

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Advent 3C | December 15, 2024

Sing,  
Shout,  
Rejoice,  
you brood of vipers.

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.

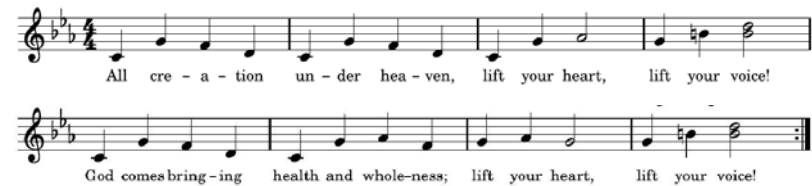
## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude J Pachelbel, *Toccata*

∞ 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:*



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

Zephaniah 3.14-20 *Sing aloud, O daughter Zion*

*With the prophet Isaiah we confess our faith:*

Surely God is our salvation;

**we will trust, and will not be afraid,**

for the LORD GOD is our strength and our might;

**God has become our salvation.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

**for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*ex Isaiah 12*

Come to us, Lord, as light for our world,

**Come to us, O God.**

*The third Advent Candle is lit*

**Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 437 Blessed Jesus, at your word

**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.**

Philippians 4.4-7 *Do not worry about anything*

Luke 3.7-18 *The preaching of the Baptist*

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

**The Preaching of the Word**

*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 Isaiah 12.2-6** *Surely God is my salvation*

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

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

Praise \_ the Lord. Praise \_ the

Lord. Praise \_ the name of the Lord. \_ \_ \_

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<sup>2</sup>Surely God is | my sal-va-tion;

***I will trust, and will not | be afraid,***

for the LORD GOD is my strength | and my might;

***he has become | my sal-va-tion.***

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say | in that day:

***Give thanks to the LORD, call | on his name;***

make known his deeds a-|-mong the nations;

***proclaim that his name | is ex-alted.***

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he | has done gloriously;

***let this be known in | all the earth.***

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | roy-al Zion,

***for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.***

## The Peace

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

## Prayers of the People

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

# ✻ Pentecost: Community ✻

## Affirmation of Faith: We are a pilgrim people

*Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,  
confessing him as Lord  
to the glory of God the Father.  
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,  
the Head over all things,  
the beginning of a new creation.**

**We acknowledge that we live and work  
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection  
and the final consummation of all things  
which he will bring.**

**We are a pilgrim people,  
always on the way towards a promised goal;  
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,  
and we have the gift of the Spirit  
in order that we may not lose the way.**

**We will live and work within the faith and unity  
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
bearing witness to that unity  
which is both Christ's gift and his will.**

**We affirm that every member of the Church  
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.  
Together with all the people of God,  
we will serve the world for which Christ died.  
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.**

## 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...)*

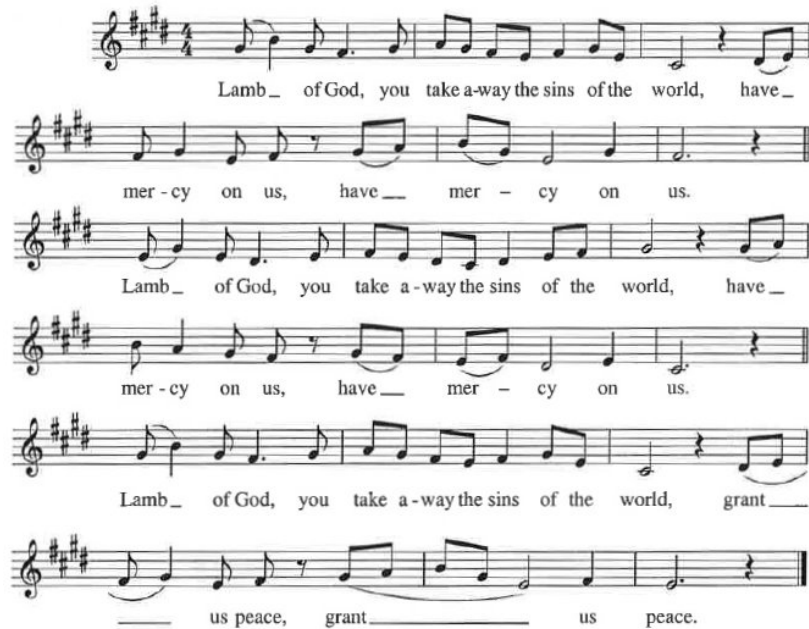
## The Lord's Prayer

**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 Uniting 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 690 Beauty for brokenness

*We learnt this song a little while ago; listen as it is played all the way through before we stand to sing.*

### Word of Mission and Blessing

### Postlude JJ Froberger, *Toccata*

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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/>

## Hotham Mission Christmas Appeal

As we are fast approaching Christmas and the end of the year, the team at Hotham Mission would like to share some of the work we have been doing during 2024.

Thanks to the hard work of staff and our many volunteers, HM's work with the local community is still running smoothly, despite an office relocation and significant staff changes. Our regular programming throughout the year includes

- supporting 30 kids from Prep - Year 6 through our Monday and Friday Homework Clubs The program is so successful and popular we had to cap attendance and have a waitlist..
- a weekly Young Women's program (15 - 25 year olds) and an additional monthly book club, supported by the City of Melbourne Library staff.
- A Food Program which supports 100 local households per week through schools and other local organisations with essential food items in times of need, and some assistance to over 100 students per week through the school breakfast programs of Mount Alexander College and University High.
- the Renshaw material aid program, which assisted around 100 local High School students to access essential study materials like books and electronic devices.
- Our partnership with the Uniting - Asylum Seeker Project to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers

As we approach Christmas and the end of the year we will be providing over 100 Christmas Boxes to local people who are in need. And celebrating the end of the school year with the kids who we regularly work with, across all our programs. And in January 2025 we will have some holiday programs, prior to the start of regular programming for the year.

If you are interested in assisting Hotham Mission with a tax-deductible donation, you can do so via Give Now

(<https://www.givenow.com.au/ucahothammission>), and if you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more, please contact the team on Ph: (03) 9326 8245 or E: [programs@hothammission.org.au](mailto:programs@hothammission.org.au)  
From the team at Hotham Mission, we thank you for your ongoing interest and support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

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

### China (Hong Kong SAR)

Hong Kong was a British protectorate from 1841 when it was ceded to the United Kingdom by China. In 1997, Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories on the mainland were returned to Chinese sovereignty, and became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China. In this agreement, China promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, Hong Kong will enjoy a high degree of autonomy in all matters except foreign and defence affairs for a period of 50 years. Hong Kong has a thriving economy, based on international trade. It contributes to, and benefits from China's rapidly developing economy. The churches are a minority, but very active in social work and evangelism. Many churches and Christian organizations have significant links with partner churches and agencies in mainland China. There has been renewed commitment to the issue of poverty and the area of education in Hong Kong. About half of the Protestant churches belong to the Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Holiness traditions. For several years now there has been a Metropolitanate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Eastern Orthodox) in Hong Kong, which covers South East Asia. As an international city, Hong Kong has also many foreign language congregations. The Hong Kong Christian Council is the ecumenical body.

### China (People's Republic of)

China traces its roots as a political and cultural entity back to around 2000 BCE. From the 14th to the 17th century, it was the most advanced civilization on earth. Colonial and civil wars weakened China during the 19th century. In 1911, nationalists instituted the republic. In 1949, communist forces defeated the nationalists and established the People's Republic of China. Today, China is rapidly developing as a regional power in Asia, and an emerging power on the world scene. The traditional religions of China are Taoism and Buddhism. Christianity has long been a foreign religion with few followers. Under communist rule China became officially an atheist country. As of 1979, churches and other religious groups were gradually given more space. Delegations of the Protestant churches travelled abroad to re-establish contact with ecumenical partners. In 1948, four Chinese churches were among the founding members of the WCC. They withdrew at the time of the Korean war. Membership was resumed in 1991, by the China Christian Council. Christianity has grown and continues to grow, as do other religions, e.g. Buddhism. Estimates vary widely, from about 22 million Christians (Protestants and Catholics) to over 100 million (i.e. from 1.5 percent to 8.5 percent). The latter would include over 40 million charismatics in house churches, 14 million in unregistered house churches, five million "New Birth" movement, etc. (World Christian Database, 2005); the WCD estimate of Three-Self Christians matches the figure of 16 million of the China Christian Council. Chinese research institutions put the total number at about 65 million. There is a small minority of about 60,000 Chinese Orthodox Christians. Two multimedia portraits illustrating the Churches' life in China can be viewed on the 'Keeping the Faith' website: Keeping traditions alive and New ways of life .

## NOTICES

### SYNOD PEACE PROPOSAL

The Justice and International Mission unit of the VicTas Synod is preparing a proposal on the church's commitment to peace to go to the 2025 Synod. If you would like to join a small group of MtE members to discuss this with Mark Zirnsak at the CTM on December 20, 4pm, speak to Craig for more information.

### JIM SURVEY

The Justice and International Mission unit of the VicTas Synod is conducting a survey of interested UCA members, to assist it in prioritizing its work for the next year; copies of the survey **REALLY WILL** be available on the tables in the morning tea area after worship today – please fill one in if it interests you, and leave it on the table for collection.

### The Music of the Clock *Cantus temporum*

Paul Bentley-Angell, Matthew Champion,  
Louisa Hunter-Bradley, Grantley McDonald,  
Daniel Thomson, Quin Thomson

**January 16, 3pm,**

**St Mary's Anglican Church, 430**

**Queensbury Street, North Melbourne**

**Entrance by donation**

In 1321, St Catherine's monastery in Rouen installed a clock whose mechanical bells played the Advent hymn *Conditio alme siderum* (Dear Creator of the Stars) before the striking of the hour. Over the coming centuries, musical clocks appeared across Europe, crossed the Atlantic to the Americas, and travelled with the Jesuits into Asia. In collaboration with the Australian Research Council project 'The Sounds of Time', this program explores the melodies that were played on these remarkable and innovative devices.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Congregational meeting after worship	TODAY
Peace conversation with the JIM unit (see above)	Dec 20, 4pm
Advent Cycle of Carols and Readings	Dec 22 (morning worship)
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>9.30am at the CTM</b>
Quarterly Conversation	Feb 7 in DML
Lenten Studies (book details online soon)	Weekly from March 5 / 7

### People to commemorate this week

John Geddie & John Paton, Christian pioneers

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China

### Lectionary Readings | 22 December 2024

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

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

**Contact:** Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

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