



### *Preparing for Worship Today*

- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



This morning's service begins with a congregational chant sung as a canon (round). Please have a look below at the "Processional Chant" section before the service begins.



## **A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

### **Prelude**

### *The Gathering of the People of God*

#### **Processional Chant: Jubilate Deo**

*The Latin 'Jubilate Deo', meaning 'Rejoice in the Lord', is pronounced 'You-bee-lah-tay Day-oh'*

*The chant is a round, repeating every four beats; these points are underlined below – feel free to chime in with a new thread whenever!*

*We sing this until the 'Amen' is introduced and repeated – tune in with the Amens until they are brought to a close.*

*After the cantor sings through once, join in!*

***Ju-bi-la-té Dé-o! Ju-bi-la-té D-éo: Al-lé-lu-ia***



*These words and music are attributed to Michael Praetorius 1571-1621. Public domain.*

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Jubilate Deo!

***Alleluia!***

### Lighting the Christmas Candle

Blessed are you, O Christ, our God;  
***you were before time began,  
and came into the world to save us.***

Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;  
***you shine with the Father's love.  
and illumine the whole universe.***

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;  
***born a child,  
you shared our humanity.***

Blessed are you, Son of David;  
***born to rule,  
you received gifts from the wise men.***

Blessed are you, Son of Man;  
***baptised by John,  
you saved us from ourselves.***

Blessed are you, heavenly King;  
***teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,  
you proclaimed the kingdom.***

With all the voices of heaven  
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.  
***Let heaven and earth shout their praise.***

*The Christ candle is lit*

The light shines in the darkness,  
***and the darkness did not overcome it.***

### Prayer of invocation

**Hymn** 304 O come, all ye faithful vv1,2,5-7

### With the Children

**Hymn** 318 Away in a manger

## *The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching*

### The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet,  
***and a light to our path.***

Titus 3:4-7 *...having been justified by his grace...*

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

This is the gospel of the Lord  
***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ***

### The Preaching of the Word

LITBIT: Preaching from the Scriptures is less a problem of interpreting the Bible than it is the challenge of interpreting the world.

**Reflection** "Pastoral Symphony" (extract), from G F Handel's *Messiah*

### Prayer of Confession

### Declaration of Forgiveness

*(We stand)*

...hear Christ's word of grace to us:  
Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Doxology** Hymn 313 Good Christians all rejoice

### The Peace

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

## The Nicene Creed *(Said:)*

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

***He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.***

***We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.***

***We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

## *The Visible Word: Eucharist*

**Hymn 305** Let earth and heaven combine

*(We remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)*

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

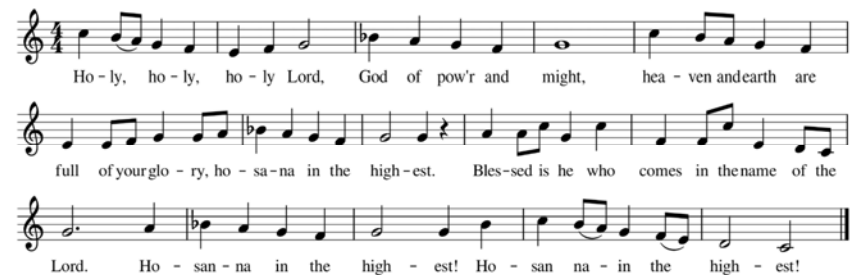
Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*(The prayer continues...)*



***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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!  
Hosanna in the highest!***

*(The prayer continues...)*



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

*(The prayer continues...)*



***Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r  
are yours forever and ever,  
are yours forever and ever.***

### 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 for ever. Amen.***

*(The people sit)*

### The Breaking of the Bread



***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

God becomes as we are  
that we might become as God is.

Let us, then, receive what we are,  
let us become what we receive  
***The body of Christ***

### The Communion

*The United Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.*

*After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward in single file to the table, where you will be offered the bread at one point and the wine (in communion glasses only) at a second point. The wine has been prepared with as much COVID-19 precaution as practicable, and the celebrant and wine-server have sanitised their hands prior to the distribution. The common cup will only be used by the celebrant.*

*If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive the element(s), please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.*

### Prayers of the People

*(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)*

Word of God, live in us, and, in your mercy,  
***hear our prayer.***

### Offering

*Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.*

### Notices

## *The Sending Forth of the People of God*

**Hymn** 303 Hark, the herald angels sing

**Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude**



**Christmas Day** ORIGINAL SINCE 1949

**Sharing God's love**

Meh Reh fled Myanmar more than 29 years ago. Living in a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border ever since, he hopes that one day it will be safe for he and his family to return home. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help Act for Peace's local partners, like The Border Consortium on the Thai-Burma border, provide practical care so refugees and people who have been displaced can live in safety and dignity and know that they are loved and not forgotten. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### *January Services*

*Jan 7*

*Jan 14*

*Jan 21*

*Rob Gotch*

*P Blackwood/Robert Gribben*

*Peter Blackwood*

## **LECTIONARY READINGS 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

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As a Parish Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia,

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist is responsible for Hotham Mission.

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

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