

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



## CHRISTMAS DAY



*The Adoration of the Shepherds, Matthias Stomer*

*Congregational responses are printed in bold type*

**COVID arrangements** – while wearing masks inside is not mandated, we would be grateful if you could wear them during the service.

**Singing** – our singing will be restricted today. The congregation's parts in the hymns are the words printed in italics. **Please sing with masks on.**

## **WELCOME**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES - The Candle of Love**

In a world caught up in fear, preoccupied with appearances and security, anxious, shamed and angry  
**God, we call upon you to come.**

In a world where there is little room for the transformation of love,  
**we praise you, Emanuel, God with us.**

In this Christmas, we celebrate your birth in our lives again and so our own re-birth. We welcome you into those places which need your light and we rejoice at your coming salvation.

**Yea Lord, we greet you.**

*The Christ candle of love is lit along with the other four: hope, peace, joy & faith*

Dear God, we pray that your perfect love which casts out fear may be born in us. May we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

### **HYMN: TIS 303**

Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.

*Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.  
Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb:  
*veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing....*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings:  
*mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing....*

Charles Wesley  
1707-88 and others

## **PRAYERS OF GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

Yea, Lord, we greet you this happy morning  
And are full of thanks and joy  
For the gift of yourself in Jesus.

He is God with us and shines light into our darkness  
assuring us of your love and compassion for the whole creation.

In the darkness of our world:

**He is God with us.**

Where the poor cry out for justice and equity:

**He is God with us.**

Where the powerful oppress the meek of the earth:

**He is God with us.**

Where refugees flee from war and destruction:

**He is God with us.**

Where we are torn apart by fear and distress:

**He is God with us.**

Loving God, we give thanks for Jesus who shows us your face and assures us of your love, who came amongst those who lived in shame and darkness then and still comes now into our world, seeking a home where you may dwell and transform us by your love.

**Yea, Lord. We greet you. Amen.**

## **EARLY WORD**

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet;

**A light to our path**

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 9. 2-7

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song;

**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

**tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,  
**his marvellous works among all the peoples.**  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
**he is to be revered above all gods.**  
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
**but the Lord made the heavens.**  
Honour and majesty are before him;  
**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
**bring an offering, and come into his courts.**  
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
**tremble before him, all the earth.**

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!  
**The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.**  
He will judge the peoples with equity.'  
**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;**  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
**let the field exult, and everything in it.**  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord;  
**for he is coming,**  
**for he is coming to judge the earth.**  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

Epistle:            Hebrews 1. 1-4

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Gospel:            Luke 2. 1-20

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## HYMN: TIS 316

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:

*yet, in your dark streets shining  
the everlasting light,  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.*

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

*O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all on earth.*

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.

*No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.*

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.

*We hear the Christmas angels  
their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel.*

Phillips Brooks

## SERMON

### HYMN: TIS 309

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
heralds of creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*come and worship*  
*Christ, the new-born King,*  
*come and worship, worship Christ,*  
*the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching over flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
*come and worship Christ ....*

Wise men, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star:  
*come and worship Christ ....*

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him:  
every knee shall then bow down:  
*come and worship*  
*Christ, the new-born King,*  
*come and worship, worship Christ,*  
*the new-born King.*

James Montgomery  
1771-1854 alt.

**OFFERING** – offerings for the work of the Christmas Bowl (all of today's collection) can be left in the plate on the communion

table. Donations can also be made to these two initiatives of the Church:

- ❖ The Christmas Bowl – search for The Christmas Bowl online – donations can be identified as given through Ormond Uniting Church. Search for OUC in the <Search for your church> button.
- ❖ Uniting World – Everything in Common – UnitingWorld's ethical gifts catalogue. Each gift represents a life-changing project that is helping people across the Pacific, Asia and Africa break the cycle of poverty and step towards a life of dignity.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **HYMN: TIS 304**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

True God of true God, Light of Light eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:

*O come, let us adore him,*

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come, let us adore him,*

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

*O come let us adore him,*



Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God, glory in the highest':  
    *O come, let us adore him,*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:  
    *O come, let us adore him,*  
    *O come, let us adore him,*  
    *O come, let us adore him,*  
    *Christ the Lord!*

Possibly by John Francis Wade c. 1711-1786  
tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80  
William Thomas Brooke 1848-1917 (vv.3-5) and others

## **BLESSING AND SENDING OUT**

May the light of Christ shine on you:  
like Mary, may you find in yourself  
    a place of expectant waiting for the Christ to grow,  
like Joseph, may you find in yourself  
    a place of compassionate welcome,  
like the shepherds, may you respond  
    with unabashed joy to the Good News, and  
like the wise men, may you seek  
    until you find God made flesh in yourself.

May God the Father make you holy in his love.  
God the Son enrich you with his grace.  
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with joy.:  
the Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. Amen

## WORD OF MISSION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

## POSTLUDE

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

Blessing from *Each Day and Each Night: Celtic Prayers from Iona*,  
Philip J. Newell, Wild Goose Publications.

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# NEWS AND NOTICES

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

This is just a reminder that the Church office will close from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December until Monday 11 January 2021 inclusive. Rev. Andrew Boyle will also be on leave from Monday 4 January until Monday 11 January inclusive. From the office, we wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to working with you all again in 2021.

## ROSTERS FOR DECEMBER/ EARLY JANUARY

DATE	Prayers	Reading	Door Duty	Counting	Sound	Flowers
27 Dec	David B	Warwick B	Brenda G Kevin D	Joan C Shirley H	Nev P	
3 Jan	Heather B	Lorraine D	Nev P Lyn P	Graeme D Marg D	Robyn M	Lorraine D Lynne P
10 Jan	Warwick B	Gary R	Graeme D Marg D	Joan C Brian M	Robyn M	

## Communion roster

3 January 2021: Warwick B, Heather B.

## CHRISTMAS BOWL





## Merry Christmas!





In Zimbabwe, the coronavirus is pushing already vulnerable families to the brink without the support they need to survive. Through your gift this Christmas Bowl, Act for Peace's local partner will help families like Martha's to grow their own food and become more food secure.

This Christmas, you can shine Christ's light by giving life-changing training, seeds and tools to families in Zimbabwe. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



**Thank you for sharing  
God's love this Christmas**

Please give today.

Call 1800 025 101 or visit

[actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

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**ACT FOR PEACE**  
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE *act* alliance



## UNITING WORLD

Please refer to the attached link to see the various ways you can support Uniting World this Christmas season.

<https://everythingincommon.com.au>

