

10.00 am Sunday Morning Service O2T2

11 December 2022

Welcome

Call to Worship

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for all his loving kindness to me day by day.

Great is our God and worthy to be praised

The Mighty One has done great things for me; holy is his name.

Let it be to me according to your word.

God's mercy reaches to all those who fear him, in every generation.

Great is our God and worthy to be praised

The Lord has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has humbled those who are haughty and proud

Let it be to me according to your word.

God has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the
poor and lowly

Great is our God and worthy to be praised

The Lord has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich
away empty.

Let it be to me according to your word.

God has kept his promises: He has helped his servant Israel,
and shown mercy to Abraham and his descendants forever

**Great is our God and worthy to be praised. Glory to the Father, and
to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Song: Joyful, joyful We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,

Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Centre of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Song: Mary's Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem,
so the Holy Bible says,
Mary's Boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day.

**Hark! Now hear the angels sing,
A new King born today,
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day.
Trumpets sound and angels sing,
listen to what they say,
that man will live for evermore
because of Christmas day.**

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,
came to Bethlehem that night.
They found no place to bear her
child, not a single room was in sight.
By and by they found a little nook
in a stable all forlorn,
and in that manger, cold and dark,
Mary's little boy was born.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
They saw a bright new shining star,
and heard a choir from heaven sing
the music came from afar.

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Advent 3

Prayer

Let us pray

Each day brings us closer to the day of the Advent of your son, Jesus Christ. He is your gift to us, the fulfilment of your promises. Your

Spirit helps us now to pray and to watch for his coming. Praise to you, Father, Son, and Spirit, for the promise of Advent, and the happiness of Christmas. Amen.

Reading

Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of **HOPE** and the candle of **PEACE**. Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of **JOY**. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth. From the Book of Isaiah 65:18, we read the words of our Lord: "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight."

From the New Testament, the words of Paul to the people of the church at Galatia:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."

Let us pray:

We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for fulfilling your promise of a Saviour and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your Son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit.

Amen

Song: The stars dance in heaven

The stars dance in heaven

They shine through the night

To show us God's grace and God's glory

But one star shines brightest

For he is the light

And he is the real Christmas story

God designed the stars to shine
The heavenly hosts adore him
For he is loving, fair and kind
And no other God stands before him

Jesus came to give us light
So we could all behold him
Salvation, joy, eternal life
Are gifts for which we now adore him

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Bible Reading: Malachi 2:17 - 3:4

¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “All who do evil are good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?” See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.^[a] ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Message

Offering Song: The Servant King

From heav'n You came helpless babe
Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

**This is our God the Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King**

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
Yet not my will but Yours He said

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails
Surrendered

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

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Thanks for the Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God forever.

The Confession

**Heavenly Father,
You have loved us with an everlasting love,
But we have broken your holy laws
And have left undone what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God is slow to anger and full of compassion,
Forgiving all who humbly repent
And trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord
God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus,
In whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

Prayers for the Church and our World

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Great 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.

It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son, and life giving Spirit,

you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.

You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way.

While at the table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take eat; this is my body'.

He took the cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, Which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me'.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,

we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation,

and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,

and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration
that all who may eat or drink at this table may be strengthened
by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.
As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting
gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom, with whom and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Prayer

Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us
With the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.
May we who have reached out our hands to receive this sacrament
be strengthened in your service.
We who have sung your praises
tell of your glory and truth in our lives;
we who have seen the greatness of your love
See you face to face in your kingdom
And come to worship you with all your saints for ever.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Notices

Song: Joy To the World!

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world!
The saviour reigns;
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

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Blessing