

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

ADVENT 2



*Congregational responses are printed in bold type*

## **Welcome & announcement regarding COVID arrangements**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

In a world of war, violence and abuse, where families live in shelters and children grow up in fear,

**God, we call upon you to come.**

In a world where peace seems to be so far away,

**we call upon you, Prince of Peace, to come.**

In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Peace into our world. We await the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, who comes into our lives in a new way.

**Come, Messiah, Come, and Save Us**

*We light the second Advent candle*

Dear God, we pray for the peace that only You can bring through your Son, Jesus the Christ.

**May we walk in the paths of peace. Amen.**

### **HYMN: TIS 181**

Come, O God of all the earth:  
come to us, O righteous One;  
come, and bring our love to birth:  
in the glory of your Son.

*Sing out, earth and skies!  
sing of the God who loves you;  
raise your joyful cries;  
dance to the life around you.*

Come, O God of wind and flame:  
fill the earth with righteousness;  
teach us all to sing your name:  
may our lives your love confess.

*Refrain*

Come, O God of flashing light:  
twinkling star and burning sun;  
God of day and God of night:  
in your light we all are one.

*Refrain*

Come, O God of snow and rain:  
shower down upon the earth;  
come, O God of joy and pain:  
God of sorrow, God of mirth.

*Refrain*

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace:  
come and shape our hearts anew;  
come and make oppression cease:  
bring us all to life in you.

*Refrain*

Marty Haugen  
1950-

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

Oh God,  
We dwell in peace in this place.  
And we are grateful.

But we must acknowledge that the peace we enjoy comes at the expense of others:

The many who have gone before us who laboured and struggled for it  
That we might live justly and peaceably together,  
Women and men who struggled against injustice and oppression at  
great personal risk and cost,  
Women and men who would not take no for an answer,  
Too many warring men whose blood soaks the earth in faraway  
places,  
Too many women and children, innocent, intentional and  
unintentional collateral damage of war,  
The blood of too many indigenous peoples of this land,  
People who gifted us peace willingly  
But too many of them unwillingly,

The innocent, victims of the injustice, malevolence and greed of  
The ones pretending to protect them.

This peace we value but we acknowledge it is not a peace worth having.

In Jesus, you call us to the peace which comes by the way of the cross.  
A peace which proclaims that his sacrifice is enough; once and for all,  
enough.

Oh, that it would be so.

But we are compromised.

We are complicit.

And we confess we benefit from this complicitness.

### **KYRIE – sung TIS 756 – *Kyrie Eleison***

Lord, have mercy,  
Christ, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy.

We cry to you – Come, Lord Jesus, renew the whole creation.

Bring the peace which comes by way of your cross.

As your body was broken

May we know your peace in our bones.

And with you and the prophets cry the eternal cry for the divine way

Which does justice, which loves mercy, which walks humbly

With you our God.

Bring this peace to birth in us O God

As surely as you came into the world in the Christ

In whose name we pray.

**Amen**

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

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

**A light to our path**

Hebrew Scriptures:      Isaiah 40. 1-11

Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-13

Lord, you were favourable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
**for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
**righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
**and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.**

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Mark 1. 1-8

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**HYMN: TIS 647**

*Comfort, comfort all my people  
with the comfort of my Word.  
Speak it tender to my people:  
all your sins are taken away.*

Though your tears be rivers running,  
though your tears be an ocean full,

though you cry with the hurt of living:  
comfort, comfort.  
Every valley shall be lifted,  
every mountain shall be low,  
every rough place will be smoother:  
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort ....*

Though your eyes see only darkness,  
though your eyes can see no light,  
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:  
comfort, comfort.  
Every night will have its morning,  
every pain will have an end,  
every burden will be lightened:  
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort ....*

Robin Mann 1949-  
inspired by Isaiah 40

## **SERMON**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **HYMN: TIS 539**

*You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat:  
come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.*

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
they know and heed his voice,  
so when you call your family, Lord,  
we follow and rejoice.                      *Response*

With joyful lips we sing to you  
our praise and gratitude  
that you should count us worthy, Lord,  
to share this heavenly food. *Response*

Is not the cup we bless and share  
the blood of Christ out-poured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
our one-ness in the Lord? *Response*

The mystery of your presence, Lord,  
no mortal tongue can tell:  
whom all the world cannot contain  
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Response*

You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity.  
*You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat:  
come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.*

Omer Westendorf  
1916-

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you, living and loving God,  
that you have sent your Son to this world.

Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,  
our Lawgiver, burning with justice,  
the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots,  
the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry, O come and save us:  
**O come and save us.**

Together with angels and archangels and with all the saints  
We praise you with joy:

**TIS 756**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, serving and saving God,  
that you send your Son also to this table,  
who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And let the people cry, O come and save us:  
**O come and save us.**

We beg you, mighty and merciful God:  
send us the Spirit of your Son.



Dwell in this food and in all who share it,  
that the earth may rejoice in your presence.  
In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world,  
reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples,  
and live among us, Emmanuel,  
our deepest desire now and forever.

And let the people cry, O come and save us:  
**O come and save us.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church,  
and receive our praises, now and forever.  
Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

... as our Lord taught us we are confident to say:

**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 forever. Amen**

### **AGNUS DEI**

... The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**TIS 756**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

### PRAYER

#### HYMN: The time has come

The time has come when, from the past,  
prophetic words ring true at last;  
though earth's hostilities increase,  
God's promise is of lasting peace.

Hallelujah! Prepare the way.

Hear what God's chosen prophets say.

The time has come to make it known  
that every tear and pain and groan  
are registered in heaven above  
to be redeemed by holy love.

Hallelujah! Prepare the way.

Only Love lifts us from dismay.

The time has come to make amends:  
earth and its people should be friends.  
Erase the policies of death,  
spread hope with every vital breath.

Hallelujah! Prepare the way.

God gladly comes to earth to stay

The time has come to share good news,  
to sweep the floor and mend the shoes,  
prepare to protest, praise and dance  
for God is eager to advance.

Hallelujah! Expect a birth:

God's gracious feet will touch the earth.

John L. Bell, 2018  
Tune: Sussex Carol; TIS 300

## **BLESSING AND SENDING OUT**

Go in peace, and remember:  
goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death;  
victory is ours  
through Christ who loved us.

## **WORD OF MISSION**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*Word of Mission – Desmond Tutu*

*The Advent eucharistic prayer is based on the O Antiphons. Sung in medieval monasteries December 17–23 at evening prayer before and after the Magnificat, the antiphons used Old Testament images as descriptors of Christ.*

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

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