



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 - November 28th, 2021

Advent 1

Opening Music: Wait for the Lord (Taize)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37k20ZZ9h-A>

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

In hope the universe waits:

God's purpose shall be revealed.

Limited by humanness, yet destined for freedom,

In hope the universe waits: God's purpose shall be revealed.

Groaning as if in pain, sampling the gifts of God,

In hope the universe waits: God's purpose shall be revealed.

Trusting in what is unseen, believing the best is to come,

In hope the universe waits: God's purpose shall be revealed.

In the hiddenness of a stable where the Maker of All will be born,

In hope the universe waits: God's purpose shall be revealed.

(Adapted from "Cloth for the Cradle, p.78, copyright 1997 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3 UU, Scotland, used with permission)

Hymn: Come Our Long Expected Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIOY0dXQh9w>

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Today we light our first advent candle – the candle of hope

Like Jeremiah and Isaiah, we wait in hope

Wait in hope for justice for all

Wait in hope for peace for all

Wait in hope for the world to be transformed

Wait in hope for the light to rid us of darkness
Wait in hope for the birth of the Christ Child

We light this candle of hope and proclaim God's light is coming into the world. **(Sunny to light one candle)**

Opening Prayer of Affirmation

We believe among the poor and the proud, the persecuted and privileged
Christ is coming to make all things new.

We believe in private houses and market places, at wedding feasts and amongst the homeless
Christ is coming to make all things new.

We believe with a gentle touch and strong word, with a solid ethic and forgiving love
Christ is coming to make all things new.

We believe with hope
That the kingdom is coming
That many will believe
That the powerful will stumble
That the humble will be raised
For Christ is coming to make all things new.

We believe, that amongst us, in every place, now and forever that justice and righteousness will reign.

Amen

(Adapted from "Cloth for the Cradle, p.31/2, copyright 1997 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3 UU, Scotland, used with permission)

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Isaiah 11:1-8 (NRSV) read in English and Tagalog

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Isaiah 11:1-8

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the

ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

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 1:26 -38 (NRSV) read in English and Farsi

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Children's Talk: Angels

Reflection: Harbingers of Hope

Song: Goodness of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4>

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Those who live with Aids as Dec 1st is World Aid's Day
- The Solomon Islands experiencing significant unrest
- The migrant crisis in the English Channel
- Southern African countries after identification of Omicron strain of Covid
- The people of **Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia & Sudan**
- Ongoing work after the **climate conference** in Glasgow
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**, especially since they have had a serious Covid outbreak there
- Indigenous towns affected by covid

- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- Global Interaction – work in Zambia & Zimbabwe
- Baptist World Aid - Pray for Indigenous and immigrant communities throughout Australia, those who are most vulnerable in response to COVID-19. Ask God to provide compassion and care for medical workers and accurate information to be dispersed regarding vaccinations
- 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)

We come now to pray our prayers of hope for your world.

- Hope that conflict, unrest and war may cease, especially in Myanmar, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan
- Hope that the rich will share with the poor, especially vaccines
- Hope that the fearful might have their anxieties calmed
- Hope that the lonely will find companions for the journey
- Hope that the unwell might experience healing
- Hope that the asylum seeker might find refuge
- Hope that the homeless might find sanctuary

Silently we name before you our deepest hopes now

Remind us O God, that you are with us and hope is reborn. 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

As we wait with anticipation again for the gift of your Son, take these our gifts and offerings and use them to spread gifts of your love into our community. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2003)

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

- **Quarterly Members Meeting** – today in the Green Room immediately after the service

- **Today's** service will not be on zoom or live streamed, copies of the service and sermon can be found on our website.
- **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 25th)** – 9.30am for face-to-face worship
 - c) **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** –recommences this week (Thursday Dec 2nd 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: Lord, I Offer You My Life <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzYgmS32GSc>

Blessing

Go out into the week, carrying hope in your hearts.

May the blessing of God who loved the world be found by you.

May the blessing of Jesus who came into the world be found by you.

May the blessing of the Spirit renew your hope. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Nov 2021)