

**Whitehorse Uniting Church
Sunday 10 December 2023
Second Sunday in Advent B**



Welcome

Leader: We are blessed with opportunity to gather on the lands of the Wurundjeri people and we proudly acknowledge them as the traditional custodians of these lands & waters. We pay our respects to their Elders, past & present. We hope for reconciliation.

All: **Here we meet. Here we encounter. Here we worship God.**

Leader: Here we will encounter Christ, Peacemaker for all of creation. Here we will celebrate what it means, to be the people of God where we are.

All: **Here we will give thanks for the Word made Flesh. Here we will experience the Deep Peace of the Spirit. Here we will worship God.**

Hymn

“For you deep stillness of the silent inland” Words Julie Perrin, Music Robin Mann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeP01DBKGd0&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLsLD2rC&index=26> tMt video

Lighting the second Advent candle

Leader: As we light our second Advent Candle, we open ourselves up to Your Peace in our lives.

All: **We light the Advent Candle and remind ourselves of the ways You bring Peace into our lives, and we live in the Hope that You will use us for Peace through this Advent Season.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 1 – 8 *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1989). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, our God does not ask for outpourings of guilt, but for repentance. Repentance means a determined, and often costly, about-turn from sin to the ways of God.

Let us pray:

If we feel sorry for ourselves when we sin, yet are rarely sorry for the damage done to others, and remain slow to make amends;

Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy**

Leader:

If we outwardly apologise and put on a show of making amends, yet in our hearts remain far from radical repentance;

Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

Leader:

So that we may get real with ourselves, recognising and admitting how far we have may have wandered and how low we have fallen;

Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Holy Friend, God and Saviour, by the truth and mercy of Christ, bring us to a wholehearted repentance and a hunger for cleansing grace. Then please reinforce our will power to undertake whatever changes your Spirit and Word ask of us. In you may we find that peace which the world cannot ever give to us. For your love's sake.

Amen!

Reading from Isaiah – A Song of Hope

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1989). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The grace of God

Lord, you are there when we falter, when we need direction, when we are not listening, sometimes when we least expect it. Your grace is all encompassing and steadfast. We give our thanks and praise.

Passing of the Peace

We pass the peace with each other.

Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort " Words Johannes Olearius (1611-1684), Tune Robin Mann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1x7V9N583Q&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=34> tMt video

Dedication of the Offering

All: **Loving and Gracious God, we pray for our offering. Guide us as we use these gifts to create a community of welcome and inclusion. Be with us as we seek to love our neighbours as ourselves.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

"Let us build a house where love can dwell" Words Marty Haugan

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&q=let+us+build+a+house+hymn+youtube#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:134822d5,vid:mTdxFRfEoMs,st:0>

Sending Out

Leader: Go from this place filled with God's infinite Peace. Go now, as people of God.

All: **We go assured that God is love, and God brings Peace into our world. We go to love our neighbour as ourselves.**

Leader: Go now, held in the loving hands of God Most High. Go now, and follow Christ in all things.

Go now, in the love and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Shalom"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oqiFenpWxY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=35> tMt video