



Woden Valley Uniting Church
<http://www.woden-valley.uca.org.au/>

28 November 2021



We Gather as people of God

The Gong is struck three times

The gong sounds. We hold silence. We listen to the gong, calling us to gather, calling us to be present in this time of worship.

Prelude Music

Acknowledgement of Country

Journeying to Christmas Day

When Buddhist pilgrims go on a pilgrimage from one temple to another. At each temple they visit a red stamp specific to that temple is stamped onto their pilgrimage coat.

As we journey towards the day that we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Each week we will bring forth a ribbon with a word on it for the theme of the week of advent we are in. This week's theme is hope.

The ribbon of hope is placed around the first candle

A Prayer at the Culmination of Advent

God of hope, vision,
peace and sanctuary
We wait
We remember
We ready ourselves
We pray.

We pray hope.
Hope for the hopeless
Hope for the hopeful
Hope for all people
Hope for healing
Hope for meaning
Hope for peace
Hope for now
Hope for the future
Hope for ever. **Amen**

The first candle is lit

Call to worship

We come to prepare the way;
The way for Christ –
the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –
to enter our world,
to enter our hearts.
We cry out together in the wilderness:
The kingdom of heaven has come near.
We come to be part of the light–
the light that shines in the darkness.

Song For you, deep stillness

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ,

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ

Welcome

Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!

And also with you.

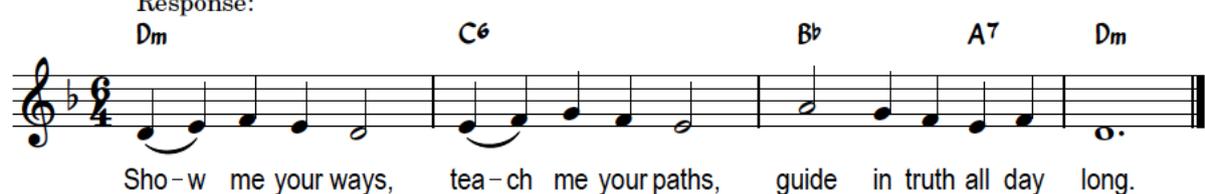
Let us share signs of peace with one another

Remaining where you are please turn to your neighbours and share a sign of the peace of God with them.

We Reflect on the Word for our time

Singing the Psalms Psalm 25:1-10

Response:



Sho-w me your ways, tea-ch me your paths, guide in truth all day long.

Refr: ***Show me your ways, teach me your paths
guide in truth all day long.***

To you I lift my soul, in you I put my trust
No shame be laid on me, nor evil be part of me.

No-one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame
Shame will surely be theirs who follow trea-chery.

***Show me your ways, teach me your paths
guide in truth all day long.***

Show me your ways and paths, and lead me into your truth
Safety, mercy and love, and goodness for ever last.

Remember not my faults, nor all my young foolish ways
See me with all your love, for you alone are good.

***Show me your ways, teach me your paths
guide in truth all day long.***

Upright and good is God, instructing us when we stray
Guiding the humble ones, and leading to the right way.

Steadfast are all God's ways, in love and faithfulness
for those who follow ways of justice and righteousness.

***Show me your ways, teach me your paths
guide in truth all day long.***

First reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

33:14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

33:16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Gospel reading: Luke 21:25-36

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

21:26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

21:27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

21:29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

21:30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

21:31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

21:32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

21:34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,

21:35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

21:36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

A Reflection Then they will see the Son of Man

Music for reflection

We Respond to the Word

Thoughts and comments on the Reflection

Prayers of the People *led by Janet Kay*

The care candle is lit

TIS 741 O Lord hear my prayer

O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer
When I call, answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me.

Offering Prayer

We celebrate Holy Communion

Introduction

We come to this table of remembrance and celebration united in the Spirit of Peace and reconciliation that enveloped Jesus. Christ. At this sacred moment we remember the events on the night before Jesus died, when, sitting with his friends at the table

TIS 544 Since the world was young

Since the world was young
there's a song that's been sung
of a promise coming true:
hungry folk will eat
and long-lost friends will meet
and the Lord will make all things new.

God has a table
where he calls his friends
to a feast that never ends;
God has a table
and one day we'll meet him there.

Jesus saw a crowd
who were hungry, and vowed
that they didn't have much food.
So he fed that bunch
with a little boy's lunch
as a sign that God is good

God has a table
where he calls his friends
to a feast that never ends;
God has a table
and one day we'll meet him there.

Jesus told a tale
of how rich people fail
to accept God's summons to dine.
Then before their eyes
those without earthly ties
share heaven's finest food and wine.

God has a table
where he calls his friends
to a feast that never ends;
God has a table
and one day we'll meet him there.

Till we hear that word
from the mouth of the Lord
saying, 'Join me at my table',
for the world we'll care
and its good things we will share
as long as we are able.

God has a table
where he calls his friends
to a feast that never ends;
God has a table
and one day we'll meet him there.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you all.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

We remember the stories from our tradition.
How on many occasions
Christ would share a meal with friends.
Bread and wine shared in community.

The Table of the Lord is ready;
Christ waits to give his gifts.
So let us thank the Lord for all his blessings.
As children of our Creator God
We join with all creation,
And bless you, Lord, for the fruit of the land.
You have given the earth and all its wonders
For the benefit of all living things.

***We thank you for the wheat that grows,
And for the bread made from it that we share
For this bread is a symbol of brokenness.
May we, in our brokenness
Receive your life and bring nourishment to others.
We thank you for the grapes for harvest,
And for the wine made from it that we share
For this wine is a symbol of your precious lifeblood
Given so freely for each one of us.***

May we eat and drink deep of these
Your gifts to us;
And may your abundant Life flow in us,
And through us to a hurting world.

For on the night before he died Jesus took bread,
gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying
"Take eat; this is my body."

Then he took the cup,
gave thanks and offered it to them, saying
"This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many,"
Whenever you drink from it, remember me,

For all people the gifts of God,

***In this Bread and Wine
We see the hope of that Kingdom -
The renewing of all Creation;
And we wait, in anticipation,
For all things to be made new.
In this Bread, and in this Wine, you call us
Into a new, freed relationship
With yourself and all of your creation.***

***And we shall eat;
We shall drink;
And we are thankful.***

Let us join together in saying the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

***God in heaven,
your name is to be honoured.
May your new community of hope
be realised on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the essentials of life.
Release us from our wrongdoing
as we also release those who wrong us.
Do not test us beyond our enduring;
save us from all that is evil.
For you embrace justice, love and peace,
now and to the end of time. Amen***

Sharing the Meal

By sharing this bread and wine with one another,
We remember Jesus and what he was,
And what he is, and what he always will be,
Our Gateway into the awareness of the Divine Presence.

Come. The table is set. All are invited.

Prayer after Communion

Our God, you have blessed us, and fed us
With your very life force.
By your Holy Spirit.
You have come close to us,
And we have come close to you
In this precious feast,
Where Heaven meets earth,

***And so, with all the realm of Nature
The growing and creeping things;
The running and leaping things;
The flying and the swimming things,
We proclaim your glory
Which reaches to the heavens
Holding all in sovereign love and care.***

Send us out, nourished and refreshed,
To work in partnership with you,
Bringing your resurrection message

To all the inhabitants of this world,
In earth, and sea and sky.

***Give us vision and new commitment
To take up the challenges to which you call us;
That in company with all created things
We may sing the joy, the beauty and the glory
That is Creation's song. Amen.***

We Go out into the World

Song TIS 668 Touch the earth lightly

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster--
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

The Candles are extinguished

Words of Blessing

Depart in peace, knowing that in many ways
Jesus is always coming into the world.

***We will seek Jesus, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people, we meet and in the depths of our own hearts.***

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.

We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.

We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love as one church.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, ***Amen.***

Postlude (*a time for quiet reflection – please remain seated*)

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices

Church News, Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Fellowship

Morning tea is now served.

You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.

Image downloaded from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Son_of_Man#/media/File:Magritte_TheSonOfMan.jpg
Communion adapted from http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/written_prayer_creation_communion.pdf