

# 10am Sunday Morning Service O2T2

## 10 December 2023 – Advent 2

### Welcome

#### Call to Worship

God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

**We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.**

God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

**We will sing a song of Advent to the One who hears  
our words and silence.**

God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

**We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a  
peace we cannot begin to understand.**

#### Song: Joyful Joyful

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.

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### **Advent Wreath (Caleb, Kit and Eve)**

Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world. How does this happen? God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Today we relight the candle of **HOPE**. Now on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of **PEACE**. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. From the prophet Isaiah 9:7:

*"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**From the Gospel of John 14:27:**

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”*

Jesus Christ is our peace. He is the Prince of Peace, and the fruit of His presence is peace. Christ comes to bring justice, wholeness, and harmony to every relationship throughout all creation. He wants to continually grant us peace in every situation.

**Let us pray:**

*Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord’s birth. May divisions in ourselves and our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and the countries of our world. Please help us to see the paths of peace in our lives and then give us the courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us.*

**Amen.**

**Song: Many years ago**

Many years ago, In a stable far away,  
Christ the Lord is born.  
What a joyful day!  
Singing filled the air,  
Glory shone around,  
Shepherds on the hillside  
Were astonished by this sound.

**Have no fear! Have you heard?  
Christ is born today.  
Go and see him lying there  
In a manger filled with hay – Hey!  
Then the sky came alive,  
Angels everywhere  
Singing hymns of joyful praise  
To the God who sent them there.**

On to Bethlehem,  
In a most exciting way  
Shepherds went to see

Christ the Lord that day.  
When they saw him there  
They were filled with joy,  
On their knees they worshipped him  
God's special little boy.

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## **Prayer for Children as they go out to practice pageant (Natalie)**

### **Bible Reading: Isaiah 7.10-17 (Jacky R)**

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah<sup>[a]</sup> said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

### **Message**

#### **Offering Song: It came upon a midnight clear**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heaven's all-gracious king!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

All who beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heaven and earth shall own  
The prince of peace their king,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

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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 us in Christ Jesus,

In whom there is no condemnation. **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.**

### **Song: What a beautiful name it is**

You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

**What a beautiful Name it is**

**What a beautiful Name it is**

**The Name of Jesus Christ my King**

**What a beautiful Name it is**

**Nothing compares to this**



**What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus**

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus You brought heaven down  
My sin was great Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

**What a wonderful Name it is  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a wonderful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus**

Death could not hold You  
The veil tore before You  
You silence the boast of sin and grave  
The heavens are roaring  
The praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again  
You have no rival  
You have no equal  
Now and forever God You reign  
Yours is the kingdom  
Yours is the glory  
Yours is the Name above all names

**What a powerful Name it is  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is**

**Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus**

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## **Prayers for the Church and our World (Natalie)**

### **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.**

## **Notices (Jaqueline)**

### **Song: Cornerstone**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

### **Christ alone cornerstone**

**Weak made strong in the Saviour's love Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all**

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne  
Faultless stand before the throne

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### **The Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. **Amen**