

Advent 4 & Christmas Eve & Day

HYMNS

Advent 4

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(Gather us in)
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Christmas Eve

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Christmas Day

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COLLECT

Advent 4 Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Christmas Day All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

READINGS

Advent 4 - A reading from the second book of Samuel:

Now when King David was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the

Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Christmas Day - A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his

recompense before him.’ They shall be called, ‘The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord’; and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.’
Isaiah 62.6-12

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Advent 4 - We say the Magnificat together:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.
Luke 1.46-55

Christmas Day - We say the verses of Psalm 97 alternately:

The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

The heavens declared his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory.

Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgements, O Lord.

For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.

Advent 4 - A reading from Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome:

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen. *Romans 16.25-27*

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Christmas Day - A reading from Paul's letter to the Titus:

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. *Titus 3.4-8a*

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Gospel Advent 4

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. *Luke 1.26-38*

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Christmas Day

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.’

Luke2: 8-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYERS

Church: St Matthew's Anglican Church Ashburton (Kurian Peter); Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces); Examining Chaplains (Christopher Appleby, Rowan Callick, John Forsyth, Jane Freemantle, Noelene Horton, Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins, Gail Pinchbeck, Yvonne Poon, Nigel Pope, Alexander Ross, Heather Schnagl, Malcolm Tadgell, Dawn Treloar, Victor Yu); St Paul's Cathedral; The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Parish: Give thanks for those who support our parish life: the Op Shop team, Maintenance committee, the Parish Treasurer and Bookkeeper and office support, and those who contribute through rostered help at each centre; and pray that they do this all in the name of Jesus, who called people to serve others.

For the sick & in need, and those who have ongoing need for strength, courage and peace of heart, mind and soul in their journey: Keiran & Paul, Deirdre B, John & Barbara B, Lorraine D, Helen & Geoff D, John F, Nan L, Jane & Peter M, Barbara McN, Janet N, Pauline R, Jenny S, Mary & Ian S, Ray & Marion W, Alan Y, Boris Z and those known to us in need of our prayers.

Year's mind

*25th Maie Zorica (2020),
Stephen Winter (1997)*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

24th Helen Robarts