

**Masks are still recommended, especially when singing and maintaining 1.5m
between you and the next person is advised.**

Order of Service

Sunday 4 December 2022

10:15 am Worship Service

Worship Leader

Rev Peter Whitaker

Director of Music

Jennifer Chou

Advent 2 – PEACE



Unknown Artist. Dove of Peace. Old St Peter Basilica. 12th century

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Silent Night
Pamela Brown Handbell Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson
arr. Douglas Mears

Introit He became poor that we may be rich, loving the world and leaving his throne; King of all kings and Lord of all lords, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. (TIS 721)
John Bell 1949 -

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 40:1-11)

The voice of the Lord declares, "Comfort, O comfort my people".
A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

The earth will be transformed, God's Peace will prevail.
We would prefer you to deal with the evil doers, but instead you call us to be peacemakers.

You meet us in this place, as we remember your curious way.
As we wait, prepare us. As we wait, make us your own.

Our ears and eyes perceive no other god besides You, and so we worship this day.
We are all your people, and we will wait for You.

Hymn 179 Praise with joy the world's Creator

Prayers of Approach

Anthem Prince of Peace *arr. Bill Ingram*
Pamela Brown Handbell Choir

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 10-11

Annette Baldwin

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Hymn 320 Never in all human story

Sermon The Peace of Christianity begins with ...

THE SERVICE OF RESPONSE

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

Prayers of the people

CHOIR Arise with Joy Mark Schweizer 1956-2019

*Arise with joy, O faithful band, And come to meet the Lord most high!
Arise, the kingdom is at hand, The glorious King is drawing nigh.
Look up, all souls, weighed down with care, And see, the Sov'reign is not far;
Look up, faint hearts, from your despair, Behold the bright and Morning Star!*

*Rejoice, all weary hearts today, Our Lord and King is very near,
So cast your grief and fears away, For your deliverance is here!
Redeemer, come, with us abide, let us your holy presence feel,
our hearts to you we open wide, your grace and love to us reveal.*

*O brighter than some glorious morn shall this new day of wonder be,
when Christ, our King, in beauty comes, and we at last His face shall see.
For this we raise a joyful voice, On high we sing to you alone,
And evermore with thanks rejoice, And bow before your glorious throne.*

HOLY COMMUNION

*Virtual worshippers are invited to join with us for Holy Communion, with the
bread and the juice of the vine they've prepared.*

The Invitation

Come, to be comforted
in the story of Bethlehem,
and in this the House of Bread.
Come to be comforted at this table
by a piece of bread
and a cup of love,
that will stay with you always.

The Story of the Last Supper

On the night before his crucifixion
Jesus took bread, and having blessed it,
he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“This is my body which is given for you.” In the same way he took
the wine, and, having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave
the cup to his disciples, saying, “This cup is the new relationship with
God, sealed with my blood.

Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next
in the coming kingdom of God.”

So now, following Jesus’ example, we take this bread and this wine;
the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us.
And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth let us also
celebrate God’s goodness.

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.

With all we are, we honour you, Trinity of love, the one and Holy
God, sovereign and creator of all time and space.

You have called us to be your Church in this place,
and we thank you as we join the company of heaven in their
eternal song of worship:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

For to Adam and Eve, children of dust, you gave the world and
its wonders, but we misused your gift of freedom: we stretched out
rebel hands to be like you.

We thank you for your mercy, for you never cease to call our
restless hearts until they find their rest in you.

Again and again, you raised up men and women to speak your
word, to guide, to challenge and convert.

And at the last, Father, you sent Christ Jesus, God with us. Born as one of us, he lived our life and died our death, offering us eternal life with you.

Through him, in him and because of him, we affirm the Church's faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

By your Word and Holy Spirit, bless these gifts that by receiving them we participate in Christ's body and blood, and become, by grace, his body given for the sake of the world.

Let us gather up our prayers and praise in the prayer Jesus our Saviour taught us:

***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 Communion

Receive this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The body of Christ, given for you. ***Amen.***

Christ's life, poured out for you. ***Amen.***

The prayer after Holy Communion

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. ***Amen.***

Hymn 607 Make me a channel of your peace

Benediction

Postlude March from The Nutcracker Suite

P. Tchaikovsky 1840-1893

Handbell Duet: Leanne Loong and Andrew Chin

You are welcome to sit for the Postlude or depart the Church quietly.



The flowers in the church today are from Jenny Stewardson

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

Toorak Uniting Church acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.