



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

We are a people who follow  
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.  
His words and actions  
inform our living today.  
**03 9829 0300**  
[office@toorakuc.org.au](mailto:office@toorakuc.org.au)

# Order of Service

**Sunday 14 December, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**10:15am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Minister: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo**  
**Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett**



# Prelude

# Tuba Tune

C.S. Lang

1891-1971

Performed by Jeffrey Li,

Melbourne High School Year 10 Student

# Introit

# Veni, Veni, Emmanuel!

# Michael John Trotta

1978-

*Veni, Veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel!*

*Qui gemit in exsilio, privatus Dei Filio.*

*Refrain: Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.*

*Veni, veni, Rex Gentium, veni, Redemptor omnium,*

*ut salvas tuos famulos peccati sibi conscios*

*Veni, veni O Oriens, solare nos adveniens,*

*noctis depelle nebulas, dirasque mortis tenebras.*

*[O come, O come, the "I am" that is with us*

*Break the bond of the captive people!*

*Who mourn in exile deprived of the incarnation of the father.*

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I am" will be born for you.*

*O come, gatherer of all nations, Come to make all whole,*

*to save your servants from their separateness,*

*O come thou light of life (MorningStar) to shine on us by your coming,*

*Dispel the clouds of night, drive away the shadows of death.]*

## Hymn 312

## Once in Royal David's City

## Henry John Gauntlett

1805-1876

# 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.*

## ***Congregation***

*And through all his wondrous childhood, day by day like us he grew;*

*he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares 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,  
when his children gather round bright, like stars, with glory crowned.*

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

### **1st Lesson**

Genesis 3: 8-15

Kristen Field

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

### **Choir**

Adam Lay Ybounden

Howard Skempton

1947-

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady a been heaven queen.*

*Blessed be the time that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias.*

## **2nd Lesson**

Genesis 22: 15-18

David Fallick

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

## **Choir**

Coventry Carol

Brittney Elizabeth Boykin

1989-

*Lully, Lulla, Thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.*

*O sisters, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day;  
This poor youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.*

*Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day;  
His men of might, in his own sight, all children young, to slay.*

*Then woe is me, poor Child, for thee! and ever mourn and day;  
For Thy parting, nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.*

## **3rd Lesson**

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Helen Thomas

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Hymn 293**

Unto us a boy is born!

Arr. Geoffrey Turton Shaw

1879-1943

*Unto us a boy is born! King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.*

*Cradled in a stall was he with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see that he us all surpasses.*

*Herod then with fear was filled: 'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'  
All the little boys he killed at Bethlehem in his fury.*

*Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us.*

*Omega and Alpha he! Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee now rends the air asunder.*

**4th Lesson**

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Alexandra Legge

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Choir**

There is no rose

Lucy Walker

1998-

*There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu.  
Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
Res miranda. [Miraculous thing.]  
And by that rose we may well see  
That he is God in persons three,  
Pari forma. [In the parent's image.]  
Now leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth;  
Transeamus. [We follow.]  
Alleluia.*

*(Words: Anonymous, 14th Century)*

**Hymn 290**                      Of the Father's love begotten  
    (Theoderici) Petri Nylandensis                      1582-

*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,  
whom 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 and extol our God and king;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice together sing  
evermore and evermore.*

**5th Lesson**                      Luke 1: 26-33                      Keith Ferguson

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered

what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

**Hymn 302**                      The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
Basque traditional arr.  
Charles Edgar Pettman                      1866-1943

*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 blessed 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!*

**Choir**                      My Lord has Come  
Will Todd                      1970-

*Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.*

*Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.*

*His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.*



*Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;  
No place for me but a stable.  
My Lord has come.*

## **6th Lesson**

Luke 2: 1-7

Caroline Vaillant

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## **Hymn 316**

O little town of Bethlehem

Ralph Vaughan Williams

1872-1958

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
yet, in your dark streets shining the everlasting light,  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.*



**7th Lesson**

Luke 2: 8-16

David Ross-Smith

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory be to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Hymn 299**

While shepherds watched their flocks

Charles Wood

1866-1926

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.*

*'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind), glad tidings of great joy I bring you and all humankind.*

*To you in David's town this day is born of David's line a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:*

*'the heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid.'*

*Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels, praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:*

*'All glory be to God on high, and to the world be peace; goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease.'*

**Choir**

Quem pastores laudavere

14th Century German carol

John Rutter

1945-

*Quem pastores laudavere, Quibus angeli dixere,  
Absit vobis iam timere, Natus est rex gloriae.*

*Ad quem magi ambulabant, Aurum, thus myrrham portabant  
Immolabant haec sincere nato regi gloriae*

*Christo regi, Deo nato, Per Maria nobis dato  
Merito resonet vere Laus, honor et gloria.*

*[Shepherds left their flocks astraying, God's command with joy  
obeying, When they heard the angel saying 'Christ is born in  
Bethlehem.'*

*Wise men came from far, and saw him: Knelt in homage to adore  
him;*

*Precious gifts they laid before him: Gold and frankincense and Myrrh.*

*Let us now in evry nation sing his praise with exultation.*

*All the world shall find salvation in the birth of Mary's Son.]*

## **8th Lesson**

Matthew 2: 1-9

Nina Mumford

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

## **Hymn 301**

The first Nowell

*The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.*

*When they looked up they saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light  
and so it continued both day and night.*

*[Refrain]*

*And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.*

*[Refrain]*

*This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
over Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.*

*[Refrain]*

*Then entered in those wise men three  
and reverently, upon their knee,  
they offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.*

*[Refrain]*

*Now let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth from naught,  
and with his blood salvation bought.*

*[Refrain]*

## **9th Lesson**

John 1: 1-14

Chris Callahan

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone,

was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Hymn 303**                      Hark! the herald angels sing  
   Arr. W. H. Cummings  
   Felix Mendelssohn                      1809-1847

*Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.  
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings:  
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more need die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

**Choir**                              Riu, riu, chiu  
   Attr. Mateo Flecha the Elder                      1481-1553

*Refrain:*

*Riu, riu, chiu, la guarda ribera,  
Dios guardó el lobo de nuestra cordera  
Dios guardó el lobo de nuestra cordera.*

*[Riu riu chiu, riverside guardian;  
God has kept the wolf from our precious lambkin.  
God has kept the wolf from our precious lambkin.]*

Verses:

*El lobo rabioso la quiso morder, mas Dios Poderoso la supo defender, Quizola hacer que no pudiese pecar, ni aún original esta Virgen no tuviera.*

*[Rabid wolf had tried our Lady's neck to bite; But almighty God could make the wolf take flight. God made Mary such that nothing could be her sin; Even Adam's sin could never touch this virgin.]*

*[Refrain]*

*Muchas profecias lo han profetizado, ya ún nuestros días lo hemos al consado, a Dios humanado vemos en el suelo, y al hombre en el cielo porque el lo quisiera.*

*[Many prophets gave us prophecy and forecast; So today in our time we realise them at long last. Humanising God here is what we see on earth; God wants us in heaven because of mankind's worth.]*

*[Refrain]*

*Este viene a dar a los muertos vida, viene a reparar de todos la caida, Es la luz del dia a queste moçuelo; este es el cordero que San Juan dixera.*

*[Cometh he to raise the dead, give life for all; Cometh he for sinners, to save us from the fall. He's the light of day, a stripling from God's dawn; He's the lamb of God, about whom spoke Saint John.]*

*[Refrain]*

*Pues que ya tenemos lo que deseamos, todos juntos vamos presentes llevemos; Todos le daremos nuestra voluntad pues a se igualar con nosotros viniera.*

*[Now that we possess all that which we desire; Let us all together bring gifts which will inspire. Let us all together give him our willing vow; He has come so as to be mankind's equal now.]*

*[Refrain]*

## **Blessing**

**Hymn 304**            O come, all ye faithful

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the king of angels:*

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*True God of true God, Light of light eternal,  
Io, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created*

*[Refrain]*

*See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps*

*[Refrain]*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God, glory in the highest'*

*[Refrain]*

**Postlude**

**Ding! Dong! Merrily on High**

**16th Century French Carol**

**Arr. Mack J. Wilberg**

**1955-**

*Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.*

*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*

*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.*

*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*

*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*

*Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers.*

*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*

*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*







The flowers in the Church today are provided by Mary Davidson.

Your offering will be gratefully received via direct deposit to  
Account Name: Toorak Uniting Church  
BSB: 033086 Account Number: 911892

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

Toorak Uniting Church acknowledges and respects the past and present Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

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.

**The way we produce the Orders of Service is changing, so you may notice some differences, and these changes will continue to evolve over time.**