



Weekly Worship



Today is a great opportunity to sing all those Christmas carols you love and haven't been able to sing yet. Or the ones that you've sung already but can't get enough of. Put lots of carols through the service and enjoy the celebration.

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

After all this waiting,
all this wondering,
all this watching,
Love has broken into the world anew.

Our world breathes a sigh of relief
as the parties are over
and we tuck into leftovers.

The pace of things changes
as some sleep on the couch
while watching cricket or yachts racing.

Many are travelling,
lighting barbecues,
or sunning and swimming.

Do we remember that
Love has broken into the world?

We light a candle, the Christ candle,
to recall that in Jesus
the most radical, inbreaking,
presence of God lights our way.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these unceded lands and waters. We pay respect to Elders past and present. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

Singing: The North Wind is tossing the leaves TIS 322



Prayer

From Psalm 148

Praise the LORD!
**Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!**

Praise him,
all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him,
sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him,
**you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

God with us, Emmanuel,
we wonder at your love for us.

If today has us slowing down a little,
then perhaps it calls us to remember again,
to renew our wonder in the birth of Jesus.

Prayer continues

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Prayer continues

How can it be that you, creator of all,
comes to us in such a tiny and vulnerable way?

We pause again to wonder ...

In our wonder we remember that
we are God's chosen ones,
clothed with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness and patience.

But we struggle to walk this way
even in basic and simple things.

Christmas brings its stresses and strains -
expectations, demands, difficult relationships.
We know we fall short of compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness and patience and
this time of year tests us like no other.

Hear our struggles as we pause again...

And we wonder at love that comes to us
through a boy born to Mary and Joseph,
one who changes us,
one who changes our world,
one who changes the cosmos.

In him we are chosen by God,
we are loved, we are restored.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Singing: Infant lowly, infant holy

TiS 292



Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Listening

Read: Luke 2:41-52

For these words of faith and for Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Singing: Unto us a boy is born

TiS 293



Reflecting

Rev. Fee Morrison

Imagine being Mary – I've been entrusted to care
for God's son and I've lost him!!!

What do I do?
What do I say?

Have we lost Jesus in the celebration of Christmas,
parties, family gatherings, presents and life stresses
over this season? How do we find Jesus again, God
incarnate, the one who comes to us?

This is a story of Jesus being fully human, learning
and growing. In that society at that time it was a
transition from being a boy to an adult. I invite you to
think and discuss what are the transitions/ rituals we
do as we transition from childhood to being an adult?

I remember getting my P plates on the car was a
major event for independence and a statement of
being an adult, having to be responsible for my bills
etc, having a big 21st birthday party? What are some
of these events in your family, culture?

Reflecting continues

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First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday December 29, 2024

Reflecting continues

Jesus is growing in wisdom in this reading, learning the skills he will need for his ministry ahead. This is the only time we hear of a young Jesus in this story of God's grace for all. Jesus says to his mother-Mary, it is necessary for me to be in God's house/presence. Jesus is reflecting and showing the heart of God. These are Jesus' first words in Luke and the next time he speaks is to the devil in the wilderness and then in the temple again.

As Jesus grows in wisdom, he responds to the call of God in ways each of us can do. As God became flesh incarnate, God seeks to become real, incarnate within each of us.

Jesus was not a superhero from another planet, he was a human being just like me, who grew in love and increasingly gave of himself to the call he heard.

My own experience was similar, I heard the call of God quite young, not as young as Jesus but when I was 19, that I just couldn't shake, even when other things caught my attention.

John Cobb writes in *Christ in a Pluralistic Age*, that Jesus surrendered himself to the Divine Lure to the extent that his own ego became one with it. He was one with God.

For me and you the call of God is drawing us forward to live out the incarnation of God, to share the love, compassion and grace in all our being. To celebrate the good news that Jesus the Christ is with us! Let us celebrate this good news beyond just the day of Christmas the 25th December, when Christmas disappears from our culture. Let us remember that as Christians we celebrate Christmas for 12 days commencing from Christmas day, and we are called to celebrate in all our lives and all we do and are.

Even in the midst of our despair and grief, the incarnate One is with us being fully human and fully divine with us, never abandoning us. The heart and love of God is with us.

Merry Christmas.

Singing: Joy to the world **TIS 268**



Offering

God with us,
may these gifts we offer in your name
be part of revealing your inbreaking love
to our world.

May these offerings be sign that we
offer the whole of who we are
as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Singing: The virgin Mary had a baby boy **TIS 307**



Responding: Prayers for World & Community

God of wonder, God of love,
we are aware of the things we enjoy
and often take for granted -
gathering as family and community,
feasting at tables of abundance,
the capacity to enjoy a holiday.
We give thanks for those who have offered food,
connection and shelter over the Christmas period -
those who have invited strangers to the Christmas
dinner; those who have offered a bed to those
without one; for those who have sought ways to ease
housing shortages in many places.

Prayer continues

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Prayer continues

We pray for safety for all those on the roads and on our beaches and for those who have worked through this season; emergency services, hospitality workers, those in shops and supermarkets.

We pray for all who struggle to find basic necessities like food, shelter and community. May we who have plenty find ways to share.

We pray for people in places of war, where one day is just like the next, filled with fear and grief. May there be peace and release.

We pray for the earth as sea levels and water temperatures rise, impacting all aspects of life. May we learn to live lightly and heal the harm.

We offer prayers for people and situations upon our hearts...

In and through all places of challenge, may the light of Christ continue to shine in our world.

As we pray together then as Jesus taught us:

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**

Singing: Once in royal David's city TIS 312



Blessing

Go knowing that God has come close,
as close as our own flesh
to name and claim us as God's children.

Go clothed with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness and patience.

And may the peace that passes all understanding
guard your hearts and minds
and direct your steps
this day and always,

and all the people say: **Amen!**

Singing: Born in the night TIS 323



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