



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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Advent 3 - Joy

Music: Joyful Joyful <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE>

### Welcome and 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!

### Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles: Sunny & Paul

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.

**(Paul)** Like Mary, we wait with joy  
Elizabeth's child leapt for joy  
Shepherds left their fields with 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 three purple  
candles)**

### Call to Worship

We come to worship Christ

**Who proclaims good news to the poor,**  
binds up the broken-hearted,  
**frees the prisoner**  
and comforts those who mourn.

We come to worship Christ

**Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes,**  
the oil of joy Instead of mourning,  
**and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.**

We come to worship Christ

**Who rebuilds ancient ruins,**

and restores broken places.

(Prayer based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 by Phil Whyte, Holy City Planning Group, and posted on the Church of Scotland's [Starters for Sunday](#) website.)

*Song: Joy to the World* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDmIddF7DfQ>

### Opening Prayer

God of laughter and joy

We give thanks:

**For the joy of new freedom now lockdown has eased**

For the joy of seeing a new flower open

**For the joy that comes with watching a child laugh at a new discovery**

For the joy of watching tomatoes grow

**For the joy of catching up with friends**

For the joy of meeting new people

**For the joy of two new babies in our congregation and watching their futures unfold**

For the joy of the new learnings we have found 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 2020)

### Bible Reading: Luke 1:26-39 (NRSV) - Iní

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> 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 will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> 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.

*Song: Mary's Boy Child* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEe7yXM9H1I>

### Passing the Peace

#### Bible Reading: Luke 1:46-56 (NRSV)

<sup>46</sup> And Mary<sup>l</sup> said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*Song: Mary did you Know* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>

*Children's Talk: Bethlehem Town*

*Reflection* – Mary, a woman of Joy



*Song: O Holy Night* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8LuKI7cSkU>

*Prayers for the Church & World*

Remembering:

- Those known to us who have struggled with their health
- Gabriel as he celebrates the birth of Noah
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- For those living in aged care, those caring for them, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19, those in hospital and families who have lost loved ones, those working on cures, vaccines, treatments. For places experiencing increases in Covid 19 cases
- Those affected by political unrest in especially Afghanistan, Ethiopia. Kachin State & Thailand
- Global Interaction – creativity as the team develop new resources to inspire, educate about mission as they seek to engage Australian churches
- Baptist World Aid – for vulnerable communities experiencing poverty this Christmas
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they build a new church building

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 continue to pray for your world,

Bring joy to the hungry in the form of food  
Bring joy to the homeless in the form of shelter  
Bring joy to the oppressed in the form of freedom  
Bring joy to the warring in the form of peace  
Bring joy to the guilty in the form of forgiveness  
Bring joy to the forgotten and rejected in the form of love  
Bring joy to the despairing in the form of hope  
Bring joy to the grieving in the form of solace  
Bring joy to the unwell in the form of healing  
Bring joy to those in anguish in the form of comfort  
Bring joy to the unemployed in the form of meaningful work  
Bring joy to those who are alone in the form of company  
May we all find joy as we play our part in bringing to earth your kingdom which is filled with hope and peace.  
We pray in the name of the child born of Mary. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Dec 2020, based on one by Janet Nelson in 'Let Us Pray'.)*

### 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.)*

- Offering can be made in a couple of ways – put it aside and when we can gather again you could place it in our offering bowl in the normal manner. Or you could take the opportunity to use our direct debit facility –

**Footscray Baptist Church**  
**BSB: 083 437**  
**Account No: 515383063**

### Community Time & Notices

- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12.15pm via zoom
- **FBC Christmas Picnic**  
Sunday December 20 after church, Yarraville Gardens, noon onwards. BYO food, drink, chairs etc
- **Bible Study Groups** – Final study for the year will be an Advent study. If you would like to join a group or start a group in 2021 please speak to Cheryl. Study questions are posted on our Website
- **Baptcare Sanctuary** - is very grateful for all the donations Footscray Baptist has made. Donations can be left at church when Nia or I are there or I can collect them from you, next delivery mid-December.

Song: Tell Out My Soul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3E7QWLyDWe8>

### Sending Out

Go out into this week with joy  
Be led forth with peace

May your lives be filled with celebration as you await the coming of the Christ Child.  
Amen.