

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



28TH NOVEMBER

ADVENT 1



In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Congregational responses are printed in bold type

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

HYMN: TIS 265

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! rejoice!

O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! rejoice!

O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;

from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! rejoice!

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier
based on Antiphons from 9th cent. or earlier
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 *alt.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Come living Word of God
Speak to us of your divine life.

**Breathe life into our mortal bodies
and fill the whole world with hope.**

We light a candle of Hope

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Come living Word of God, may your word of hope spring up in us.

PRAYERS OF GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Eternal God,
As we rejoice in the knowledge
that you have joined us in our humanity in your Christ,
so we anticipate that you continue to come to us in spirit,
To continually call your people from darkness into light.

**You are the one who gives new life,
You are the one redeems from the way of death,
You are the one who sustains us in hope.**

As we prepare to receive your Christ
Prepare in us a place for the sowing of your life.

In the name of him who shows us your face and assures us of your
love, Christ our way, our truth, our life.

Amen

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

Hebrew Scriptures: Jeremiah 33. 14-16

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3. 9-13

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 21. 25-36

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN: O God of earth and altar

O God of earth and altar, bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide;
Take not Thy thunder from us, but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches, from lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches that comfort cruel men;

From sale and profanation of honor and the sword;
From sleep and from damnation, deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether, the prince and priest and thrall;
Bind all our lives together, smite us and save us all;
In ire and exultation aflame with faith and free,
Lift up a living nation, a single sword to Thee.

G.K. Chesterton, 1906

SERMON

HYMN: The time has come

please remain seated. The offering will be collected during this hymn

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
© Wild Goose Publication, 2018
Tune: Sussex Carol; TIS 300

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: TIS 273

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the sound of this refrain:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who have betrayed and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply shamed before him, deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,

with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Sing amen! let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for your own;
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly;
hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

Charles Wesley
1707-88 alt.

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Matthew 28:19
Mark 5:34
Psalm 27:14
Romans 12:9-11, 17
1 Thessalonians 5:14-
15

And the blessing of God ...

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.

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NEWS AND NOTICES

THE CHRISTMAS BOWL 2022

As we begin Advent and our movement toward Christmas, we make ourselves aware of the work of the Christmas Bowl of the Australian Council of Churches. This year again, through Act for Peace, the ACC will be working with conflict-traumatised Palestinians in Gaza, Sri Lankan refugees in India, victims of the humanitarian crisis in Syria, people in Ethiopia displaced by the civil war there and vulnerable families and communities in Indonesia. For the past 70 years the ACC has invited Australians to partner with them in responding to the needs of some of the world's most vulnerable. We hope you can continue to support their important work again this year.

First Sunday of Advent



Meggie Anggita/CWS

Hope for families in Indonesia

Central Sulawesi was hard hit by a huge earthquake and tsunami in 2018. Since then, farms which families rely on for food have been affected by floods, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic. Women are learning to make organic fertiliser and pesticides to help them grow their own food to feed their families. This Christmas Bowl, you are helping communities adapt to climate change and withstand financial hardship when disasters strike. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: 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



Christmas Bowl

COVID PROTOCOLS

Many of the COVID restrictions we have been living under have been lifted this week. Here is a list of what we must do and we can do:

- Each week we will be required to check in with QR codes or manually if we can't check in with a smartphone

- We must show a COVID Marshall at the church proof of our vaccination status. This only needs to be done once. This can be a certification on your smartphone or a printed copy of your vaccination status. If you are exempt, please bring a copy of your exemption. Children under 12 are currently exempt from this requirement.
- We are NOT required to wear masks indoors now, but we do recommend the wearing of masks while singing.
- The number we can accommodate in the church is now unlimited if all people present are double vaccinated. We can seat about 120 people in the church.
- If we are not all fully vaccinated, or someone is not willing to give their vaccination status, we will be limited to 45 people in the church.
- Our Covid Marshalls are Lorraine Denniston, Marg Davis and Robyn Mulder who comprise the OUC COVID Team.

Need to know more or unsure what to do? Please contact Andrew Boyle (0409 869 009) or Pam White (0434 378 099).

Printed worship resources will continue to be delivered to those who are not able to make it to worship.

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING OUR HALLS

Dotted through the latest edition of Pathfinder you'll find people's memories of how our halls have been used. Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles (Warwick, Heather, David, Elizabeth, Dot, Jan) and to Lorraine for several of the photos– we hope you enjoy them. May they inspire you to reflect on your own memories and perhaps send something for next month – written articles and photos welcome. We will also be including material on the website.

If you'd prefer to tell someone your story so we can write it down for you, please contact Dianne Richter (0413 750 089).

We have also set up an online option “Ormond Uniting Video Memories” where you can record your memories so we can create a video record. Here is the link:

<https://app.memento.com/ormond-uniting-video-memories/bo5dlK8Ap/record>

If you require assistance to record your memory, please contact Gary (041116415) or garyrichter@yahoo.com.au. You don't need sophisticated recording equipment, just a smart phone or laptop with camera.

CLEANING OUT THE HALLS - A TAKE-IT-AWAY-FREE GARAGE SALE

Next Saturday 4th December from 9am to 12pm we will open the North Road Hall for a take-it-away-free clean out of the last of the furniture and other goods from the halls. Mardie Townsend and others have done a mammoth job selling off furniture and other goods from the halls. This has realised some income, avoided significant dumping fees and saved a huge amount of material going to landfill.

PATHFINDER

Material for the December edition of Pathfinder is due by next **Monday (29th November)**. Ideas for contributions:

- Update us on what's happening around the congregation
- Provide a reflection on something meaningful for you at this time
- What's been special in 2021?
- Where have you seen us in action in mission this year?
- What have you seen/learned/experienced that's enhanced your faith?
- Help us continue our series on memories of the halls - is there something you'd like to share?

These are only ideas and we're sure you'll have lots more - please send them in for a bumper December edition!

Kindest regards, Dianne & Gary

KILOMETERS OF COMPASSION

On behalf of Team OUC I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported our team and the ASRC in so many different ways and made this fundraising event so successful. We have donated many kilometres of walking, cycling, rowing and swimming and are hoping to meet our 400 km target. As well as this, many have generously sponsored our team and in this way supported the ASRC. We are still expecting some more Kms to come in and just letting you know that the online donation site will be open until mid December. Please look in the Pathfinder for an update as by then we hope to let everyone know how many Km's we achieved and how much we raised for the ASRC.

This has been a TREMENDOUS effort and we thank everyone for their support!

Brenda Grootendorst

ROSTER for Sunday 5 December 2021

READING	David Northwood	
PRAYERS	David Northwood	
COMMUNION	Lorraine Denniston	Karen Roberts
DOOR DUTY	Warwick Barry	Frank Ortolan
SOUND	Gary Richter	
MUSIC	Peter Hurley	
COUNTNG	Graeme Davenport	Marg Davis
FLOWERS	Lorraine Denniston	Lynne Parker
RESOURCES DELIVERY	Heather Baxter	