

Ormond Uniting Church



A Favoured One, He Qi

Advent 4

December 21, 2025

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang 张骥

Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend

Music: Dr Karen Roberts

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

Call to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

1 Hymn: 291 Earth has many a noble city

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 以赛亚书 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 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.

2nd Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears
to drink in full measure.

*You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.*

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.*

Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

*Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

3rd Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

2 Hymn: 311 Silent Night, Holy Night

Sermon: Advent 4 Love, God is with us

Music Video: Ava Maria

Offering

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

Let us pray.

God of our beginning and our end, we live in a world that needs your mercy now more than ever. As we wait with anticipation for your coming Son, we recognize that joy and love do not come easily to everyone's lips. Many people are using their lips to cry out for healing in a broken world.

We pray for those who struggle with illness – physical or mental - who desire comfort in the face of constant pain and distress and wait for healing and peace.

We pray for people in places of violence and disadvantage, who struggle to find happiness and fulfillment, and hunger for love and compassion.

We pray for those who grieve the loss of family, friends, relationships and for whom the festive season a difficult time where joy is hard to find.

We pray for worshipping communities of all faiths that seek to heal the world, who preach love in the face of hate, welcome the stranger as a friend and who work to share their blessings with others.

We pray this day especially for everyone impacted by the shootings at Bondi last weekend including people attending Hannukah festivities and their families, emergency services staff, volunteer life savers, hospital staff and community members in the area. May they find peace and healing.

Remembering how God chose a humble young woman and a carpenter to provide the nurture for Christ Jesus, let us seek the blessing of God upon the ordinary people, paid and unpaid, who serve unnoticed and often unappreciated in the community.

- Carpenters and other skilled workers who day by day ply their trades with skill and integrity
- Citizens who volunteer in service organisations, local government, school committees, St John's Ambulance, sporting clubs, SES and CFA
- Police officers, street cleaners, teachers, gardeners, social workers, parking attendants, nurses, retail assistants
- Single parents who are always on call, providing physical, emotional and spiritual nurture and lovingly attending to a thousand small details every day
- People in our own families whom we often take for granted, and steadfast friends who are always there when we need them
- The quiet achievers in our congregations, who though unheralded, express their faith in numerous practical ways
- Faith leaders - ministers, priests, rabbis, imams - with no remarkable gifts or fame, who lovingly and faithfully tend their flocks and the broader community

God of grace, we pray for these, and a host like them, who constantly leaven this world with goodness and mercy yet ask for nothing in return.

Help us, loving God, to learn the way of Christ from one another, and in your hands may our very ordinariness become a witness to your glory in Emmanuel. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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 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: 304 O Come all ye faithful

Benediction

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

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Church Office

Tuesdays, 9.30am-2.30pm

Thursdays, 9.30am-2.30pm

Fridays, 9.30am-2.30pm

Phone: 0411 958 127

office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Website: www.ormondunitingchurch.org

NEWS & NOTICES