



*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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

### *Advent 2 - Peace*

#### *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*

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

#### *Call to Worship*

God will speak peace to the people.

**Salvation is at hand**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet

**Righteousness and peace will kiss each other**

Faithfulness will look down from the sky

**The Lord will give what is good**

Come let us worship this God.

*(Based on Psalm 85)*

#### *Hymn: As the Deer Pants*

#### *Lighting the Advent Wreath*

Today is the second Sunday of Advent – the time when we prepare again for the coming of Jesus. Last week we lit a candle symbolising Hope. Today we light that candle and another one symbolising Peace.

Like Zechariah, we wait in and for peace  
Wait to hear God's words of peace for the world  
Wait for righteousness and peace to kiss  
Wait for the one who is called the Prince of Peace

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

#### *Opening Prayer*

Dear God,

We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace.

**Let us find such a place within ourselves.**

We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty.

**Let us find such a place within ourselves.**

We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom.

**Of joy, inspiration, and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging.**

Let us search for these places: in the world, in ourselves and in others.

**Let us restore them, let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them.**

May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life.

**And may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom. Amen.**

*(‘Places’ by Michael Leunig in A Common Prayer)*

### *Bible Reading: Luke 1: 5-24(NRSV)*

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. <sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” <sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” <sup>19</sup> The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” <sup>21</sup> Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup> When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup> When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup> After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup> “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

### *Passing the Peace*

Peace before you

Peace behind you

Peace under your feet

Peace within you

Peace over you

Let all around you be Peace

*(Adapted from Advent materials from UCA, South Australia)*

### *Bible Readings: Luke 1:57- 80(NRSV)*

<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup> They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup> Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup> All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup> Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

<sup>80</sup> The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

### *Children's Talk: Little Donkey's First Christmas*

### *Reflection: A Man at Peace: Zechariah*

### *Communion Song: Come As You Are*

### *Communion*

### *Invitation*

God in Jesus Christ breaks down barriers and walls that divide  
Strangers become friends, divisions are no more.  
Peace is possible. Together we are the Body of Christ.

So, gather around this table, where we enact this, which is our faith.

### *Prayer of Preparation*

O come, Emanuel, into our longing hearts.

We gather around your table in expectation and hope.

In this season of waiting, and of preparation for Christmas, we hear of the coming of Jesus.

We have heard from the prophets of God about a new straight path in the desert

We have heard of the hoped for shepherd, who will feed his flock.

We have heard of John the Baptist, the one coming before the Christ, the one who will baptize with Holy Spirit.

We have heard of the angel who brings good news to Mary about a king, a prince of peace who will save his people.

As we open our hearts to this coming, and puzzle as to its meaning for us, and for the world, we can't help but remember the rest of the story.

Even as we celebrate Jesus' birth, we remember his life, his teachings and healings and compassion. Even as we remember the beginning, we know well of Jesus' suffering and death and Resurrection.

Let us hear again the story of that first supper as recorded in Luke's gospel.

*(Based on prayer from <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/advent-eucharistic-prayer/>)*

### *Words of Institution - Luke 22:14-20*

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

### *Prayers for the Church & World*

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- The Solomon Islands experiencing significant unrest
- 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 – recruitment of workers

- Baptist World Aid – We acknowledge the brokenness of the world, and the impact sin has had on countries throughout the world. Thank God for sending Jesus to work through his people in living out mercy, forgiveness and justice
- 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 of Peace,

Bless the world with your peace, centre it in your love.

Open our hearts that we may be responsive to those who need us.

May there be peace in:

Myanmar, especially Kachin State

Ethiopia

The Middle East

The Solomon Islands

Places where there is conflict or division

Places where there is prejudice

Make us a well of your peace.

Lord, bless us with your peace.

And may that peace become hospitality for others.

May we offer serenity and security to those who crave shelter from the storm.

May the peace you have gifted us spill over into those we meet.

Make us a channel of your peace.

Lord, bless us with your peace.

May that peace galvanise us to fight for world peace.

Take our voices and make them speak for those who have no voice or power.

Take our lives and send us out to work against injustice and abuse.

Make us an instrument of your peace. *(Adapted from Taken from Pray Now 2011 – Saint Andrew Press, 2010)*

### *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.

### *Song: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*

#### *Offering*

Generous God,

Take these our offerings of money, dreams and lives. Transform them into a way of bringing hope, peace, joy and love to our neighbours and the entire world. Amen.

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.
- **Working Bee** – Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am
- **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) Christmas Party** – Dec 12 at noon at Yarraville Gardens. BYO Food & Drink and extra chairs, sun hut etc. If you need transport please speak to Cheryl or one of the deacons
  - b) Services on Christmas Day (Sat 25<sup>th</sup>)** – 9.30am for face-to-face worship
  - c) Services on Boxing Day (Sun 26<sup>th</sup>)** – 10.30am, Ini will lead service and Grace bring a reflection as I will be on leave
- **Reflective Prayer** – recommences this week (Thursday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 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: Deeper River

Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth,  
Deep peace of the shining stars  
Deep peace of the gentle night,  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,  
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you  
The deep peace of the Christ of God to you. Amen.