

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Advent 2A | 7 December 2025

# Repentance Spirit Fire

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** JJ Nivers, *Hymne & Fugue "Veni Creator Spiritus"*

∞ 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 11:1-10 *A shoot from the stump of Jesse*

*(and then responsively:)*

The LORD says to his servant,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;

***I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."***

*Isaiah 49.6*

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

*The second Advent Candle is lit*



Hymn 437 Blessed Jesus, at your word

With the Children

## 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 3:1-12 *Repentance, Spirit, fire*

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)*



Declaration of Forgiveness

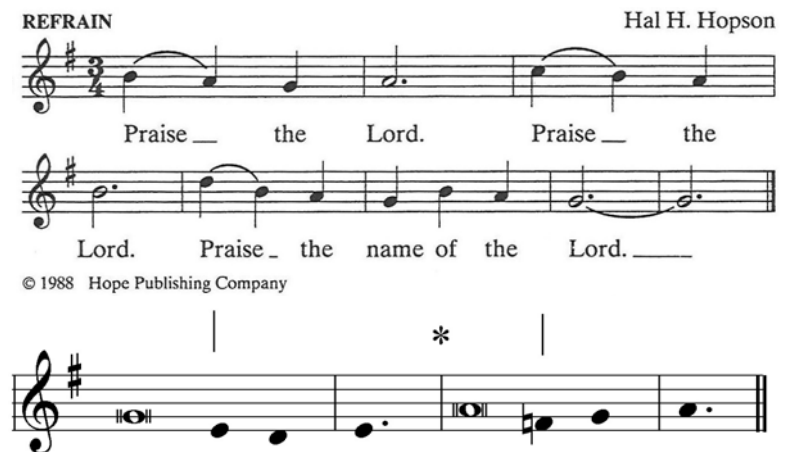
*(Please stand if you are able)*

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Doxology vis Psalm 104:24-30 *You renew the face of the earth [PCS p.343 no.3]*

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



<sup>24</sup> O LORD, how manifold | are your works!

***In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full | of your creatures.***

<sup>25</sup> Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things without | number are there,  
***living things both | small and great.***

<sup>26</sup> There | go the ships,  
***and Leviathan that you | formed to sport in it.***

<sup>27</sup> These all | look to you  
***to give them their food | in due season;***

- <sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they | gather it up;  
**when you open your hand, they are | filled with good things.**
- <sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they | are dismayed;  
**when you take away their breath,**  
**they die and return | to their dust.**
- <sup>30</sup> When you send forth your spirit, they | are created;  
**and you renew the face | of the ground.**

REFRAIN

### The Peace

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

### The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

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

**Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession



### 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 509 Come now, everlasting Spirit

*(If you are able, please 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...)*



*(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 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** 315 Mine eyes have seen the glory

## Word of Mission and Blessing

## Postlude D Buxtehude, *Fuga*

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## 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.

## NOTICES

### 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.

### 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
- "An Advent Order"
- New Theological Fragments: "Resurrection II"



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

The final Lyrebird concert for 2025 takes place today 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>



**Fragment 18:** Spirituality, understood as retreat from the world to a personal interior or as an escape to some exteriority to the common world, is reactionary rather than radical. It mistakes the world for non-spirit, to which world it seeks to add the spirit of "spirituality".

## 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*

Congregational Meeting (2026 Budget)	Sun Dec 14, after morning tea
Advent Carols Service	Sun Dec 21, (usual service)

### People to commemorate this week

Richard Baxter , faithful servant

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Myanmar, Thailand

### Lectionary Readings | 14 December 2025

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

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