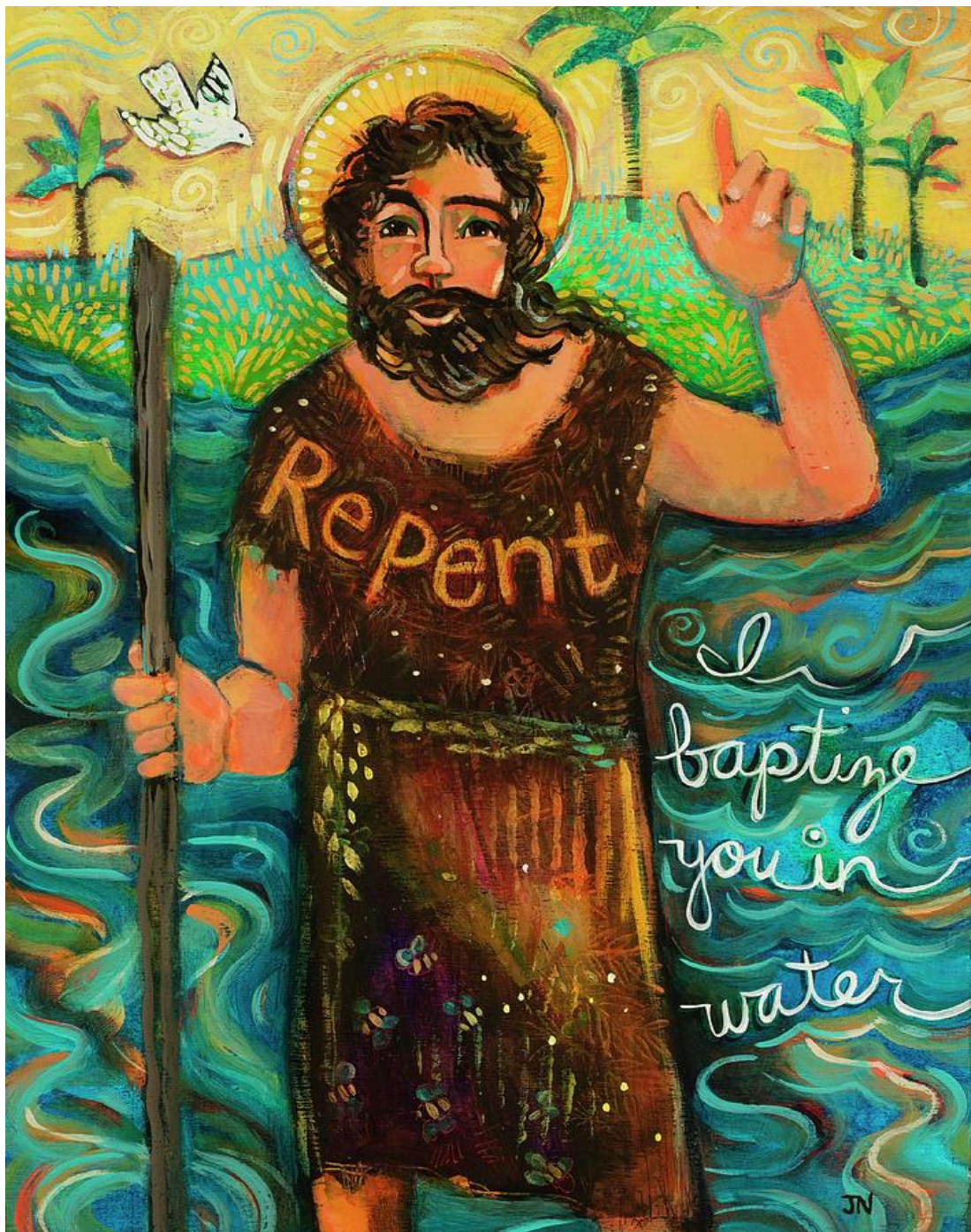


ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



DECEMBER 5

ADVENT 2



St John the Baptist – Jen Norton

Congregational responses are printed in bold type

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

HYMN: TIS 158

God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging word,
each, from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, his throne eternal,
God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father ever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time began,
Light from Light, to earth descending,
God, revealed as Son of Man.

God is speaking by his Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the age-long word expounding
God's own message, now as then,
through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith yet standing fast;

God still speaks, his word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

George Wallace Briggs
1875-1959 *alt.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

Come light of the world,
enlighten our darkness and grant us your peace.

We light a candle of Peace

The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Come living word of God, sow peace in our hearts, peace in our world.

PRAYERS OF GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Where there seems to be no way
to end the conflict and violence in our time,
we pray that you would teach us, O Christ,
to prepare the way;

Where we can see no way
to provide for the needs of all people,
we pray that you would show us, O Christ,
how to prepare the way;

Where can find no way
to work together for justice,
we pray that you would change us, O Christ,
until we prepare the way;

Where we are unable to believe in a way
to live simply, responsibly and mindfully,
we pray that you would inspire us, O Christ,
to faith that prepares the way;

In a world where we are tempted
to see so many of our challenges as dead-ends,
we pray for a new vision, a new heart and a new commitment
to prepare the way for your reign,
your grace,
your shalom
and for the liberation, justice and peace that you bring.
Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

Hebrew Scriptures: Malachi 2. 17 - 3. 4

The Gospel according to Luke: 1. 5-7, 17-17,

The Canticle of Zechariah – Luke 1. 68-79

Then, John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,

**as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of
all who hate us.**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

**to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our
enemies,**

**might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,**

to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 3. 1-6

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN: TIS 284

O bless the God of Israel
who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us,
with love for all to see.

The prophets spoke of mercy,
of rescue and release:

God shall fulfil his promise
and bring our people peace.

He comes! the Child of David,
the Son whom God has given;
he comes to live among us
bring near the reign of heaven:
before him goes his servant –
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the herald of the Day.

Where once were fear and darkness
the sun begins to rise –
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace:
O bless our God and Saviour
with songs that never cease.

Luke 1:68-79
Michael Arnold Perry, alt.
1942-96

SERMON

HYMN: TIS 258

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

*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Praise to you,....

You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the one who leads us to our future:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Praise to you,....

You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word made flesh who lives among us:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Praise to you,....

You are the Word who binds us and unites us;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Bernadette Farrell
1957-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Loving Christ, we stand in need
of forgiveness, freedom, homecoming;
you invite us by name.

Happy are those who are called to this supper.

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

HYMN: TIS 259

Among us and before us, Lord, you stand
with arms outstretched and bread and wine at hand.
Confronting those unworthy of a crumb,
you ask that to your table we should come.

Who dare say No, when such is your intent
to love the selves we famish and resent,
to cradle our uncertainties and fear,
to kindle hope as you in faith draw near?

No more we hesitate and wonder why;
no more we stand indifferent, scared or shy.
Your invitation leads us to say Yes,
to meet you where you nourish, heal and bless.

John L. Bell 1949-

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, gracious God, sovereign in grace and love,
for all things come from you.

We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the living Word;
crucified and risen,
he is the beginning of a new creation.

You poured out the Spirit, pledge and foretaste of the future,
that we might not lose the way
as we look for the renewal of all creation.

Therefore,
with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea and sky,
we sing to you.

With the angels and archangels who surround us,
with all the saints before us and beside us,
with brothers and sisters,
east and west, north and south,
we sing to you.

And with our loved ones,
separate from us now,
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,
we sing the hymn of never ending praise:

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.**

Blessed are you, O God;
your Son, our mother
nourishes and sustains us
with the pure milk of his very self,
embodying the reign
of justice, mercy and peace;
suffering in his own body on the cross
the brokenness of creation,
embracing our brokenness
and making us whole.

Several spiritual writers have used
the image of Jesus as Mother: e.g.,
St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury
(1033–1109) and Dame Julian of
Norwich (c. 1342–1416).

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

‘This is my body, which is for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.’

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:
‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it,
for the remembrance of me.’

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Therefore,
with the Church throughout the ages,
we celebrate the life that Jesus creates among his people,
the life that overcomes death.

Made one with him,
and thus one with each other,
we lay before you these gifts of bread and wine;
for here we offer and present to you ourselves,
our bodies, minds and spirits,
to be a holy and continual sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving to you.

Come, Holy Spirit,
brood over this bread and this wine.
May they be for us
the body and blood of Christ,
vibrant with life,
healing, renewing
and making us whole.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Spirit of Jesus,
draw us into your blazing heart,
that as these gifts are consumed in us,
we might be consumed in transfiguring love
and thus become one with you,
bone of your bone,
flesh of your flesh,

living our prayer
and praying our life
until love and loyalty embrace,
peace and justice kiss,
and all are free as Christ is free.

**Glory be to you, O God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and praise,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Because you are one with us, O Christ,
make us one with you as we pray:

**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**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ is the bread of joy,
who shares food with sinners.

Christ is the cup of life,
who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are.
Let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

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

God of heaven and earth,
you make us one in Christ.
**Inspire us with new vision
and the wisdom of ancient dreams.**
**Give us strength to walk together
until we come to our eternal home.**
In Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN: TIS 530

Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and live again,
his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the Word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves o share.

Then give us grace, Companion God,
to choose again the pilgrim way,
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

Frederik Herman Kaan
1929-

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

May the longed-for Christ
Lead our feet in the way of peace
And bring us will all God's children
Into the blessedness of God's reign.
Amen.

And the blessing ...

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.

*Where there seems to be no way – John van de Laar, Sacredise
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ROSTER for Sunday 12 December 2021

READING	Kristina Parish	
PRAYERS	Dianne Richter	
DOOR DUTY	Lorraine Denniston	David Northwood
SOUND	Graeme Davenport	
MUSIC	Peter Hurley	
COUNTNG	Dot & Jan Rose	
RESOURCES DELIVERY	Ron Townsend	

NEWS AND NOTICES

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WILF CORDIER

This Sunday 5th December 4.30pm in the church. We will also place Wilf's ashes in the Memorial Garden.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

Bringing Peace to children in Gaza

The recent bombing of Gaza and the escalation of tensions between Israel and Palestine can make peace feel more distant than ever, especially for children. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner run three health clinics across Gaza. They provide medical care and psychosocial support, including counselling and a place where children can play and feel safe. Your support gives children in Gaza a chance at the childhood they deserve. **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

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.

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 see Pathfinder for updates regarding donation amounts received. This has been a TREMENDOUS effort and we thank everyone for their support!

Brenda Grootendorst