

# Ormond Uniting Church



*They came with haste, and found Mary Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

by Luke Chen

## Christmas Day December 25, 2022

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang

Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend

Music: Peter Hurley

## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

### Call to worship

(Marg Davis)

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!**

### Acknowledgement of Country

**1 Hymn:** 268 Joy to the world! The Lord is come

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

### 点亮圣诞之光

(Dianne Richter)

After counting the weeks of Advent  
we have come to Christmas Day.  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

(Lorraine)

The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world. *John 1:9*  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

**2 Hymn:** 316 O little town of Bethlehem

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

Loving God,  
we have been blind to the vision of a renewed world.  
Through your light that breaks through darkness,  
we come before the Christ child in confession.

**We have not loved you with all our heart  
or served you with all our strength.  
But you have loved us first by sending this gift of life to us.**

In your mercy, Lord, pardon and restore us,  
that we may recover the love you have given to us in Jesus Christ.

**Remembering his birth, death and resurrection,  
we may serve you with joy all the days of our life.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but may have eternal life.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:  
Your sins are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Peace

The peace of the Christ Child be with you.  
*And also with you.*

**3 Hymn:** 299 While shepherds watched their flocks by night (V1-2, 5-6)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture reading: Isaiah 以赛亚书 52: 7-10

(Marg Davis)

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading: Psalm 98

(Xixi LI in Chinese)

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.  
The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
[L] [SEP] Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.  
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord,

for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

#### **4 Hymn: Ava Maria**

(Played on organ by Peter Hurley)

#### **3rd Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1 – 6**

(Evie Ellett)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

#### **4th Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14**

(Dr Karen Roberts)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we

have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Christmas Address:** The Word incarnate, and the New Life for all

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 众人的祷告

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

On this day of holiness and the night of peace,  
We pray for the people still in wars and conflicts, especially in Ukraine.  
May the peace of this Christmas reach their homes  
and enters into their hearts.

We pray for the people living in hardship  
for the survivors of the Bondi shooting, may you bring healing,  
for the families impacted by the lose of life, may you bring peace;

We pray for the people in need of support this Christmas  
for the poor, may they hunger no more;  
for the rich, may they desire no more.

We pray for the mother Earth,  
change our hearts through climate action,  
help the mother Nature to return to its original balance.

We pray for the Christmas season.  
For the homeless and the lonely, may we reach out to them;  
For our families and friends, bless them with a safe and joyful holiday.

We pray for ourselves.  
Open our hearts and minds,  
to receive the gift of new life from God,  
Let the Christ child live in us  
and grow with us in the New Year.

In the name of Christ, we pray, **Amen.**

**5 Hymn:** 304 O come, all ye faithful (V1-2, 6-7)

## **Offering**

### **CHRISTMAS PRAYER 圣诞祷告**

(Rev Ron Townsend)

Blessed are you, O Christ, our God;  
you were before time began,  
and came to the world to save us.

**Blessed are you, Son of righteousness;  
you shine with the Father's love  
and illumine the whole universe.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;  
born a child  
you shared our humanity.

**Blessed are you, son of David;  
born to rule,  
you received gifts from the wise men.**

Blessed are you, Son of Man;  
baptised by John,  
you saved us from ourselves.

**Blessed are you, heavenly King;  
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,  
you proclaimed the kingdom.**

With all the voices of heaven  
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.  
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

**With all the creatures on earth  
we sing and dance at your birth.  
Praise and glory to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER 主祷文

**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 for ever. Amen.**

**6 Hymn: 303 Hark! the herald angels sing**

## THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE 差遣信徒

**(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)**

The blessing of God almighty  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be with you this Christmas  
And remain with you throughout the New Year.  
**Amen**

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](mailto:office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au)

Website: [www.ormondunitingchurch.org](http://www.ormondunitingchurch.org)

## NEWS & NOTICES