

Sunday 10am Service (O2T1)

7 December 2025 Advent 2

Welcome (Christine lead, Wayne music)

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God.

Song: The goodness of God

I love You Lord

Oh Your mercy never fails me

All my days

I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful

All my life You have been so so good

With every breath that I am able

I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice

You have led me through the fire

In the darkest night

You are close like no other

I've known You as a father

I've known You as a friend

I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

***With my life laid down I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Repeat***

Chorus

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Song: From the squalor

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race.

But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.

Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.

He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free –
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!

Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

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Advent 2 Light the candle

Reader 1: 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.

Merciful God, give us grace to listen to what the prophets from our past have said and to forsake our sins, so that we may greet with peace and joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Saviour."

On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of hope. Today, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of peace.

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.

Reader 2:

On a day when men were counted,
God became the Son of Man;
That his name in every census
Should be entered was his plan,
God, the Lord of all creation,
Humbly takes a human's place;
He, whose form no man has witnessed,
Has today a human face.

Reader 1

Let us pray
Holy God,
We long for your peace, and trust in your promise;

we hear your call to turn toward you,
to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom
and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together
may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.
In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. **Amen!**

Prayer for Children (Christine)

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, And peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Bible Reading: Luke 1.5-25, 57-66 (Christine)

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn

many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ “This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” ⁶¹ They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

Message (Sue)

Offering Song: I cannot tell

I cannot tell how he whom angels worship
should stoop to love the peoples of the earth,
or why as shepherd he should seek the wand'rer
with his mysterious promise of this new birth

But this I know, that he was born of Mary,
when Bethl'em's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden,
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations of east and west,
of sinner and of sage
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun shall shine in splendour
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when, at his bidding, ev'ry storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when ev'ry heart with perfect love is filled
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth will answer:
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world returns!'

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Thanks for the Offering

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside-down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,

To bless your church, your people, your creation.

Prayer of Confession

In penitence and faith let us confess our sins to Almighty God

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,

And in what we have failed to do:

We have not loved you with our whole heart,

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

We repent and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon us and set us free from all our sins, strengthen us to do his will, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for the Church and our World (Colin L)

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 (Sue with Nat and Karin)

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,

He offered the one true sacrifice for sin
And obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
And with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

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

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
This bread and wine
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me".
After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
His one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one
body,

For we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of
the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on
him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you 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: Shine Jesus Shine

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

**Shine Jesus shine, fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze,
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow, flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light**

Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

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Blessing