



*The Footscray Baptist Church celebrates the God-given diversity of cultures. We welcome you to join us in the journey of faith, whatever your race, religion, capability, gender or sexuality.*

## *Order of Service: Christmas Day 2021*

### *Christmas Greeting*

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given

### *Acknowledgement of Country (Cheryl)*

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked  
in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and their stewardship  
of this land throughout the ages.

We honour their history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit to work  
for reconciliation between all people, God and the land.

Welcome everybody to worship!

### *Welcome*

### *Lighting the Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World' (Sunny)*

### *Call to Worship*

A baby has been born to us;

**A child has been given to us.**

And his name shall be called

**Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,**

**Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace,**

Once we were no people;

**Now we are God's people**

Once we walked in darkness;

**Now we have seen a great light.**

*(from Cloth for the Cradle, p. 114)*

### *Hymn: Angels we Have Heard on High*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRHuETZuLEo>

### *Lighting the Advent Wreath - The Christ Candle*

Today is Christmas Day – the waiting is finished. We celebrate the culmination of the hopes and dreams for peace, for joy, for love. Today we will light our candles of hope, peace, joy and love. We will then light the Christ candle, the symbol of light coming into the world.

The Word becomes flesh

Christ comes among us, he is one of us

In Christ light comes into the world.

In Christ light comes into the darkness.

**Praise be to God!**

We light the candles of hope, peace joy and love. And a fifth candle symbolising the Christ, the light that has come into the world. **(Sunny to light four purple candles and the Christ candle)**

### Opening Prayer

O God, how great you are!  
We could not have guessed  
That your greatest action in history  
Is the birth of a baby in Bethlehem

And yet it is so.  
And it is so for us,  
For unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given,  
**Hallelujah, for the Christ Child!**

O God, let the wonder of his birth  
Burst brightly across the dark horizon of our life,  
So that the routine familiarity does not rob us  
Of a part in the glory of this event.

Show us the grace of the child=God  
Who governs from a cowshed crib  
**Hallelujah, for the Christ Child!**

*(Part of prayer 'Hallelujah, for the Christ Child'; by Graeme Garrett in Be Our Freedom Lord, p.274)*

### Bible Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

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.

### Song: O Holy Night

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTQKU6uUBjU>

### Passing the Peace

Shalom my friends  
God's peace my friends  
Go with you now  
And stay with you  
In all you do  
Shalom, shalom.

### Bible Readings: John 1:1-14 (NRSV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the

life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own,<sup>[c]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[d]</sup> full of grace and truth.

### *Children's Talk: The Nativity*

*Song: Away in A Manger*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi45JkZtUnM>

*Reflection: God Pitches His Tent in our midst*

### *Prayers for the Church & World*

Incarnating God, whose Son was born to be the Prince of Peace, we pray for peace on earth. We pray for peace throughout the entire world but especially in the land of Jesus birth, Israel. We especially pray for peace in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Sudan. We pray for peace within our land, within the church, within families and within ourselves. May we all discover anew the reason we celebrate this day.

Incarnating God, who chose a smelly stable in which to enter our history, we pray for those who are marginalised. We pray for those who have no place to call home, or no one to share a Christmas meal with. We pray for those who are lonely or exploited or sick in body, mind or soul. May your Spirit work in us to see that their loads are lightened.

Incarnating God, who in the birth of Jesus takes on our humanity in all its fragility, we pray for our frailty. We pray for those who are lonely or feeling empty. Surround them with Your love. We pray for those in the Philippines who have lost family in the recent typhoon and those who have been displaced by it. We pray for the sick and those recovering, especially those known to us – comfort them.

Finally on this Christmas Day we ask that we might all be filled with the joy and the hope that this day represents. May we too share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the Wise Men and in the peace on earth.

We offer you our prayers in the name of your Son born for us so long ago and in our midst today. Amen.

### *The 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*Offering - for BWA*

Offerings for the work of Baptist World Aid can be placed in the offering bowls at the entrances to the church

*Song: O Come All Ye Faithful*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8dgI4-bVPU>

*Blessing*

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, gladden our hearts by his coming to dwell among us, and fill us with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.