



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

24th December 4th Sunday in Advent
*Let us watch Songs of Praise together
on the ABC and then set the table
for our shared meal.*



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

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.

Let us prepare our tables with thanksgiving and prayer adding those special gifts or items to remind us of God's precious gift to human kind. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that God Is With You.



It would be hard to believe the birth of Jesus to a virgin woman if it were not for the reality of Jesus in our lives today. Not in stories looking back in history, but in how our souls hunger for His sustenance in our lives. Once we have tasted Christ we are never satisfied, never the same. Gabriel was right His kingdom has no end. So, we see two births. In the incarnation of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. God takes on our physical being with all its suffering. The second is just as miraculous, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God enters into our lives transforming us into His likeness. This was God's plan all along, first He takes on our likeness so that we can take on His. Nothing is impossible with God.

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 second book of Samuel Chapter 7 verses 1-11,16

Now when the king 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." 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 forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-20 — A.P.B.A. Page 315

1 Lord I will sing for ever of your loving- kindness:
my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness
through out all generations.

2 I have said of your loving-kindness that it is built forever:
you have established your faithfulness in the heavens.

3 The Lord said 'I have made a covenant with my chosen:
I have sworn an oath to my servant David.

4 'I will establish your line for ever:
and will build up your throne for all generations.'

19 You spoke once in a vision: and said to your faithful one.

20 'I have set a youth above a warrior:

I have exalted a young man out of the people.



A reading from the letter to the Romans Chapter 16 verses 25-27

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 forever! Amen. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Chapter 1 verses 26-38 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 forever, 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. The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



Sentence

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1.32-33

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 no word from God will ever fail."

His mercy extends to those who fear (honour) him, from generation to generation.

In Gabriel's revelation to Mary she saw that she was not the only one to be blessed but that this blessing was for the whole world. As we see in this Gospel report, through the creativity of the Holy Spirit, God reveals Himself to the world through Jesus. Its all planned, His birth, His life, His death and resurrection. We call it salvation. But reading about it and going to church is just the appetiser. He invites us to partake in the whole journey of revelation He has for us. We can not fathom how God does what He does. Yet, as we take on that journey we begin to see why. This is the knowing that Jesus is truly real and why we are so valued by God. Happy Christmas, joy to the world.



prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; We pray for all those who continue to be affected by violence and conflict around the world especially in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine. We pray that all parties will work towards an end of the conflict and move to find peaceful solutions, 🙏 God of peace, be with all those who live in fear and danger. Heal those wounded by hate and conflict. Teach us to love our enemies and live together with understanding and compassion. Amen.

We pray 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.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Brendas family as they grieve, Colin, Allison, Pat Foord, , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V David, Brenda, Joanie, Jo Jan, Joy I, Leanne, Daniella, Joyce and Ted, Mary R, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Yvonne Scrutton; Catherine Cooling; Ursula Pridham; Trish McD; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Thomas; Gordon Russell; Emily and her family; Trish Simon; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.



Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

Prayer of the Day

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.



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 Christmas and the promise of a brighter and better future in 2024

Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: Share with them the Joy of Christmas. Emmanuel - God is with us.

