

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Advent 1C – December 1, 2024

# THE TIME LORD

Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!  
Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation  
of those who can't join us physically today.

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP TODAY

There are a few changes to the order of service today and for the next few weeks, reflecting our shift into the season of Advent.



## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Prelude** JS Bach, *Praeludium BWV 549*

Advent

### Sung Processional

*If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:*

*(This song used to be a round/canon. It isn't anymore!)*



All cre - a - tion un - der hea - ven, lift your heart, lift your voice!

*Sing through three times*

God comes bring - ing health and whole - ness; lift your heart, lift your voice!

**All creation under heaven,  
lift your heart, lift your voice!  
God comes bringing health and wholeness,  
lift your heart, lift your voice! (repeat...)**

### The Promises of God

Jeremiah 33:14-16 *The days are surely coming...*

*(and then responsively:)*

...I will lead the blind

by a road they do not know,

**by the paths they have not known**

**I will guide them.**

I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
**the rough places into level ground.**

These are the things I will do  
**and I will not forsake them.**

*Isaiah 42:16*

Come to us, Lord, as light for our world,  
**Come to us, O God.**

*The first Advent Candle is lit*

### Prayer of invocation

**Hymn** 443 Come dearest Lord, descend and dwell

**With the Children**

## ☞ Christmas to Epiphany ☞

### The Testimony of Scripture


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

**Psalm 25:1-5, 9-10** *Oh my God, in you I trust*

*PCS p.344 n.6*

*REFRAIN: Organ, then all together (sung also at the end).  
The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE*

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson



God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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TONE \*



### Refrain

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift | up my soul;  
**O my God, in | you I trust;**

let me not be | put to shame;  
**let not my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>2</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame,  
**but let the treacherous be | shamed and frustrated.**

<sup>3</sup>Make me to know your | ways, O Lord,  
**and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>4</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
**for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all | the day long.**

<sup>5</sup>Remember, Lord, your compas- | -sion and love,  
**for they are from | ever-lasting.**

<sup>9</sup>All the paths of the Lord are | mercy and truth  
**to those who keep his covenant | and his testimonies.**

<sup>10</sup>For your name's | sake, O Lord,  
**be merciful to my sin, for | it is great.**

### Refrain

Luke 21.25-36 *Your redemption is drawing near*

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

### The Preaching of the Word

*The sermon text will normally be available  
after worship and online*

*A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching*

## ☧ Lent ☧

### Prayer of Confession

*(Each line is sung first by the minister/cantor and then repeated by the congregation)*



Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. —  
Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.  
Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## ☧ Easter ☧

### Declaration of Forgiveness

*(Please stand if you are able)*

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

**Thanks be to God!**

**Doxology** via Hymn 173 My soul gives glory to the Lord

### The Peace

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

### The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

### Prayers of the People

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

## ☧ Pentecost: Community ☧

**Hymn 394** Christ is risen!

### 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...)*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
 Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san-na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

*(The prayer continues...)*

### 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

...the gifts of God for the people of God...

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have  
 mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have  
 mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant  
 us peace, grant us peace.

...Let us 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.*

**GATHERING:** *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

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

## ✠ Pentecost: Mission ✠

### Offering

*(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)*

*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** 273 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

**Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** J-F Dandrieu, *Ofertoire*

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

Our email address is:

[enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

### The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

[www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle)

#### Myanmar

The name of the country was changed in 1989 from Union of Burma to Myanmar. The first Burmese empire was founded in the 11th century. It was invaded by the British in the 19th century. After the Japanese occupation during World War II, the country became sovereign in 1948. From 1962 to 1990 it was ruled by a military dictator, and subsequently a military-controlled government was formed. Mass protests in 1988 were violently repressed, but did result in democratic elections in 1990, which were won by the National League for Democracy (NLD). The military refused to step down and since then have kept tight control of the country. The leader of the NLD, Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, has been under house arrest most of the time. The population of Myanmar is made up of many different ethnic groups. In the north, armed opposition to the central government has been going on for decades. The military were accused of imposing forced labour and committing many other human rights violations. Myanmar's economy is based on agriculture, gems, timber and oil. The majority of the population are poor peasants and workers. Catholic missionaries entered the area in the 16th century and Protestant missions began in the 19th century. The largest church is the Myanmar Baptist Convention. The Assemblies of God and numerous other Pentecostal and Evangelical churches are active and growing. The Myanmar Council of Churches is the ecumenical body. There is an Evangelical Christian Fellowship, affiliated with the WEA.

#### Thailand

Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only country in southern Asia that was never under colonial rule. It dates its history as a national kingdom to 1238. The constitutional monarchy was established in 1932. During World War II, Thailand was loosely allied with Japan. The latter half of the 20th century was marked by a number of military coups. In 1995, a new democratic government was elected. Thailand is a Buddhist country. The king is the protector of Thai Buddhism and a symbol of national identity and unity. The population is majority Thai, with smaller groups of Lao, Chinese, tribal people, and Malays, who are Muslim. Tensions with some Islamic groups in the south erupted in 2004 and 2005. Thailand has built a modern and performing economy, based on the production and export of rice, rubber, jewelry, textile, electronic and other manufactured goods, and tourism. In the rural areas subsistence farming is still the main source of livelihood. Thailand was one of the countries hit by the tsunami of December 2004. Catholic missionaries began working in Siam in the 17th and Protestants in the 19th century. Many other churches and groups came after World War II. In spite of these efforts, Christians remain a tiny minority. The Church of Christ in Thailand and the Karen Baptist Convention are the largest Protestant churches. The Church of Christ and the Catholic Church have a joint committee. The Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand regroups a large number of Pentecostal and other churches and groups, and is affiliated with the WEA.

## NOTICES

### AKBAR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Akbar, the Iranian asylum seeker supported by this congregation since his release from (illegal) detention in 2013, continues to live in Australia with no visa, no work rights and no legal status. Thanks to his generously/privately funded North Melbourne gardening 'work', and the regular financial contributions of some of our congregation members he enjoys some financial independence. He has recently overcome an accommodation 'crisis' with practical assistance from these sources. Akbar is included in our prayers of intercession on the first Sunday in each month.

*Rosalie Hudson*

### MARK THE WORD

Vicki and Rosemary are seeking contributions for the 2024 Summer/Christmas edition of Mark the Word. We are again not proposing a theme for this edition and are open to any topic.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could send these via email to us ([vicki.radcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.radcliffe@gmail.com) or [rosemarywearing@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarywearing@gmail.com)) no later than Sunday, 1st December 2024.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Church Council	Dec 3 (online)
Congregational meeting after worship	Dec 15
Quarterly Conversation	Feb 7 in DML <a href="#">NEW</a>
Lenten Studies (book details online soon)	Weekly from March 5 / 7 <a href="#">NEW</a>

### People to commemorate this week

Charles de Foucauld, person of prayer

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Myanmar, Thailand

### Lectionary Readings | 08 December 2024

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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