



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 6th, 2020

Advent 2 - Peace

Music: Let There Be Peace on Earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuN8ibZdW3c>

Welcome and 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 Wreath Candles:

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.

(Paul) Like Isaiah and Joseph, we wait in and for peace
Wait for spears to be turned into ploughshares
Wait for the wolf to live with the lamb
Wait for the lion and ox to eat from the same stall
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. **(Sonny to light both candles)**

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)

Song - O Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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

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: Isaiah - various readings (NRSV)

Isaiah 2: 4

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 11:6-7

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.

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 Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and

they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Children's Talk: The Jesse Tree – Part 2

Reflection– Isaiah and Joseph (People of Peace)

Communion Song: Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwBGtFPd6TQ>

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 our virtual 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 after him, the one who will baptize with Holy Spirit.

We have heard from Jesus about signs and omens and the coming of the Son of Man, the Son of God for which we are warned to be ready.

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 Mark's gospel.

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

Words of Institution - Mark 14:22-26

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again

drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”
26 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who have struggled with their health –
- 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 – Candidates and supporters of those preparing to work overseas with Global Interaction
- Baptist World Aid – for communities and children who will benefit from our Christmas giving
- 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)

God of peace,

- We pray for peace in Afghanistan, Ethiopia. Hong Kong, Kachin State, the Middle East, Thailand and the many other places where there is unrest.
- Enable justice to prevail so peace can follow
- Comfort those who grieve losses from conflict
- Strengthen those who work for peace
- Enable those who bring food, shelter and health care to those who have none
- Encourage those who are voices for peace on the world's stage
- Grant leaders wisdom, as they work toward peace
- Show us how to live without division between races, creeds, genders
- Bring peace to our church, our community, our families, ourselves
- Help us imagine what it would be like for all in the world to be friends
- Give us courage to forgive
- Dismantle weapons and transform them to be used for the benefit of all
- Fill us with hope as we await the promised Prince of Peace.

May we all know in these weeks and throughout the year, your peace which surpasses all understanding.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who we know to be the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Song: Comfort, Comfort <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8DXPAYWr-c>

Offering

Generous God,

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

- 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 8th at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **FBC Christmas Picnic**
Sunday December 20 after church, venue to be confirmed. BYO food, drink, chairs etc. Planned to be at Yarraville Gardens. More details to follow.
- **Baptist World Aid**
Big Hearted Gifts are available to be bought via myself or directly through the BWA website <https://baptistworldaid.org.au>
- **Bible Study Groups** – Currently doing an Advent Study. If we would like to join a group or start a group speak to Cheryl. Study questions will be 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. They are also looking for \$ donations to hold some Christmas dinners for residents – see Cheryl if you can help.

Song: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_SOqy7glSw

Sending Out

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.