

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

Order of Service

Sunday 27 November 2022

10:15 am Worship Service

Worship Leader

Rev John Edwards

Director of Music

Jennifer Chou

Advent 1



*Mary the Virgin Mother,
by Bartolome Esteban Murillo 1617-1682*

Introit

In the Beginning Was the Word, Op. 161

Carson P Cooman 1982 -

Welcome and community news

Gathering words

The season of Advent challenges us to a vision of what is yet to be; to hear God's voice calling anew, and even to smell the scent of God alive in our world.

For something sacred is being born within our lives.

The season of Advent reminds us that this is a hopeful world with a future yet to be realised, a future wanting to enlist builders of God's realm.

For something sacred is being built within our lives.

This season of Advent tells us that angels accompany our songs; that a mother can nurture the divine and that a humble manger can become a throne for the coming reign of God.

For something sacred is coming into our lives and our world.

Gathering prayer

Lighting of the first Advent candle

As we light this first Advent candle, we are reminded that even in the dark and difficult places in life, there can be hope and resilience. May this candle be for us a symbol of new life and strength emerging in the struggles of daily life.

Hymn 276 There's a light upon the mountains

Prayers of confession and gratitude

Reading Isaiah 9: 2-7

Garry Brown

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

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 Counselor, 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.

Anthem Oh Mary, Don't You Weep, Don't You Mourn
arr. by Moses Hogan 1957-2003

Reading Matthew 1: 18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:
His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before
they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the
Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law,
and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind
to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to
him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to
take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is
from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give
him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the
prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will
call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had
commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not
consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he
gave him the name Jesus.

Hymn 431 Thanks to God whose word was spoken

Sermon Hope - God with us

Offering prayer

Offering

Famine Song – VIDA

arranged by Matthew Culloton 1976 -

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Prayers for others and ourselves

Hymn 268 Joy to the world

Closing responses

In our watching and our waiting

Come, Lord Jesus.

In our hopes and in our fears

Come, Lord Jesus.

In our homes and in our world

Come, Lord Jesus. Come bless us and surprise us.

The Blessing

Postlude

March on 'St Helen'

June Nixon 1942 -



The flowers in the church today are from Barbara Barber

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.