

Order of Service - December 11th, 2022

[Song of Praise: Joy to the World \(337\) Joy to the World Christmas Carol with Lyrics Love to Sing - 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

Isaiah declares that when God comes among us

- The deaf shall hear
- The blind shall see
- The tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy.

We light these candles as a sign of our hope that God's love in Christ brings healing and
joy to us and to the whole world. Amen.

(Adapted from prayer by Brian Wren in 'Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship, p. 34)

(The first, second & third advent candles are lit)

Call to Worship

Elizabeth's child leapt for joy upon meeting the Saviour

Shepherds left their fields with joy to greet the Saviour

Wise People followed the star with joy until they met the Saviour.

Joy to the world – the Lord is coming

Let us receive your joy!

Let us celebrate with singing. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams)

[Song: Angels We Have Heard on High \(337\) Angels We Have Heard On High \(Christmas Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

God of promise, giver of hope, source of inspiration, bringer of joy, **bless us and sustain us.**

God of promise, healer of our hurts, forgiver of our wrongdoing, light of our darkness, **bless us and sustain us.**

God of promise, you help us to look forward to a world where peace and justice, joy and laughter make life worth living.

God of promise, you do not despise or forsake us, you do not forget the gifts you promised us, nor the hope you placed within us.

God of the promise, encourage us to live with your promises in our heart, so that every day becomes hope-filled

(from Spill the Beans – worship and learning resources for all ages, 2012/2013)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSVA)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, THE majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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.

Music Item: Kachin Church

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:1, 5-6

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, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.

Children's Talk: Symbols of Joy

[Song: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks \(337\) While Shepherds Watched their flocks by night | Christmas Carol | Emmaus Music - YouTube](#)

[Reflection: Ruth - a woman of joy](#)

[Song - Away in a Manger \(337\) Celtic Woman 'Away in a Manger' - YouTube](#)

[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
- **Places facing shortages of food** – especially in Somalia
- **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. Syria, China**
- The peoples of **Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana**
- Baptist Mission Australia – work and workers in Thailand
- Baptist World Aid – pray for families living in Australia to find creative, generous and non-consumeristic ways to celebrate Christ's birth.

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 displaced and 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 asylum seeker and refugee in the form of welcome

Bring joy to the lost in the form of direction

Bring joy to those separated from loved ones in the form of reconciliation

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 or fear 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 2022, based on one by Janet Nelson in 'Let Us Pray'.)

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

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.)

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** – TODAY, please join us in the hall to share food and fellowship
- **Christmas Day Service** – please note this will begin on **Sunday 25th December at 9.30am**
- **Reflective Prayer:** continues this Thursday, December 15th, at 5pm on zoom. See Cheryl or Ros for an invite.
- **BIBLE STUDY** – 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 18
- **FARSI Bibles** – we need to buy some more Farsi bibles, if you would like to contribute you can make a donation via an envelope in the offering bowl, or using the direct debit system, noting it is for 'Farsi Bibles'
- **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 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: Come and Join the Celebration \(337\) Come and Join the Celebration \(Valerie Collison\) \(StF 196\) - YouTube](#)

Benediction

Be people of joy.
Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.
Share joy by seeing the good in each other.
Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.
Share joy by praying for our world.
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

November 23, 2015 By liturgylink 5 Comments