

## First Sunday of Christmas - December 28, 2025

Minister: Anne Butler	Welcome: Margaret Clogg
Worship Leader: Carole Lyons	Piano: Jey Edwin
Bible Reader: Jan Sillett	Guitar: Austin Phoenix
	Singers: Anne Ind Rhonda Amber
Projection: Colin Cargill	Audio: Ray Clogg
Camera 6: John Secombe	Camera 8: Peter Thornley
Vision Director: Joan Morrison:	Vision Switcher: Margaret Cargill

PICTURE ON SCREEN FIRST –  
ALL AT LECTERN UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN.

Sing-through: 9:30, ends at 9:50 Pre-service music

Candles lit, Bible open

10.00am Red light displayed: Intro video plays

### Initial picture



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### CL welcome



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### CL Acknowledgement

As we gather here today, we acknowledge the Kurna People as the traditional custodians of this land. We give thanks for their commitment to nurturing this land over many millennia. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and for those emerging who will lead their communities into the future. Let us commit ourselves to empowering all Australians to continue the journey of reconciliation on this land.

## CL Prayer/Call to worship

God is here

**And we are here to worship God.**

In our darkness:

**You are the God of Light.**

In our despair:

**You are the God of hope.**

In our sadness:

**You are the God of joy.**

In our turmoil:

**You are the God of peace.**

In our heartache:

**You are the God of love.**

We worship you now:

**God of everyone! Thanks be to God!**

(Source: John Maynard)

## CL Song O come all ye faithful TIS 304 altered words lyrics

Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and expectant,**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:**

**Come and behold now! Let us sing with angels!**

***Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,***

***O come, let us adore Him,***

***O come, let us adore Him,***

***Christ, our Lord!***

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal;**

**Lo, Christ! Alive in the outcast ones!**

**Your love has touched our broken, hopeless places.**

***Refrain: O come, ye heavy-laden,***

***O come, ye worn and outcast,***

***O come, and greet the holy,***

***Christ, our Lord!***

**See how the shepherds, hastening to the cradle,**

**Bringing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;**

**We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps!**

***Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,***

***O come, let us adore Him,***

***O come, let us adore Him,***

***Christ, our Lord!***

**Child, for the broken, poor and in the manger,**

**We would embrace you with love and awe.**

**Who would not love you, loving all so dearly?**

***Refrain: O come, ye heavy-laden,***

***O come, ye worn and outcast,***

***O come, and greet the holy,***

***Christ, our Lord!***

**Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation!**

**O sing, all ye citizens of heaven and Earth!**

**Glory to God, all glory in the universe!**

***Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,***

***O come, let us adore Him,***

***O come, let us adore Him,***

***Christ, our Lord!***

*C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade Public Domain*

## AB Prayer of Confession

### AB Intro to readings

### JS Reading - Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,

the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,

because of all that the Lord has done for us,

and the great favour to the house of Israel

that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';  
and he became their saviour

<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### **JS Reading- Matthew 2:13-23 - The Escape to Egypt**

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

### **The Massacre of the Infants**

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the

child's life are dead.' 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

### **JS Song: Unto us a boy is born TIS 293**

**1 Unto us a boy is born!  
The King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of ev'ry nation.**

**2 Cradled in a stall was he  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That he the world surpasses.**

**3 Herod then with fear was filled:  
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed  
At Bethl'hem in his fury.**

**4 Now may Mary's son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.**

**5 Alpha and Omega he!  
Now let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Shall rend the air asunder.** *Percy Dearmer Public Domain*

**AB Message: Journey from slaughter to safety**

**AB Song: It came upon the midnight clear orig Edmond Sears**

updated by Geraldine Latty and Carey Luce

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

With sorrow brought by sin and strife  
the world has suffered long  
And since the angels sang have passed  
Two thousand years of wrong.  
The nations still at war hear not  
The love song which they bring  
O hush the noise, and cease the strife  
To hear the angels sing!

And those whose journey now is hard,  
Whose hope is burning low,  
Who tread the rocky path of life  
With painful steps and slow.  
O listen to the news of love  
Which makes the heavens ring  
And rest beside the weary road  
To hear the angels sing!

And still the days are hastening on *Bowl brought forward to fire*  
By prophets seen of old  
Towards the fullness of the time  
When comes the age of gold.  
Then earth and heaven renewed shall see  
The Prince of Peace their king.  
And all the world repeats the song  
Which now the angels sing!

*Edmund Hamilton Sears, Richard Storrs Willis Public Domain*

**CL: Offering and prayer** (*in front of Lectern*)

Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

**CL: Notices**

**CL: Prayers of the People**

Gracious God, we come to you to offer our prayers and thoughts for those who at this time suffer from the effects of war, terror and disasters. For them we pray for peace and courage. Sustain those who must carry great grief and fear.



May your love surround them, your Spirit strengthen them  
and your hope guide them.

Today we pray for our family and friends who are unwell.

Comfort them and bless them. We send our love to them.

We pray for each other that you give us the power to share our faith  
and your peace. May we seek to do your will, trust your grace and  
share your love.

We pray together in the name of Jesus who encourages us to say:-

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name**

**echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice**

**be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom**

**sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,**

**now and for ever. Amen**

**LONG ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew.  
Come to make all things new;  
Bear his People's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?***

**2 God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?***

**3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid;  
Till the time expected  
Nurtured and protected.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,***

**Song Long ago Prophets knew TIS 283**

*When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?*

4 Journey ends! Where afar  
Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!      *Changes to words*  
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes!  
Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!

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**AB: Commissioning** *front of lectern*

**Blessing song:**

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me traveling a long with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me traveling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good  
Keep me travelling the way I should.  
Where I see no way to go,  
You'll be telling me the way I know.  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me traveling along with you.