

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Advent 1A | 30 November 2025

# on the fear of God (among other things)

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 Titelouze, *Fugue & Dialogue*

∞ 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:*

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.***

***Rejoice! rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

### The Promises of God

Isaiah 2:1-5 *Let us walk in the light of the LORD...*

*(and then responsively:)*

To you, O LORD, we lift up our hearts.

***In you, our God, do we trust.***

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,

***and of your steadfast love,***

Lead us in your truth, and teach us,  
for you are the God of our salvation;

***for you we wait all day long.***

*cf. Psalm*

*25.1,2,5,6*

*The first Advent Candle is lit*

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

### With the Children

Leader Response

Christ is the light of the world: in him is the li - ght of life.

## ❧ Christmas to Epiphany ❧

### ForeWord

#### Word: The Testimony of Scripture

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

Matthew 24:36-44 *At an unexpected hour...*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### Word: In Preaching

*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 ❧

#### AfterWord: 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.

#### 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!**

#### Psalm 122 *Peace be within your walls*

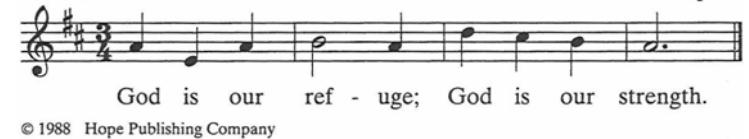
*[PCS p.344 no.6]*

*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



<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they | said to me,

**'Let us go to the house | of the LORD!'**

<sup>2</sup> Our | feet are standing

within your gates, O Jer- | -usalem.

<sup>3</sup> **Jerusalem—built as a city**

**that is bound | firmly together.**

<sup>4</sup> To it the | tribes go up,

**the tribes | of the LORD,**

as was de- | -creed for Israel,

**to give thanks to the name | of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup> For there the thrones for judgement | were set up,

**the thrones of the | house of David.**

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jer- | -usalem:

**'May they | prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup> Peace be with- | -in your walls,

**and security with- | -in your towers.'**

#### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Affirmation of faith:** God is with us

***We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.***

***We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.***

***We trust in God.***

***We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.***

*The United Church of Canada,  
General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

## Prayers of Intercession

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

## 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.  
We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.*

## ✠ Pentecost: Community ✠

**Hymn 272** Come thou long expected Jesus

*'...from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee...'*

## 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.

...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.*

## Notices

## ✠ Pentecost: Mission ✠

**Hymn** 569 Guide me, O my great Redeemer

## Word of Mission and Blessing

**Postlude** A Rowley, *Fantasia on Veni Emmanuel*

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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/>

## NOTICES

### THE ORDER OF SERVICE IN ADVENT

Our order of changes for Advent, and doesn't. There's nothing particularly adventic about this order, apart from the shift of the voice of the prophet (in the RCL readings set) to the very beginning, as kind of tone-setter for the service.

The principal novelty in the order for the next few weeks is not the flow of the service elements but the casting of that flow in terms of the liturgical year. The liturgical year is a sequence of seasons and occasional festivals observed in many denominations and congregations. The year begins with Advent (considering the ad-vent, the "coming to", of God), followed by the "arrival" at Christmas, the shining forth of the Christ in Epiphany, the passion of Christ's ministry in Lent, then Easter, Pentecost (touching on the Trinity) and then a period focussing on discipleship and mission ("Ordinary").

Properly, this sequence provides a recurring structure for instruction in the story behind Christian confession. It must be said, nonetheless, that it also does a great job of compartmentalising the Christian experience into a set of discrete moments, so that Easter “happens” around March, Pentecost late in May, and so on. Accordingly, we might only sing of the Incarnation in December and the Resurrection for a few weeks in April, and — mercifully — only have to ponder the Trinity once a year, just after Pentecost lands the trifecta.

The liturgical year is not intended to do this but, in our hands, it’s pretty good at doing it. The theological problem is the misrepresentation of the relationship between the Word and time: instead of, properly, reading the texts to learn what time it is, we look to the time to discover which texts to read. It can then be as if Easter has no real relevance to Christmas or Ordinary, except as “parts” of the story.

To counter this widespread deconstruction of the confessional whole, our following order for the next few weeks casts the liturgical year as the structure of the weekly liturgy. Because Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc. are all at once part of the Christian confession, they are properly all present in a Christianly logic-ed worship service. And, in fact, they are all already there, if somewhat hidden, in a “standard” order of Christian worship. Laying the liturgy out as in the way we will this Advent just makes it more explicit. Whatever time of the year it is, the Lord’s Day is, every time, everything, all at once.

#### **MONDAY MORNING MOVIES - MONDAY 1 DECEMBER, 10:45AM**

Monday December 1, we selected *Edge of Life*, @ **10.45 am** @ Cinema Nova – *Edge of Life*. The blurb: Intellectually, we all know our lives will end, and yet - in the Western world at least - we act as if death is a mirage, disappearing the closer we move towards it. Two doctors in Australia are using psilocybin to help ease the anguish of their patients at the end of life, and the results they have seen are truly remarkable. But this visioning tool, like other plant medicines, is not new; it comes from ancient traditions. When the doctors’ journey to the Amazon to experience traditional medicines for themselves, they are confronted by realisations they have no explanation for. Is it possible the world’s oldest

cultures have something important to teach us, not just about traditional medicines, but about death itself?

Meet upstairs in the foyer to buy tickets (or buy them online); coffee is available in the cafe next to the box office, and stay for a toastie lunch and conversation in the cafe afterwards if you can. A WhatsApp group has been set up for communication around this in future; contact Craig to join this.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER**

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday 14 December.

The meeting will consider and adopt the Mark the Evangelist and Hotham Mission budgets and appoint the auditor for the year ended 31 December 2025.

#### **MARK THE WORD - 2025 SUMMER EDITION**

Vicki and Rosemary are seeking contributions for the 2025 Summer edition of Mark the Word. We are again not proposing a theme for this edition and are open to any topic. However, since this edition encompasses the Christmas Season, you are welcome to write an article on your most memorable Christmas or talk about what is your favourite part of Christmas, for example, traditions, carols etc.

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, 7th December, 2025. Thank you.

#### **ENSEMBLE OLD AND NEW | LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT - SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER, AT 2PM**

In two weeks the final Lyrebird concert for 2025 takes place - Sunday December 7th at 2pm.

The ensemble featured is Ensemble Old and New. The ensemble itself is new to Lyrebird but its members are not. Earlier this year we heard Rachael Beesley in a program of Mozart violin sonatas, and cellist Josie Vains has performed for us as soloist and part of several widely varying ensembles. They are joined by percussionist and composer Rob Cossom, of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

The program they have put together is called Music for Reflection - something entirely appropriate for the time of year. In fact appropriate all the time: solo and ensemble music written over three centuries by composers from Australia, Sweden and France, creating a concert that will be - in the words of the Ensemble - "full of nocturnal echoes and colourful imaginings".

Please join us for Ensemble Old and New - 2pm on Sunday 7th December at Yuma Auditorium, 29 College Crescent in Parkville.

Link for tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1353279>

### FAITH AFTER FAITH

Craig publishes weekly on *Faith after Faith*, a Substack site, including Sunday sermons with a bit more commentary, and other material. You can subscribe to receive email updates of recent posts (avoid the paid subscription invitations!).

See [faithafterfaith.substack.com](https://faithafterfaith.substack.com) for more info, or use the QR image here to check in.

Recent posts include

- Recent Sermons and Theological Fragments
- "An Advent Order"



### 2025 INAUGURAL LANGMORE ORATION WITH SAM ROGGEVEEN



**Date: Wednesday 10th December 2025**

**Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm**

**Venue: Arts West Building, University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus**

The Langmore Oration is FREE but registration is essential

The Initiative for Peacebuilding proudly presents the **Langmore Oration**, honouring the vision and achievements of Professor John Langmore AM,

in developing the concept of the Initiative for Peacebuilding, and his lifelong advocacy for peace, equity, and global cooperation. The inaugural address, "**War and Peace in Asia's New Order: Australia's Duty**," will be delivered by **Sam Roggeveen**, Director of the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute and author of *The Echidna Strategy: Australia's Search for Power and Peace*. Drawing on his extensive experience in strategic analysis and international security, Sam will explore Australia's role in promoting peace amid intensifying strategic competition between the United States and China, asking how stability can be sustained without escalating conflict. The event will be moderated by **Professor Erika Feller AO**, followed by a Q&A and refreshments in the Atrium.

**Register:** <https://events.humanitix.com/langmore-oration>

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

*See above for more details on these events*

Monday Morning Movies at the Nova Church Council	Mon Dec 1, time 10.45am
Hotham Mission Board Executive	Tue Dec 2, 7.30pm online
Congregational Meeting (2026 Budget)	Fri Dec 12, 3pm @ CTM
Advent Carols Service	Sun Dec 14, after morning tea
	Sun Dec 23, (usual service)

### People to commemorate this week

Andrew , apostle

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

### Lectionary Readings | 07 December 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

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

[www.hothammission.org.au](http://www.hothammission.org.au)

[www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)