



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 29th, 2020

Advent 1 - Hope

Music: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLcTLCCpI5A>

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 first Sunday of Advent – the time when we prepare again for the coming of
Jesus. We will light a candle symbolising Hope.

Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, we wait in hope
Wait in hope for the birth of the Christ Child
Wait in hope for the one who will liberate all
Wait in hope for the world and ourselves to be transformed
Wait in hope for the light to dispel the darkness

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

Call to Worship

Deep within the universe
There is a leap of joy,
A quivering of hope,
And a trembling dream:
For the Christ is coming.

Even as the dark greets the coming dawn,
So the hearts of the people stir in wondering expectation:

For the Christ is Coming,
Let us worship our God.

(From 'Liturgies for High Days' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, p.14)

Opening Prayer

We thank you, O God,
That we may expect miracles of life beyond our dreaming.

**We thank you for the powerful witness
Which comes to us in Zechariah and Elizabeth**

And for the fact that their lives challenge our own.

**We thank you for the journey towards Christmas Day,
The journey of hope and wonder.**

Thanks be to you, O God

(Adapted from 'Liturgies for High Days' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, p.36)

Bible Reading: Luke 1:5-25 (NRSV)

⁵ 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. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ 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." ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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."

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² 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. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ "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

Shalom my friends
God's peace my friends
Go with you now
And stay with you

In all you do
Shalom, shalom.

Bible Reading: Luke 1: 39-45, 57-64(NRSV)

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

Children's Talk: The Jesse Tree

Reflection– Elizabeth and Zechariah (People of Hope)

Prayers for the Church & World (Cheryl)

Remembering:

- Those known to us who have struggled with their health
- 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 Armenia & Azerbaijan, Kachin State & Thailand, Ethiopia, Afghanistan
- Those affected by the aftermath of the typhoons in the Philippines
- Global Interaction – Zimbabwe & Zambia
- Baptist World Aid – the creativity that Covid has encouraged
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they prepare to build a church building on recently acquired land

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 pray with all those who wait in hope that:

- Wars will cease
- The hungry will be feed
- A vaccine and cure for Covid will be found
- Family violence will stop
- Pain will be alleviated
- The homeless will be housed
- Asylum seekers will find sanctuary
- The poor will be treated with dignity
- There will be reconciliation between all peoples
- Fears and anxieties will dissipate

We pin our hopes onto a fragile child who comes in the midst of pain and poverty and who is coming back again. May we all know that you are with us and that our hopes can be reborn. Amen.

(This stanza from 'Cloth for the Cradle' p.55)

Song: There is a Hope https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_yv5yGZnBc

Offering

God of all hopefulness,

With these our offerings we bring you our hopes and dreams. Take it all and use it to bring hope to those lives of those who have given and to those with whom we work in this community. 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 1st 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
- **Baptist World Aid**
Big Hearted Gifts are available to be bought via myself or directly through the BWA website <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/big-hearted-gifts/>
- **Bible Study Groups** – Currently a number of groups are continuing their study into mission in Matthew. 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: Christ Be Our Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caA4sIXkD44>

Sending Out

Walk in hope towards Christmas

Carrying with you in kindness all that needs the blessing of love.

And may God hold all creation in tenderness as it longs and waits,

Christ Jesus prepare for the birthing of love

And the Spirit sound in melodies of joyful hope in every place. Amen.

(From 'Liturgies for High Days' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, p.23)