



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

We are a people who follow  
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.  
His words and actions  
inform our living today.

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**Sunday 19 December, 2021    10:15 am Worship Service**  
**Advent 4    Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Worship Leader**

**Rev. Peter Whitaker**

**Organist**

**Conrad Helfrich**



**Prelude**            Gabriel's Oboe

*Ennio Morricone 1928-2020*

**Welcome and community news**

**Hymn 312**            Once in Royal David's City

*Please stand*

**Solo:**

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

**Choir:**

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and  
his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor,  
despised and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**All sing:**

For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for all our sadness, and he shareth in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned all in white shall gather around.

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

We light the candle of LOVE. It tells us that love is the greatest gift  
we can give, and at the first Christmas God gave us the gift of God's  
unconditional love in Christ Jesus. This love is with us now and  
always binding us together in community.

**Lesson 1**

Genesis 3: 8-15

Margaret Billson

**Adam's sin**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he  
was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from  
the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called

to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

**Choir**                      Adam Lay Ybounden  
                                      15<sup>th</sup> century, author unknown  
                                      *Arr. Peter Warlock 1894-1930*

**Lesson 2**                      Genesis 22: 15-18    Andrew Kucera

### **God’s promise to Abraham**

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

**Hymn 313**                      Good Christians all, rejoice

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
listen well to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now!  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today.

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now you hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this;  
he has opened heaven's door and you are blest for evermore;  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save,  
calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall; Christ  
was born to save, Christ was born to save.

**Lesson 3**      Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Charles Kucera

### **The Prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**Choir**

“Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices”  
from Cantata “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”  
BWV 140    *J.S. Bach 1685-1750*  
*Lyrics and original arrangement by John Rutter,*  
*with additions by Conrad Helfrich*

**Lesson 4**      Isaiah 11: 1-9

Alison Legge

### **Prophecy that Christ will bring peace**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord — and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with

his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Hymn 265**      O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
*Arr. Conrad Helfrich*

*Please stand*

***Choir:***

Redeem thy captive Israel  
That into exile drear is gone  
From the face of God's dear Son (God's dear Son)  
O come, thou branch of Jesse draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw  
From the dread caverns of the grave  
From nether hell thy people save

***Congregation:***

O come, O come thou dayspring bright  
Pour on our souls thy healing light  
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb

***Refrain:***

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.***

O come, thou Lord of David's key  
The royal door fling wide and free  
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road  
And bar the way to death's abode

*Refrain*

O come, O come Adonai  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed with awe  
Gavest thy folk the elder law

*Refrain*

**Lesson 5**      Luke 1: 26-33

Lucy Lewis

### **The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

**Hymn 302**      The angel Gabriel

*Please stand*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

'for known a blessèd Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

**Lesson 6**      Luke 2: 1-7

Malcolm Jack

### **The birth of Jesus**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **Offering**

Your offering will be gratefully received through Direct Debit:  
Account Name Toorak Uniting Church  
BSB: 033086; Account Number: 911892

**Choir**                      Nativity Carol

*John Rutter 1945-*

**Offering prayer**

**Lesson 7**                  Luke 2: 8-16

Jenny Stewardson

Read in conjunction with Choir:

“God Rest Ye Merry, Shepherds All”

*16th century English Carol, re-arr. Conrad Helfrich*

### **The shepherds go to the manger**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**Lesson 8**                  Matthew 2: 1-11

Anna Field

### **The wise men are led by the star to Jesus**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among

the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ “ The Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him. After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

### **Choir and Congregation**

*Please stand*

Medley of traditional hymns “Angels We Have Heard on High”,  
“Angels from the Realms of Glory” and “Ding Dong Merrily on High”  
*Arr. Conrad Helfrich*

#### **Choir:**

Angels we have heard on high

Ding Dong merrily on high  
In heav’n the bells are ringing

Sweetly singing o’er the plains

Ding Dong verily the sky  
Is riv’n with angel singing

Angels from the realms of glory

Pray you dutifully prime  
Your matin chime ye ringers

Wing your flight o’er all the earth

May you dutifully rhyme  
Your evetime song ye singers

Shepherds why this jubilee?

E’en so here below below  
Let steeple bells be swungen

Why your joyous strains prolong?

And i-o-i-o-i-o by priest and  
People sungen

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

### **Congregation joins:**

Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er the flocks by night  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

Wise men leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations, You have seen his natal star  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

Though an infant now we view Him, He shall fill his Father's throne  
Gather all the nations to Him, Every knee shall then bow down  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

### **A Christmas prayer**

**Lesson 9**      John 1: 1-14

Rev. Peter Whitaker

#### **The Word Incarnate**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Hymn 290**      Of the Father's love begotten                      *Please stand*  
Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Spirit's power conceiving bore the saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord,  
hence the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected:  
let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.

In the heights of heaven adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,  
all dominions bow before him extol our God and king;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice together sing evermore and evermore.

## **Blessing**

**Postlude**      Gottes Sohn ist Kommen (*The Son of God is Come*)  
BWV 600      *J.S. Bach 1685-1750*



The flowers in the Church today are from Shirley Farrow

### **Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church**

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Toorak Uniting Church has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.