



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 - December 12th, 2021

Advent 3 - Joy

Opening Music

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 & Covid Rules (Cheryl)

- Today we continue our journey through Advent. The season leading up to Christmas where we wait in hope, peace, joy and love to celebrate again the birth of Christ - God with Us.*

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

Call to Worship

The desert will sing and rejoice
The wilderness blossom with flowers
The Lord is coming in joy

And we will rejoice

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The lame will dance

And we will rejoice

Swords will become ploughs
Spears will become pruning hooks
Nations will live in peace

And we will rejoice!

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams based on Isaiah 2 & 35)

Hymn: Joy to the World

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Today is the third Sunday of Advent – the time when we prepare again for the coming of Jesus. Last week we lit candles symbolising Hope and Peace. Today we light those candles and another one symbolising Joy.

Like Mary, we wait with joy
The angels shared their message of joy
Shepherds left their fields with joy
We wait for the Christ Child who will bring great joy
Joy to the world – the Lord is coming!

We light the candles of hope, peace and joy, in so doing we proclaim God's light is coming into the world. **(Sunny to light 3 candles)**

Opening Prayer

God of laughter and joy

We give thanks:

For the joy of seeing family and friends again

For the joy of seeing a new flower open

For the joy that comes with watching children giggle and play

For the joy of watching the garden grow

For the joy of meeting new people and trying new things

For the joy of the new learnings we have made this year

Mostly we thank you for the gift of Jesus who turns the world upside down.

May we give joy in the measure we have received.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, December 2021)

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

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** 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: Tell Out My Soul

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: Luke 2:8-20(NRSV)

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And

suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Children's Talk: The Shepherds Joy on the Humpty Hills of Bethlehem (based on story by Norman Habel)

Song: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

Reflection: Shepherds of Joy

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Fires in Western Australia and floods in Queensland and New South Wales
- People affected by tornadoes in United States
- Human Rights Day was on Dec 10 – remembering those whose human rights are abused
- Southern African countries after identification of Omicron strain of Covid
- The people of **Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia & Sudan**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**, especially since they have had a serious Covid outbreak there
- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- Global Interaction – pray that Australians might engage with global mission
- Baptist World Aid – Pray for Christians throughout the world, that they may remain vigilant in helping their neighbours and actively engaged in prayer for the most vulnerable, especially during the holidays
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray

Silence – in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain:

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

God our holy and unshakeable Friend, we seek your undergirding joy for the people of planet earth.

Where there is conflict, terrorism and war, bless all those who work for peace and reconciliation.

Bring your peace and joy.

Where there is exploitation of the weak and the poor, bless those who work for freedom.

Bring your judgement and joy,

Where there are refugee camps, prison compounds, and ethnic discrimination, bless those who work for justice and liberty.

Bring your rescue and joy.

Where there is addiction to drugs, alcohol and gambling, bless those who provide programmes for rehabilitation.

Bring your healing and joy.

Where there is hunger, malnutrition, disease, and despair, bless the agencies that bring compassion and practical help.

Bring your hope and joy.

Where there are the lonely, the suffering and the sorrowing, bless the merciful who are lovingly there for them.

Bring your comfort and joy.

Where the church is weak and struggling against big odds, bless all who keep the faith and practice love.

Bring your abundant grace and joy, Amen.

(Prayer by Bruce Prewer)

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

God of hope, of peace and of joy,

Accept the gifts we bring to you now.

Take them and use us to bring joy into the lives of those in our neighbourhood and beyond. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Dec 2020.)

Gifts for Houses of Hope can be placed under the Christmas Tree at this time.

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437
Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- **Today's** service will not be on zoom or live streamed, copies of the service and sermon can be found on our website.
- **Baptist World Aid** – leading up to Christmas you are invited to place donations in marked envelopes in the offering bowl. Marked envelopes are available at the entrance to the church
- **Christmas Arrangements**
 - a) **Services on Christmas Day (Sat 25th)** – 9.30am for face-to-face worship
 - b) **Services on Boxing Day (Sun 26th)** – 10.30am, Ini will lead service and Grace bring a reflection as I will be on leave
- **Reflective Prayer** – continues this week (Thursday Dec 16th at 5pm) on zoom for an Advent Series. Please contact Ros or Chery for an invite.
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – Christmas Treats, canned chickpeas, red lentils, tuna in oil, oil, kidney beans. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: Come and Join the Celebration

Blessing

As you go out into the week ahead:

May the laughter of the saving Christ, the cheerfulness of the lively Spirit and the joy of the everlasting God be with you now and always. Amen. *(Based on prayer by Bruce Prewer)*