

Order of Service - December 4th, 2022

Song of Praise: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace (327) Make me a channel of your peace.
Lyric Video (StF 707) - YouTube

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

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!

Lighting the Advent Candles

We light the first candle to pray for hope.

We light this second candle to pray for peace; peace for ourselves and for the whole
world.

We ask for the peace of mind that comes from seeing things clearly.

We pray for everyone who lives in the midst of conflict or war.

May they find some sign of peace that shines like this candle flame.

Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of peace, reign in our hearts and in all the world. Amen

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(Sunny will light the first & second advent candles)

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 85, Isaiah 9:6 & Song 'Come to be Our Hope)

Let us hear the words God will speak,

He will speak peace to his people

The Lord's salvation is at hand

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground

Righteousness will look down from the sky

The Lord will give what is good

Righteousness will go before him and make a path for his steps

Let it be so! Amen

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

And the government will be upon his shoulders,

And his name will be called Wonderful Counsellor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Come to be our peace, O Jesus

Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel (327) O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Traditional Choir - YouTube

Opening Prayer

God of peace,

You gave Isaiah a vision of peace

- Wolves sharing pasture with lambs, cows and bears grazing together
- Calves and lions, lions and oxes feasting together
- They young sharing wisdom and guiding

You gave the angels a message of peace

- Telling Mary not to be afraid
- Telling Joseph not to be afraid
- Telling shepherds in a field not to be afraid

You sent us Jesus, the one we call Prince of Peace

- He called the peacemakers blessed
- He greeted his disciples, saying 'Peace be with you'
- He sends us out into the world to be harbingers of peace.

May your Spirit remind us that peace is not the absence of conflict but the living out of love and forgiveness

May your Spirit help us rediscover your peace

May your Spirit give us the courage to work for peace.

Come to be our peace, O Jesus. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, December 2022)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

11 A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:1, 5

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.

Children's Talk: Symbols of Peace

Reflection: Rahab and Peace

Communion Song: Living Lord [\(327\) LIVING-LORD, LORD JESUS CHRIST - YouTube](#)

Communion

Invitation

As we come to this table,
We are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,
A banquet prepared for everyone.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith,
All who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

*Written by **Alydia Smith**, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality, General Council Office*

Prayer of Preparation

God of peace, Giver of all life, Source of love that knows no boundaries.
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where:

- those considered last and least are first and most;
- violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and,
- all work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world;
for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;
for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,
this wine the medium of our transformation,
this table the foundation of our renewal,
and this community the place of our rebirth.

God of peace,
Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.**
And so we pray:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

*(Prayer adapted one written by **Alydia Smith**, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality, General Council Office which in turn was inspired by "Blessed are you, gracious God..." by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in Celebrate God's Presence, page 276. Used with permission.)*

Words of Institution - Matthew 24:26-30 (NRSVA)

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' **27** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' **30** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Sharing Bread & Wine

The gifts of God for the people of God. The bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Lighting a candle and special prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world

Remembering:

- Those known to us struggling with their health
- Those travelling over the holiday period
- **The people of Iran**, many who have been killed or arrested after protesting in the streets and our Persian members who are very distressed by the situation
- **Those who find this time of year difficult** – who are anxious, lonely, grieving
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Families attending the **'Come & Try' Playgroup**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Myanmar, Ukraine**
- The peoples of **Fiji, Finland & France**
- Baptist Mission Australia – work and workers in South-East Asia, Mozambique and India
- Baptist World Aid – Pray for provision for families this Christmas in the 18 countries where Baptist World Aid serves, and for the equitable distribution of resources.

Silence – in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain:
(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
banish from our souls whatever might endanger peace.

Transform us into witnesses of truth, justice and love.

Enlighten the minds of rulers that they may care for their peoples and guarantee them the gift of peace.

Inflame our desires to break through the barriers that divide us, to strengthen the bonds of mutual love, to learn to understand one another, to pardon those who have done us wrong.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, through your power and inspiration, may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts as sisters and brothers.

And may the peace they long for ever flower and ever reign among them.

(Adapted from [Pacem in Terris](#) n 171 by Sandie Cornish)

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: Don't Be Afraid [\(305\) Don't be Afraid - YouTube](#)

Offering Prayer

Accept the offerings we bring before you now. Take them and us and use them to build peace in the world around us. Amen. (Prayer by Rev Cheryl Williams, 2012)

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

- **Christmas Party** – Dec 11th from 11.45am, BYO plate of Christmas food to share and whatever you prefer to drink (no alcohol please)
- **Reflective Prayer:** continues this Thursday, December 8th, at 5pm on zoom. See Cheryl or Ros for an invite.
- **BIBLE STUDY TODAY** – Join with us for a bible study group to meet after service twice per month. It will be in **Farsi and English. Theme: Freedom in Christ. All welcome** to join in. Next dates: Dec 4, 18
- **FARSI Bibles** – we need to buy some more Farsi bibles, if you would like to contribute you can donate via an envelope in the offering bowl, marked 'Farsi Bibles'
- **Volunteers needed to help**
 - a) To help decorate and set up the hall for our Christmas Lunch - join Ros & others for a quick meeting after the service today
 - b) To help serve fruit and do craft work at the Playgroup break-up on Dec 9 from 11am. A current working with children check is required for this. See Cheryl if you can help.
- **Westhaven Project Group** – Tuesday from 11.30am - 2.30pm In Green Room on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays in the month. Come when you can and leave when you must. Bring lunch and ideas. All materials provided. December – 6th, 20th

- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – canned chickpeas, red lentils, tuna in oil, oil, kidney beans. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.
- Copies of the service and sermon can be found on our **website**.

[Song: In A Byre Near Bethlehem \(The Word of Life\) \(327\) StF 324 In a byre near Bethlehem - YouTube](#)

Benediction

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ, of Christ
Of Christ, the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you

(Celtic Blessing)