

## TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together  
on the ABC and then set the table for our Parish meal.

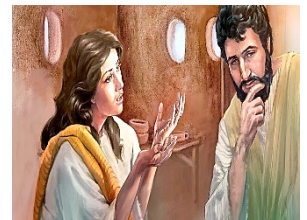


### **Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal**

Today is the third Sunday in Advent, a time for reflection, preparation and anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Advent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. So, as we worship at home today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table, acknowledging the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**



**Trusting in God's Promises** Sometimes something goes wrong in our lives and there seems to be no way to solve the problem. Everything for Joseph seemed like it had become a bad dream and the one he loved was in the middle of it. He was naturally looking at how to make the best out of what seemed like a bad situation. It definitely was not what he hoped for.



**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.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Chapter 7, vv 10-16

**Emmanuel**  
GOD WITH US

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven". But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test". Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that

you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

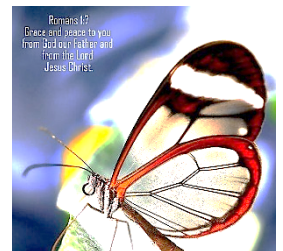
Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

Hear O Shepherd of Israel you that led Joseph like a flock:  
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim shine out in glory;  
Before Ephraim Benjamin and Manasseh:  
stir up your power and come to save us.  
Restore us again O Lord of hosts:  
show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts:  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears:  
and given them tears to drink in good measure.  
You have made us the victim of our neighbours:  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Restore us again O Lord of hosts:  
show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.  
Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:  
on that son of man whom you made so strong for your self.  
And so we shall not turn back from you:  
give us life and we will call upon your name.  
Restore us again O Lord of hosts:  
show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.



A reading from the letter to the Romans: Ch 1, vv 1-7

From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which God promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Ch 1, vv 18-25

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through



the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**Sentence**

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. Matthew 1.23

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

**Joseph her husband was a righteous man  
They will call Him Immanuel"e (which means, "God with us").**



Faith asks us to always hold onto hope. To trust that God has the answers even when our dreams are falling apart. His answers may be completely different to how our prayers have been. Joseph found he was still able to keep Mary as his wife but his marriage to her would exact a cost. He had to trust in God's word not only because of a dream, but because their lives would never be normal again. God was with them, and we need God with us just as deeply.

**prayer-time**

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world, and offer thanksgiving. to God for his steadfast love of his children. We pray for all still threatened by floodwaters in coastal & rural areas. Grant safety to those under evacuation orders. In your mercy, bring relief to affected areas and protect both life and property. Give strength to all those working to rescue the stranded and to help all in need. And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise. in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer :Joy I, Ann W, Pat V, Takoohi, Wendy, Leanne, Daniella, Joyce and Ted, Mary R, John , Melissa and Sam, Robby A , Anne, Joanie, Lynn, Ruth, Malcolm N, Jean N, John Mc, Betty, Joy, David Mitchell family, Pat, Carolyn, Allison, Angela, Carol, Lucy Ann, Jean, Nathan, Peter, Alex, Kym and Bob Jac Bishop: Eileen Cook; Yvonne Scrutton; Brenda;, Catherine Cooling; Ursula Pridham; Trish McD; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Thomas; Gordon Russell; Emily and her family; and any others we wish to remember.....



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

**Our Father .....**

**The Collect**

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary,  
by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:  
so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in  
your salvation,  
and in all things embrace your will;  
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.



**Conclude the meal with the following prayer**



***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 spend some time reaching out to others. You can do this in prayer or by contacting them directly. It can be a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

