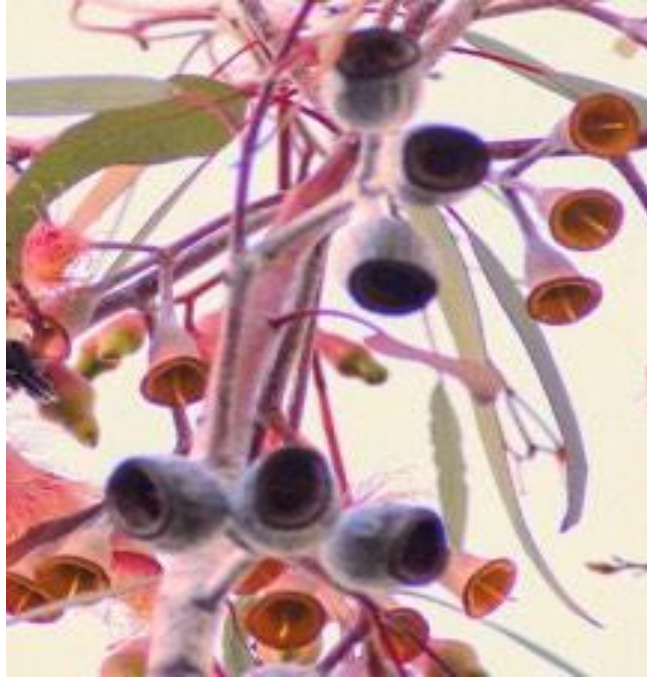




WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

10.00 a.m. Worship 30 November 2025



Leader:	Joan Pratt	Reader:	Libby Coates
Music:	Brendan O'Loughlin	Technical:	John Schmidt and Iris Elgueta

WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The gong sounds, calling us to attention

The Prelude

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge that we live, work and worship on the land of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples. They have made this land sacred as we seek to make our lives sacred. We honour their elders – past, present and emerging – and commit to working for understanding, respect and justice for all.

Gathering Prayer

Jesus is coming but for now:

We wait

Light is coming but for now:

We wait

The angels will sing 'Glory to God in the highest' but for now:

We wait

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain made low, but for now:

We wait

But we are not as those who wait in vain:

We wait in hope, in peace, in joy and in love. AMEN

Hymn - TiS 111 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. (verses 1,3 and 5)*

Welcome and Introduction

Advent Liturgy -

Leader We begin our Advent journey with hope

All We journey in hope

Leader Bringing our seeds of hope (*we bring our seed pods and lay them in a wreath*)

Lighting a flame of hope (*we light the first of the Advent candles in hope and anticipation*)

Leader Seed pods cracked open in the summer heat, their seed hearts poured out on the ground

All Bearing a gift of hope

Leader Time will come when they will sprout
Slowly first under the surface then breaking through tender and green
Surprising the world with something new

All Hope beginning again

Leader This is the way the kingdom of God comes.
So we bring ourselves like seeds, seeds of hope in the earth.
Holding our hope in God

Song: Verse 1 **We bring seeds of hope**
Hope our world still needs
Holding hope in God's near kingdom
We bring hopeful seeds. (Repeat)

Passing the Peace of Jesus

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you (*From the Iona Community*)

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!

And also with you.

WE REFLECT ON THE WORD FOR OUR TIME

Psalm 122 *(read responsively)*

I was glad when they said to me “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks for the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones of judgment were setup, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say “Peace be within you”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Isaiah 2: 1-5

1. This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
2. In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.
3. Many people will come and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
4. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war any more.
5. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Matthew 24:36-44

“No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the time of the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into, So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

For the word of God in Scripture **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Reflection

Music for personal reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn TiS 685 *Lord I come to you*

Offering

Loving God, we think about what we can offer to you.

We can give money to your church for its administration,

we can give money to charities and bodies that work in your name and to benefit people in need.

We can use our skills and our time, our computers and our telephones to communicate and reach out to others.

We pray that you will bless and extend what we do for others and our relationships with your people and continue to guide and bless us as we live our daily lives in this place and time. **AMEN**

Prayers of the People

We pray for the whole creation:

May all things work together for good, until, by your design,

Your children inherit the earth and order it wisely.

Let the whole creation praise you, Lord our God.

We pray for peace in the world.

Disarm weapons, silence guns,

And put out ancient hates that smoulder still, or flames in sudden conflict.

Create goodwill between every race and nation.

Bring peace on earth, O God.

We pray for all people – those who are comfortable and happy

as well as those who are lost and sad.

Let us all learn to turn to you in praise and supplication

Believing in your love and provision for all.

And Lord, we make time to bring you those matters which are on our hearts at the moment. Let us take a time of silence to name in our hearts our concerns for

- The world and all that is happening
- Our family and friends and those dear to us

Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother in heaven,

holy is Your name,

Thank you that your kingdom is coming

And that your will is being 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 in the time of trial and rescue us from those things that separate us from you.

For you are God.

You are glorious.

And you are merciful,

now and forever.

AMEN

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN TiS 687 *God gives us a future*

Blessing

Go now and rejoice in the Lord always.

Do not be afraid or worried about anything, but in everything trust God and pray with hope
Bear fruits worthy of repentance, sharing what you have, valuing justice and being gentle with all.
And may God rejoice over you with gladness; May Christ renew you with his love. And may the
Holy Spirit give you peace beyond understanding to guard your hearts and minds in Christ.

We go in peace with love, joy and hope.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

Postlude

Extinguish the candles

References

CCLI licence #546647;

www.churchofscotland.org.uk;

<https://www.billloader.com/LkAdvent3.htm>

[https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/community/alone-and-](https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/community/alone-and-together/)

[together/https://johntsquires.com/2020/11/04/discipleship-in-an-apocalyptic-framework-matt-23-25/](https://johntsquires.com/2020/11/04/discipleship-in-an-apocalyptic-framework-matt-23-25/)

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices and announcements

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Fellowship

Morning tea will now be served.

You are invited to share in a time of fellowship and discussion.