



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Christmas Day 2020

***As we meet to celebrate the birth of Jesus, whether alone or with family and friends,  
let us always remember, that no matter where we are,  
EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US,***

- ***Setting the Table***

As we celebrate and prepare to light the Christ Candle, to signify the light which conquers all darkness, let us take time to remember the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and the fulfillment of all these promises in the Birth of Jesus.



- ***Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal***

Let us prepare our tables with thanksgiving and prayer adding those special gifts or items to remind us of God's precious gift to mankind.



Luke records the song of Angels at the arrival of Jesus birth, 'Peace on Earth good news to all men,' Isaiah Prophecies, 'for unto us a child is born .... He will be called Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The greatness of His government and peace there will be no end.' Christmas is more than a baby being born, but the beginning of God's mission of reconciliation with us. But reconciliation was not for His sake because he never stopped loving us. It was for us that he gave Jesus to become that bridge to could cross so we could come into His peace that was always there for us. Just think that baby was to grow and become a man, and in the process show us the image of the Father. Then he was to die; that baby came to break the curse of sin over our lives. We had been deceived to believe that we can live this life without God and in doing so we lost that wonderful peace only He can bring. Jesus became His forgiveness. We know this peace comes by crossing that bridge, to Him who came from the Father full of Grace and Truth. God has made a way to restore His people to Him and this is the reason for our rejoicing at Christmas.



***opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community  
around our table.***

Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Here, and throughout the world, We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**



**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.**

**Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

• **Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings**

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 62 beginning at Verse 6**



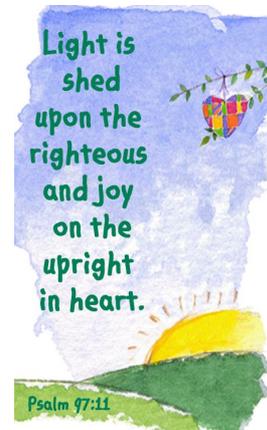
<sup>6</sup> Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, <sup>7</sup> and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. <sup>8</sup> The Lord has sworn by 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 labored; <sup>9</sup> but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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." <sup>12</sup> They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken." [NRSV Isaiah 62:6-12]

Hear the word of the Lord,

***thanks be to God***

**Psalm 97**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice: let the multitude of islands be glad.  
<sup>2</sup> Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.  
<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him: and burns up his enemies on every side.  
<sup>4</sup> His lightnings light the world: the earth sees it and quakes.  
<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before his face: from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness: and all peoples have seen his glory.  
<sup>7</sup> They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings: all gods bow down before him.  
<sup>8</sup> Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced: because of your judgements, O God.  
<sup>9</sup> For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth: you are exalted far above all gods.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord loves those that hate evil: the Lord guards the life of the faithful, and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.  
<sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous: and joy for the true of heart.  
<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous: and give thanks to his holy name.



**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Titus, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 4**



<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> The saying is sure. [NRSV Titus 3:4-8a]

Hear the word of the Lord,

***thanks be to God.***

## The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 2 beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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.



<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



[NRSV Luke 2:1-20]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Sentence

**I bring you good news of great joy for all people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

• ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.



**For unto us a Son is given. (Isaiah 9)**

**The Son is the radiance of Gods Glory the exact representation of his nature. (Hebrews 1)**



In Advent we have reflected on waiting and preparation. John the Baptist cried, 'Prepare ye the way.' And many people came to repent and be baptised. This was the act to make ready for something far greater than John. So, the people waited expectantly, knowing a saviour would come. Who would have thought a baby once wrapped in strips of cloth laying in an animal's trough would be their coming Messiah.

Christmas teaches us to look beyond our own expectations, to trust in our loving Fathers plans for us. In chapter 55 Isaiah speaks the word of the Lord, v9 My ways are higher than your ways, v11-12 My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it. You will indeed go out with joy and be led forth in peace.



**prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.



***Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.***

Lynn, David, Ron & Ann; Kathy; Pat ;Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Fr Peter; Fr Percy & Betty; Bp David; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Carolyn;; Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; Ted & Joyce; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll; Jac Bishop, Joan; Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; Mary, Kate, Colin, Cathy, Carol, Allison, Ann, Jean and Betty *and any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.*

***Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father ..***

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God,  
 who gave your only-begotten Son  
 to take our nature upon him  
 and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:  
 grant that we being born again  
 and made your children by adoption and grace,  
 may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
 through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,  
 ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.**

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
 be amongst us and remain with us always.  
 Amen.***

***Intentional connection beyond your home***

After our Table Service, make contact with others who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones during the Christmas Season. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends who are interstate or overseas. Use email or face time or SMS to keep in contact and share with others the Joy of Chrismtas and the promise of a brighter and better future in 2021.

