



## **WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH**

**“May he so strengthen your hearts “**

1 Thessalonians 3, 13



**10 a.m. Worship  
1 December 2024**

**Leader:** Kate McLoughlin  
**Reader:** Sally Phillips  
**Music:** Joan Pratt

<https://woden-valley.uca.org.au/>

## Prelude

### The Gong sounds

#### Acknowledgement of Country

For this Land - We give thanks!  
For the First Peoples - We give thanks!  
We honour Ngunnawal and Ngambiri  
peoples: the custodians of sacred stories,  
of dreamings and the connections with  
the deep earth and oceans.  
May we work together for the restoration  
of the Land and Sea and Her Peoples.

#### Call to Worship

We have gathered in this sacred place,  
again.  
May we continue to create here a circle of  
love,  
ever expanding, ever growing.  
A place of wisdom.  
A place of connection.  
A place of hope.

#### Song

##### Come, O come Emmanuel

Tune TIS 265, words Susan Wickham, 2010

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and fill our  
lives, all dark and fear dispel  
as once an exiled land you found,  
redeemed, restored and set on holy  
ground.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our  
hearts will dwell.

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and  
clear  
and lift our spirits by your advent here.  
In all who gather, show us your face,  
that we may know the warmth of your  
embrace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our  
hearts will dwell.

O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart  
divine,  
help us restore a world we've let decline.  
Enlighten us; your way we would know  
and show us where new seeds of hope to  
sow.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our  
hearts will dwell.

O Advent God of hope, joy, love and  
peace,  
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.  
Bind us as one, a people of grace,  
for at your table each one has a place.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our  
hearts will dwell.

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### Welcome & Introduction

Happy New Year! The first Sunday in  
Advent is the beginning of the Church  
Year!

#### ADVENT 1: HOPE

Jesus the Christ we seek you through our  
Advent journey. Fill the darkness of our  
world with your light and feel the  
emptiness of our hearts with your love.  
Make your home among us and make us a  
people of courage and hope.

All: ***Jesus the Christ we wait for you.  
Jesus Christ we welcome you.***

#### Song

(remain seated)

##### Christ be our Light,

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,*

*Light for the world to see.*

*Christ be our light!  
Shine in our hearts,  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church  
Gathered today.*

We light a candle for Hope,  
**for the mystery of Grace that will fulfill  
God's promises.**

(The first candle is lit.)

## Passing the Peace

Advent is here;  
In the revolving seasons of the church  
calendar, today a new year dawns.  
Let us begin this new year by greeting one  
another in the name of the coming Christ.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with  
you all.

**And also with you.**

(Bruce Prewer  
[bruceprewer.com/DocC/C01advt1.htm](http://bruceprewer.com/DocC/C01advt1.htm))

## Offering

Our offerings for the celebration of life in  
this place and beyond, will now be  
received.

**May all our gifts, talents, offerings and  
work towards a better environment,  
build hope and strengthen hearts in our  
neighbourhood and our world.**

**Amen**

## Readings

**Jeremiah 33: 12-16**

**Psalms 25, 1-10**

**Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13**

## Hope

To hope is to dream.  
Of what might or will be.  
Of the possible and the mere possible —  
hope against hope.  
To hope is to strive for the best.  
To build on glimmers of new beginnings.  
To hope is to never give up.  
To remain expectant, against hopes  
dashed, disappointments, falsities.  
To hope is to believe there is a way.

'Eternity' display in the National Museum of  
Australia ([http://www.nma.gov.au/  
exhibitions/eternity/hope](http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/eternity/hope))

## Reflection

Music for reflection

## Song

**Come Follow Me** Tune: Waly Waly

The grace of God is like a road  
that draws the heart from its first home;  
we long to go, but hate to leave,  
and the Spirit calls, "Come follow me."

The voice of God is like the wind:  
it comes and goes and comes again.  
We read the signs in the bending trees,  
and the Spirit calls, "Come follow me."

The strength of God is like a stone;  
it firms the will of soul and bone;  
still soul and bone grow worn and weak,  
and the Spirit calls, "Come follow me."

The hope of God is like the sun;  
it shines until the day is done.  
And in the night stars rise in the East,  
and the Spirit calls, "Come follow me."

The love of God is like a stream;  
it fills and feeds our deepest reams; it  
finds a thirst and leaves a spring,

and the Spirit calls, "Come follow me."

The peace of God is like a friend  
that sees us through the journey's end.  
The road is long and the talk is sweet,  
and the Spirit calls, "Come follow me."

From Songs for the Cycle, by Michael Hudson

( Light the Care Candle)

## Prayers of the People

Response:

***Let us walk the path of Advent in hope  
and love***

## Abba Prayer

***All Loving God, within and around us, we  
revere you.***

***We seek to live life as you would want us  
to do:***

***with love and respect for all people  
and all things in the universe.***

***May we find each day sufficient for our  
needs.***

***And find forgiveness when we do wrong,  
just as we forgive those who do wrong to  
us.***

***In times of trouble, may we centre our  
lives in you.***

***For your being is love, which comes  
with strength and with beauty.  
Throughout eternity. Amen.***

(Margaret Rolfe  
)

## Sending Out into the World

There is a world out there that is  
oversupplied with theories and  
technology, but drastically undersupplied  
with hope.

You however, like Christ, are tomorrow's  
people, those who know the future is  
pregnant with promise and hope.

## ***Strengthen our hearts with hope and love***

Go and live out your hope graciously and  
courageously.

## ***May we abound in hope and love***

The grace of Christ Jesus who is the same  
today, yesterday and forever,  
will lead you to the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

**Strengthen our hearts with hope and love.  
Amen!**

## Song:

## Sing Out Earth and Skies TIS 181

## Blessing

Go in peace into all that this day brings.  
**We go in faith and hope.**

And may the face of God be turned  
towards you,  
The hand of Christ be stretched out to  
hold you  
And the Spirit be found as wisdom  
within you.  
**Amen.**

## Postlude (extinguish the candle)

## **This week at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

Notices, Birthdays, Special events.

**Fellowship: please join us for a cup  
of tea or coffee after the service**