabs and the Ottomans. The Temple in Jerusalem was ruined, and all religious authorities were taken out of the high priesthood. The kings were all disappeared behind the history. They didn't or couldn't prepare anything. They just lived what they wanted. But at the same time and in the same region, John the Baptist received the word of God in the wilderness and then began to prepare the way of Jesus. Luke's gospel intentionally compared each other in dramatic way of who they were, how different their values and ethos were, and what kind of responsibilities they took and lived for. John the Baptist's call in the wilderness is a kind of tiny little voice but we believe it made huge impact in human history as well as church's history. Because he prepared the way of Jesus' coming in the midst of common people.

In my sermon preparation, I looked at the Chinese translation, studying particularly about the word, 平坦(Píngtǎn) which means 'flat'. And the first character, 平 (Píng) has its origin from a shape of ancient weight balance which consists of two plates or bowls suspended at equal distances from its centre. Interestingly, this character 平 (Píng) is used in other compound words such as 公平 (Gōngpíng, justice, righteous), 地平(Dìpíng. the horizon, horizons), and 平和 (Pínghé. peace, harmony).

What brings to me from studying verse 5 is this: John the Baptist's preparation of the way of Jesus was radical and subversive. It says,

“The valleys will be filled,
and the mountains and hills made level.
The curves will be straightened,
and the rough places made smooth.”

All who had power and authority wanted everything to be as it is. Because they wanted to dominate, control and possess from all those who were under their rule. They wanted to stay at summit of the social, economic, and political hierarchical system or structure. The valleys must be steep so that people cannot reach to their position, the mountains and hills continue the hierarchy, and the curves and the rough places repress human right and fairness of the poor and the marginalised. But when John the Baptist received the word of God in the wilderness, what the word of God speaks to them though him was totally a subversive message. Jesus Christ, when he comes, turns everything upside down. The valleys shall be filled by justice (公平), so all are welcome. The mountains and hills shall be made lower and become like the horizon (地平) so all are given equally the fair opportunity, expanding their horizons. And the curves and the rough places shall be straightened and made smooth because God wants peace (平和) in his creation that was made in his image. Isaiah's vision in verse 6 clearly speaks the true meaning of peace:

All people will see God's grace in his salvation. No matter who they are and where we come from, all will see God's grace and his salvation in Jesus Christ.

This is the purpose and ethos of Peace of Jesus Christ given to us. Because of Christ, and because of his Peace, we are able to prepare the way of his coming today. And Jesus Christ promises his blessings upon us when we prepare the way in making peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Apostle Paul was writing a letter to Philippian Christian communities in a prison cell. There was no hope and no peace. There was only the terror of

persecution and even death. But he could have been peaceful because he was a peacemaker. Wherever he was placed, he brought and made peace for himself and for many. In that letter to Philippians, Paul confessed about how dare he make peace in all circumstances (Philippians 4:12, 13). He says, “I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” He seemed to know where his heart, soul and spirit should be. Paul was always at the side of Jesus Christ, his master, preaching the good news and carrying conviction in Jesus Christ to many believers, seekers and even doubters. In every situation, he chose to make peace not for the world but for Lord Jesus Christ and his friends. Paul’s making peace followed him everywhere. His mission trips to Asia and to Rome and back to Jerusalem, and his imprisonment, persecution and until his final breath, he was a peacemaker for his master Jesus Christ and all who believed in him. As a human being and a sole evangelist, Paul prepared the way of Jesus Christ during his entire life. While he was writing this letter to Philippian Christian communities, though he was captured in prison, awaiting to be judged and persecuted, he could have been peaceful and delivered the Peace of Jesus Christ to the recipients of his letter. This is his words of encouragement embedded in the Peace of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:9-11) As I conclude my sermon sharing with you, I want us to read this passage together.

“I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.”

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, our ministry of peacemaking in this Advent and Christmas should be for those who are desperate to find the peace that this world cannot give. It is not our own internal satisfaction with peaceful moment or peaceful life where there would be no trouble. Peacemaking is a call from God, given to us through the Peace of Jesus Christ which is radical and subversive. I pray that the Peace of Jesus Christ

that we make brings new horizons and fair play for many. No matter how little or big it is, when we make peace together, the way to Jesus is made and our neighbours and we may walk on it. So we believe that this is why God sent his one and only Son for us all.

Amen.

Prayers of the People: Barnabas Joo

Faithful Lord,
You are our Faithful Lord, even if, we are not faithful.

As we already enter the second Sunday of Advent, we are reminded how fast life is. There are only a few days left in 2021.

In particular, this year seems to have passed in vain due to the Covid lockdown. Nevertheless, the new coronavirus Omicron variant, continues to threaten mankind. Lord, watch over this world and we pray that the corona pandemic will end soon.

Lord, we lighted Advent candles. Why do we light Advent candles? What are we lighting Advent candles for? The Lord came for the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed on this earth. What should we think about this Advent?

Lord, we pray for all your people who suffer, who starve, who grieve and those who remain detached to it all. We pray that the love and light that you intended be restored. We pray that we can play this role in your world.

This morning, we especially pray for the NSW local government elections that took place yesterday (Note: Saturday 4 December). Lord, we pray that you will give the newly elected people a heart of public good and a heart of justice so that they can serve their local government areas well.

We also remember in the World Cycle of Prayers, Myanmar and Thailand. We pray for the people within these nations. They are nations with rich culture and history but history that has also experienced pain. We pray that

these countries can grow to develop and better the lives of the citizens. We also pray for their leaders, that they make decisions not only in the interests of their own nations, but for all the citizens of your world.

In the Inter-Church Cycle, we remember and uphold the Glades Hill Presbyterian Church and Kalos Korean Church. May they feel your presence as they walk alongside us in our Christ-journey. May you bless their congregation members, their minister and the community around them and may your goodness shine through them.

We pray for our own church and congregation here at Boronia Park Uniting Church. We thank you for everyone who contributes to the service, in whatever way. We thank you for our minister, Seung Jae and his family. We thank you for the young generation and ask for your wisdom in fostering their growth under you.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name,
Amen.

Dedication of the Offering:

The love of God is revealed
in the gift of Jesus,
bringer of peace.

**In our giving of what we have
and who we are may we, with Jesus,
bring peace 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 *OR Christmas Bowl 2021*

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 for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Note: The Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia at its November meeting has extended permission to celebrate Holy Communion as part of online worship until the reconvened 16th Assembly meeting in May 2022.

Communion Song: Behold the Lamb (S. Townend)

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.

So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

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The Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life,
and that life was the light of all mankind.
The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world.

He was in the world,
and though the world was made through him,
the world did not recognize him.
He came to that which was his own,
but his own did not receive him.

Yet to all who did receive him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God—
children born not of natural descent,
nor of human decision or a husband's will,
but born of God.

The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

It is a right, good, proper,
and joyful thing, at all times,
and in all places to give you thanks,

Lord God.
We join our voices with the angels
and all the company of heaven
who forever sing this song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest!**

In the beginning, O Lord,
you created us for yourself.
But even though we have fallen
through our disobedience to sin and death,
you in your infinite mercy, grace, and love
sent your only begotten Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
to live among us as a man,
born of a virgin.

He suffered every hardship and adversity,
every trial, trouble, tribulation,
and temptation that we face—except without sin.

Finally, He stretched out His arms upon the cross
in perfect obedience to your will
and offered Himself as a sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us
he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said:

**“Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you,
gave it to his friends, and said:

**“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”**

Therefore, as often as we eat this bread
and drink of this cup,
we eat the Body
and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
We proclaim His death
until He comes again.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Breaking Bread and Raising Cup

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The gift of God for the people of God.
Body of Christ. Amen.

The Communion

All is prepared so please come!

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.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song: We Will Keep Our Faith Alive

Verse 1

Gathered here within this place,
we can share in God's redeeming grace.
There's no room for doubt or fear;
we can feel His presence here.
As we face each passing day
we will serve and honour and obey;
and if hope should start to dim,
we will know our trust is in Him.

Verse 2

We will live as God has planned
though at times we may not understand.
Many things we may not see,
but our faith will help us believe.
From his word we learn the truth;
through His love we all are born a new.
With His help we will not fall
for we know our God will prevail.

*And we will keep our faith alive,
God will always be our guide
Through the darkest night,
we will see God's light.
We will keep our faith alive!*

Verse 3

When we share the love He gives,
all the world will know that we are His.

In God's name we stand as one,
and through us, His work will be done!

*And we will keep our faith alive,
God will always be our guide
Through the darkest night,
we will see God's light.
We will keep our faith alive!*

*We will stand as one 'til His work is done.
We will keep our faith alive!*

Words: Don Besig
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Sending out:

The word of God came to John,
son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
The word of God has come to us, here in this place.
Let us go from here 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.

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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