

Season of Advent Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Year A
Cycle II

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria

How do we share God's unconditional love with those who have suffered unimaginable violence? Through your gifts, you can help support Syrian refugees as they rebuild their lives. **Please give to the Christmas Bowl 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



December 21st
St John's Riddells Creek
5.30 pm

December 22nd
St Paul's Gisborne 9 am
Church of the Resurrection 10.30 am

*The Parish of Gisborne acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land,
the peoples of the Kulin Nations,
and we pay our respects to their elders, living, past and emerging.*

The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.

Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship. Whether you are a visitor or a regular parishioner of the Anglican Church, you are invited to join us in Holy Communion. Please make yourself known to us and if you would like more information about our community and ministry, then please take a copy of our welcome brochure, visit our website or ask one of our sidespersons.

Today's worship:

After a week with mixed blessings, we move into that time of expectation of the Feast that is about to happen. From Christmas Eve sunset through to January 5th, the Festival of the Incarnation will be upon us.

Part of the gift of peace that we will no doubt enjoy is that of a chance from the hustle and bustle of the world in which we live. This is good, but we also need to be mindful for those in the world for whom this is not a peaceful time, but one of challenge.

Closer to home we pray for our CFA and all emergency services as they keep vigil to keep us safe.

We also keep in mind those for whom this is the first Christmas without loved ones. As Bishop Kate reminded us last week, many of us have sat in the *shadowlands* this year, but without the presence of light, there would be no shadows, only darkness.

Like the shepherds of old, let us look to the light we see in the darkness. Let us give thanks for the blessings we have received, and the many still to come.

Scripture readings:	Isaiah 7.10-16	Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19
	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25
Wednesday:	Christmas Day	9 am at St Paul's

NEXT WEEK:

Holy Family	ONE SERVICE ONLY: MACEDON 10.00 am	
	Isaiah 63.7-9	Psalm 148
	Hebrews 2.10-18	Matthew 2.13-23

Parish Fire Policy:

If a **CODE RED** day is declared [this is the most extreme rating] and this occurs on a Saturday or Sunday – then please note that all services and/or parish activities will be cancelled on that day.

This policy will also apply during the week and to all our centres. For other fire danger ratings, it is important that everyone implement their own fire plan.

Your own fire plan must always take precedence even if you are on a rostered duty.

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The Gathering of God's People

The ministers may have already entered in silence.

Advent is a time for waiting and preparing.

Our liturgical colour today is BLUE. It signifies the Advent night sky.

We sit in silence.

After a while, a bell will ring.

A member of the congregation prepares to light the remaining blue candle.

A minister begins:

We gather in hope,
even when hopefulness struggles to take root in our world.

God the Creator is with us.

A silence is kept.

We gather in peace,
even when peace seems overtaken by war and violence.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, is with us.

A silence is kept.

We gather in love, as the Spirit weaves amongst us,
even though hate seeks to take hold in the world.

We are not alone.

A silence is kept, and this carol is sung:

**Love, love, love -
The heart of Christ is love.
On all who come he pours his presence,
life and love in holy essence.
Love, love, love -
the heart of Christ is love.**

Tune: Stille, stille, stille

Words by Ken Bible

© 2006 by LNWhymns.com.

CCLI Song #4663940.

The presider greets the people.

✠ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

Turn us again, O God our Saviour,
and let your anger cease from us.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those who fear you,
that glory may dwell within our land.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Presider pronounces The Absolution

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
✠ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray:

O Lord,
raise up your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us,
that, whereas through our sins and wickedness
we are sore let and hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

As we prepare to hear God's holy word through the scriptures:
open our hearts and minds, Lord. Amen.

All sit for the Readings.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7.10-16

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19



Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4, A4, Bb4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The notes are connected by a line, with a fermata over the final G4. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord rouse up your might,
O Lord come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the one you have chosen,
the one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again,
give us life that we may call upon your name.

TiS 42

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Romans 1.1-7

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

All stand for the Gospel Reading.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Matthew 1.18-25

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord,:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking Open the Word

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

**And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
✠ Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

(Philippians 2:5-11) Jesus Christ is Lord
(Uniting in Worship People's Book - page 128)

The Prayers of the People

The minister says

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

The prayers may be offered by a deacon and/or other members of the congregation.

Periods of silence may be kept.

For your love and goodness
we give you thanks, O God.

*The prayers will conclude with a Prayer from our Partner Churches in Syria,
as we prepare our Christmas Bowl:*

We pray for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

We can only glimpse their despair,
at a future snatched from them by conflict and destruction.

We barely comprehend the experience of raising a family
in temporary shelters for years.

We cannot fathom that nearly six million
people have fled Syria,

nor the six million who have been internally displaced in Syria,
and lost homes and livelihoods.

A silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, Light of the World:
**blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless your children who long for your coming. Amen.**

The intercessions may be placed on the altar as a symbol of our prayers being offered.

The Greeting of Peace

The God of peace make us holy in all things
that we may be ready at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

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

The Offertory and Offertory Hymn

TiS 526 Lord Jesus Christ (Appleton)

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.
They may be presented in silence or a suitable prayer.*

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**We make our love visible through this offering.
We release these gifts, large and small,
into God's river of love,
so it may flow out to all the world,
bringing transformation. Amen.**

Act for Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

We begin our praise


We love to praise you, holy God,
for your beautiful world
and your wonderful ways.
You are the shepherd of your people.
You gave us good commandments
and you sent your messengers to guide us.

Our hope for a reign of everlasting peace

We give you thanks because you anointed Jesus Christ,
your only Son,
as the eternal priest and king of all.
As a priest he offered up his life on the cross
that by his one sacrifice
he might present to you an eternal kingdom;
a kingdom of truth and life;
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.


So we praise you, living God,
singing our song with angels and saints
and Christians everywhere:

Cantor:




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho _____ ly Lord, God of pow'r and God _____ of might.

2 All:




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho _____ ly Lord, God of pow'r and God _____ of might.

3 Cantor:



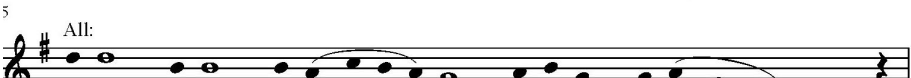
Heav - en and earth _____ are full _____ of your glo _____ ry.

4



Ho-san - na in the high - est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

5 All:



Ho-san - na in the high _____ est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

6 Cantor:

Bless - ed is he _ who comes in the _ name _ of _ the Lord.

7

Ho-san - na in the high _ est, hos-an-na in the high _ est.

8 All:

Ho-san - na in the high _ est, hos-an-na in the high _ est.

With this bread that we bring

And now, Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
for the meal you shared with us
on the night before you died.

You took the bread
and blessed it
and broke it
and gave it to your friends. You said:
“This is my body.
Take it and eat it
in memory of me.”

With this wine that we bring

Then you took the cup of wine,
and blessed it,
and gave it to your friends to drink.
You said:
“This is my blood.
It is God’s guarantee that sins will be forgiven.
Every time you drink it,
do this in memory of me.”

We remember Jesus

So we do what you command us,
and we remember:
you lived and died,
you rose in glory,
you sent your Holy Spirit,
and you will come again at the end of time
to bring us home to God.

Cantor/All

Christ has died, Christ is ris — en, — Christ — will — come — a — gain.

Epeclasis: the Sending of the Holy Spirit

Now, Holy Spirit, we praise you
 because you help us pray.
 Come to us in this celebration,
 and make us your holy people.
 Feed us at this table
 with the body and the blood of Christ.
 Make our faith grow.

Commissioning:

Send us to be your messengers to the world.
 Spread the Good News of Jesus
 by our words, our actions and our love.
 Teach us to praise the living God,
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 with every breath you give us.

Cantor/All.

A — men. A — men. A — men A — men.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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 and Communion

Cantor:



Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord: you take a way the sins of the
Je - sus, true branch of Jes _____ se's tree:
Key of Da - vid and Day - spring from on high:
De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

7 | 1, 2, 3. All:



world, have mer - cy on us; have mer - cy on us.

12 | 4. All:



world, grant us _____ peace, _____ grant us _____ peace.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body

for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

All are welcome at his supper. Come.

Anthem at the Church of the Resurrection

Magnificat

W Allstott

Post Communion Prayer

Go well into this day.

Go, knowing that God goes with you.

Remain in God's love.

Live from the depths of God's love for you.

And bless others with God's inextinguishable love.

Gracious Lord,

in this holy sacrament

you give substance to our hope.

Bring us at the last

to that pure life for which we long.

Post Communion Hymn
TiS 287 No wind at the window.
(Alt: 274 The people that in darkness walked)

Blessing and Dismissal
Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Postlude at Church of the Resurrection
Wachet auf, J S Bach,
for flute and organ.

NOTICES

Appeal for Anglicare Broadmeadows Women's Charity House

For underwear and socks (new) for children under the age of 5. Please give me a ring and I will arrange collection from the Church of the Resurrection, Macedon. Thank you and God Bless, Rosemary Homewood, Ph. 54287152.

Grand Charity Raffle!

The Proceeds of this raffle will be for both Asylum Seekers and Refugees at Broadmeadows and also at the Thai-Burma border. There are nine prizes including a Christmas hamper donated by Neal Street Medical Centre Doctors. Tickets are \$5.00 for 3 and are available from Elaine Millar (Gisborne), Margaret Poyser (Riddells Creek) and Popsy Colquhoun and Rosemary Homewood (Macedon). The raffle will be drawn on **TODAY** Sunday 22nd December at the Church of the Resurrection, following the service. Please support this special effort for the end of the year. God Bless, Rosemary Homewood.

Vision Australia

Large and extra large print calendars for 2020 are for sale priced at \$15.00 each, available from Elaine Millar 5428 2522.

Christmas Program

Christmas Eve	5.30 pm	St John's Riddells Creek
	11.00pm	Carols, followed by
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass at Church of the Resurrection
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Christmas Eucharist at St Paul's, Gisborne

Sundays in the Holidays:

December 29	10 am	Church of the Resurrection
January 5	10 am	St John's, Riddells Creek
January 12	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne
January 19	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne (post Bric'a'brac)
January 26	10 am	Church of the Resurrection

CODE RED DAYS: no services. Please implement personal fire plan.

Wednesday 10 am

January 22 and 29	St Paul's, Gisborne
January 8	Church of the Resurrection
January 15	St John's Riddells Creek

This week in the Parish

Sunday December 22nd ADVENT 4

9.00 am	Eucharist	St Paul's, Gisborne
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	Church of the Resurrection

Monday December 23rd

1.30 pm	Card Group	Parish Centre
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Tuesday December 24th

5.30 pm	Christmas Eve at Riddells Creek
11.00 pm	Carols
11.30 pm	The Midnight Mass

Wednesday December 25th

9.00 am	Christmas Day at St Paul's, Gisborne
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Thursday December 26th

Feast of St Stephen and the Venerated Boxing Day Test at the "G"
Also, some mad ones on yachts from Sydney to Hobart...

6.00 pm	Meeting AA	Parish Centre, Gisborne
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Friday December 27th

Saturday December 28th

Sunday December 29th The Holy Family

10.00 am	Eucharist	Church of the Resurrection, Macedon
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Parish Office: 32A Fisher Street, Gisborne PO Box 325, Gisborne 3437
Phone: (03) 5428 4038 gisborneparish@bigpond.com
Vicar: Fr Dennis Webster (03) 9012 3365 (will relay to a mobile service)
Wardens: Alison Kitching, Tony Woodgate, Mary Duggan

Child Safe Officers: Debra Saffrey-Collins; Mary Duggan
Parish Admin: Lindsey Hamilton

From the Christmas Bowl Appeal:

One of the central tenants of the Christian faith is that love is a person, Jesus the Messiah, a baby born in a feeding trough who became the salvation of the world.

And yet, our faith is horribly diminished if we merely see the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God's love, as some sort of historical event, rather than a call to action.

The Christian faith must resist all sentimentalised attempts to keep Jesus as a baby, confined to his manger, cute and cuddly, and instead draw attention to the life and teachings of Christ – a demonstration of God's love for all the world to see.

The love that Jesus teaches is not an emotion or a feeling or even a value or attitude – it is instead a verb.

Love is something we do.

It is concrete, not abstract (Luke 10:25-37), it is visible not hidden (Luke 8:16-18), it is confronting not comfortable (Matthew 5:38-48).

And so, in response to the teachings of Christ, Act for Peace partners with communities in the developing world through the provision of food and agriculture, peace-making, education and employment programmes, so that people are empowered and equipped to become the gift of God's love for the world.

How is love defined in your life?



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'. What a profound concept – that God should take on human form and become one of us – what the poet John Betjeman called 'the most tremendous tale of all' in his poem, 'Christmas'. We wait in anticipation for the Incarnation when God comes to us wearing the clothes of humanity, and allows us to become like God by participating in God's life. Alleluya! Salvation is at hand!

- Pray this week that you may become more and more like God himself by following the example of Jesus.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, remembering especially today the staff and students at Newton Theological College in Popondetta.

Text: Robert McLean, Partnerships Missioner

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