

Ormond Uniting Church



Leonardo da Vinci, *St. John the Baptist*, 1513-16

Advent 2

December 7, 2025

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang 张骥

Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend

Music: Peter Hurley

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

Call to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

1 Hymn: 265 O come, O come, Emmanuel

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

*May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.*

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

*May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give
deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.*

May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon,
throughout all generations.

*May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.*

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,
until the moon is no more.

***Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does
wondrous things.***

Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

2nd Scripture Reading: Romans 罗马书 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and in order that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3rd Scripture Reading: Matthew 马太福音 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

2 Hymn: 270 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Sermon: John the Baptist

Music Video: When a Child is Born

Offering

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

Before we commence our prayers for others I'd like to share a quote, from the United Nations,

“Peace is not just a vision- it's a call to action that each of us can answer by promoting understanding, respect and justice in our daily lives.”

Let us Pray

Dear Father- Be with us in what is typically a busy time. Help us to remember to watch, wait, listen and prepare the way of the Lord.

We pray for the church throughout the world that God's presence may be seen vividly through its actions

We pray for Peace. We pray for peacemakers and peacekeepers. We pray that peace will come to all war- torn and troubled places.

Today our prayers go out to the people across Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia who have been enduring devastating floods, and landslides, following severe tropical storms during the week

We acknowledge a changing climate and how wealthy nations have benefitted, yet are slow to offer support to many smaller nations impacted by rising sea levels and other climatic issues. We pray that rich nations may share generously with those who are poor.

God of constant presence we pray for our families, neighbours, friends and strangers.

We hold before you all who are broken, hurt, lost, lonely and struggling. Help us to reach out with your healing, holding hands, uniting us for the common good. Help us to know your face in the life around us.

We pray for ourselves and for each other and we particularly think of members of our congregation, and their families, who are struggling, or suffering ill health and uncertainty and we pause in silent prayer.....

Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer
In the precious name of Jesus, we bring our prayers to you this morning

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is 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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 圣餐

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE 差遣信徒

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

3 Hymn: 272 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Benediction

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.

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NEWS & NOTICES