

Second Sunday after Christmas - January 4, 2026

Journey of the Wise Ones Holy Communion

W

Minister: Anne Butler*	Welcome: Carole Lyons
Worship Leader: Bev Tredrea *	Piano: Gil Sullivan
Bible Reader: John Thornton*	Guitar: A. Phoenix
Extra server: Bruce Ind*	Singers: Anne Ind, Rhonda Amber
Camera 6: Ray Clogg	Audio: John Drew
Camera 8: Peter Thornley	Projection: John Secombe
Vision Director: Pam Ayles	Vision Switcher: Chris Ayles

PICTURE ON SCREEN FIRST –



ALL AT LECTERN UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN.

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

10.00am Red light displayed: Intro video plays

Candles lit.

BT Welcome *From behind the Communion Table*

Welcome. Reminder that we will be having communion today.

Image



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BT Acknowledgement *From behind the Communion Table*

As we gather in this place we give thanks for the Kurna people. We acknowledge the commitment their ancestors made across the generations to nurturing this land. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

BT CANDLES ETC

The Christ candle is lit, symbolizing Christ in our midst, the light of the world; the peace candle is burning, symbolizing the peace we all pray for and work towards in this troubled world. The Bible is open, stories of God's faithful people through the ages; the water is poured, a symbol of our own baptism.

BT Call to Worship *Lectern*

God of mystery. Your light has led us here to you.

Your word has shone; your star has led us here.

You have travelled with us

We have journeyed to this place, this moment.

We have come to praise you, to honour you, to worship you.

We thank you for your grace. We wonder at your presence.

We are here seeking your companionship and learning to follow your light.

We worship you with thanksgiving and praise.

BT Prayer (St Bernard of Clairvaux)

Let your goodness Lord appear to us, that we made in your image conform ourselves to it.

In our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty power and wonder nor is it fitting for us to try.

But your mercy reaches from the heavens through the clouds to the earth below.

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love.

Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft sweet cries. Amen

BT Song As with gladness, wise of old TIS 314

**1. As with gladness, wise of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore your glory see.**

**2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
One whom Heav'n and Earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.**

**3. As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle, rough and bare,
So may we, with holy joy,
Nothing can our hope destroy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.**

**4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way,
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our souls, set free at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds your glory hide.**

**5. In the heav'nly country bright,
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun, which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Hallelujahs to our King.**

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AB Prayer of confession

JT Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

**Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

**² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.**

**³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

JT Reading - Matthew 2:1-12 - The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there,

ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

JT In these ancient words the Spirit finds meaning for today.

JT Song The Three drovers

Across the plains one Christmas night
Three drovers riding blithe and gay,
Looked up and saw a starry light
More radiant than the Milky Way;
And on their hearts such wonder fell,
They sang with joy. 'Noel! Noel!
Noel! Noel! Noel!'

The air was dry with summer heat,
And smoke was on the yellow moon;
But from the heavens, faint and sweet,
Came floating down a wond'rous tune;
And as they heard, they sang full well
Those drovers three. 'Noel! Noel!
Noel! Noel! Noel!'

The black swans flew across the sky,
The wild dog called across the plain,
The starry lustre blazed on high,

Still echoed on the heavenly strain;
And still they sang, 'Noel! Noel!'
Those drovers three. 'Noel! Noel!
Noel! Noel! Noel!'

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AB Message- Journey to the Holy

AB Affirmation

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing;
I willingly offer
all I have and am
to serve you,
as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are ours and we are yours.
May it be so for ever.

**Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

The Covenant Service, Methodist Worship Book 2022

BT Offering and prayer – Bowl brought forward side of Table

We offer you our gifts, the work that has been done and the work that is yet to do, May they honour the times you have given to each of us, We ask you to transform our gifts of time and money into the service of others and that through this coming year your light may shine through this your church and your people. Amen

BT NOTICES - lectern

BT Prayers of the People Lectern

Most loving and gracious God as we face this new year help us to move forward as the people and church that you would want us to be. One that the world needs to be the people of love, doing loving things showing your light to all those we meet along the way. We know that challengers will arise and that we will feel unable to act but we know that your love can be made known to someone, someone will know that they matter, someone will be lifted up, someone will find hope and someone who we may not know will find your love reaching out to them. We can be that someone that someone that you call us to be. We ask for your strength to uphold us as we move to be your light that will shine through both the darkness and the light. In Jesus name we pray.

BT Song Carol Tidings of comfort & joy,— Tune: (AHB 233)

**To Bethlehem, a stable bare,
We journey to behold
The baby born to change the world.
The story has been told.
He brings the lonely to his side.
He makes the timid bold.
O Tidings of comfort and joy**

Comfort and joy
O Tidings of comfort and joy.

The lowest class was first to hear;
They were downtrodden, poor;
For shepherds were despised, oppressed;
No rights before the law.
Yet these are those who come to Christ
To worship and adore.
O Tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O Tidings of comfort and joy.

The priestly gift of frankincense
Was holy to the Lord.
Gold for a king, Myrrh for the grave,
Gifts we could not afford
Are brought to Jesus at his birth
By princes from abroad.
O Tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O Tidings of comfort and joy.

So rich and poor in every time
Are welcome at the stall;
The ones who count and those ignored,
The strong and those who fall;
For Jesus is the love of God
Out-flowing for us all.
O Tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O Tidings of comfort and joy.

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Invitation

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with us
the Spirit proclaims it.

Lift your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.
We freely give God thanks and praise.

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy
that we should, in ceaseless joy
Give our thanks and praise to you,
Holy and merciful God,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior
And the assurance of the Spirit.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise
With the church that is, was, and shall be forever,
We glorify you, joining this unending cry:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and love,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, Eternal One.
You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth
Setting light into being
Casting the stars in the sky

Founding the evolving earth
And all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power,
And great is your wisdom.
You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.
You visit upon the downtrodden
With presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice and mercy.

You came to be with us in Jesus,
Who reached into unexpected places,
Calling women beyond the limits of their times
Equipping men for nurturing love
Welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,
The light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:
“This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
And, in like manner, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks give it to them saying,
“This is the cup of the new covenant
poured out for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink of it,
for the remembrance of me.”

Life's greatest feast before us,
We excitedly proclaim:

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Dear God, you transform.
You transform all that is before you
So that at the touch of your grace
We are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.
You bring light to all peoples
Light to the nations
Light into our hearts
Light on your Way.
Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.
Transform, illumine, bless.
Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup
Into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**Hold us as your own
Renew us as your people
For the sake of the world you love.**

For all honour and glory are yours, O God,
Through Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns and loves
with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation
Both now and forever.
Amen.

**Lord's Prayer
Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
Now and forever, Amen**

Distribution – Servers and musicians come forward to be served then the people

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.

We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.

May we bask in this glow

Now and forevermore. Amen.

AB Song Now let us from this table rise TIS 530

**Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and rise again,
his selfless love has made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the Word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humble pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then grant us grace, Companion-God,
to choose again the pilgrim way
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.**

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Commissioning *Front table*

Go with us God in all that builds community.

Go with us Christ in all that breaks down barriers.

God with us Spirit in all that reconciles.

Amen!

From Singing while it is still dark p98 (Susan Wickham)

Blessing song : May the feet of God walk with you TIS 779

**May the feet of God walk with you
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you
and his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you
and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you
and his love bring you home.**

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AV Team gather at the table for communion

