



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

Advent 2

10 a.m. Worship 7 Dec 25

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.



Title: "Quiet Skies, as the sun rises" and "Quiet Skies, as the sun sets" **Artist:** Annette Blair

We Gather as People of God

The gong sounds. We hold silence. The reverberations of the gong call us to gather and be present.

Prelude

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of this continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history. I pay respect to the elders of the community past, present and emerging and continue to work for reconciliation and justice for all.

Call to worship

Dear friends in Christ,
in the name of Jesus, we pause today to join together
for peace and justice in our communities and the world.

**We gather with troubled hearts,
sorrowed by the sins of racism, hatred, violence, and indifference,
and we grieve for those who have been victims of injustice, conflict and war.**

We gather also with thanksgiving
for the gift of the goodness of those gathered here,
dedicated to restoring wholeness to our communities.

**Although we find ourselves in a broken world,
we gather as brothers and sisters united in hope,
knowing your desire for justice and peace for all.**

Hymn TiS 690 Beauty for brokenness Graham Kendrick

Welcome & Introduction

Advent liturgy

Week 2 – Peace (Leaves)

Leader: We continue our Advent journey in peace.

All: We journey in peace

Leader: Bringing leaves of peace

All: Lighting a flame for peace (We light the second advent candle)

Leader: Leaves waving their gentle greeting in the summer breeze
 The heat warming their oils and releasing the refreshing aroma
 the air beckons us to breath deeply
 And take the Spirit of Peace in and exhale grace

All: Bearing a gift of peace

Leader: While we wait for the fulfilment of peace
 The leaves offer us shade and shelter
 Soothing and sustaining
 Or we brew a few leaves
 and make a refreshing tea to offer in friendship
 and peacemaking

All: Peace reaching out again

Leader: This is the way the kingdom of God comes.
 So we bring ourselves like gentle healing leaves
 Leaves of peace for our neighbours and nations

All: Praying for Peace in God

Advent Song verse 2

 We bring leaves of Peace
 Peace that binds and weaves
 Leaves of healing for the wounded
 We bring peaceful leaves



And now time for Passing the Peace

I invite you this morning to use the Arabic greeting Salam Alaikum.

Salam alaikum means “peace be upon you.”“ Salam Alaikum” is an Arabic greeting that literally translates into “peace be upon you.” It can be used by both Muslims and non-Muslims in the Arabic-speaking world and is, in fact, used by many Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews. One of the main pillars of Islam is the spread of peace and “salam” is Arabic for “peace,” which is why Muslims are encouraged to use this as a greeting among one another.[\[1\]](#)

Salam Alaikum

Hymn TiS 674 Inspired by love and anger John Bell and Graham Maule

We Reflect on the Word for our time

Readings from the Bible and the World Around Us

Isaiah 11:1-10 NIV The Branch From Jesse

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,

the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him,
and his resting place will be glorious.

Poems, readings and reflections

Away and in danger (Tune : Away in a Manger)

Words by Shirley Erena Murray, from Aotearoa New Zealand

Away and in danger, no hope of a bed,
the refugee children, no tears left to shed
look up at the night sky for someone to know
that refugee children have no place to go.

The babies are crying, their hunger awakes,
the boat is too loaded, it shudders and breaks;
humanity's wreckage is thrown out to die,
the refugee children will never know why.

Come close, little children, we hold out our hand
in rescue and welcome to shores of our land -
in *aroha, touching your fear and your pain,
with dreams for your future when peace comes again.

*aroha is Maori for 'warm embracing love'

More readings.....

We Respond to the Word

Offering

O God, you bless and enrich our lives in so many ways - especially in Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. We pray that this offering and our lives will reveal our commitment to enrich the lives of others wherever we go and whatever we do. Its also our 1st Sunday of the month and we bring our offerings for The Little Pantry and hope the contributions ease the load of families especially at this time. Amen

Prayers of the People - The care candle is lit

I invite you to come and place a leaf in the water as your prayer for peace in our hearts, communities and the world - aloud or in silence as you wish

Abba Prayer - together

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. — Parker J. Palmer**

We Go out into the World

Words of Mission

Hymn TiS 607 Make me a channel of your peace

Blessing

Go now in Peace and may God's love surround you everywhere you go.

The Community Candle is extinguished

Postlude: *Give peace a chance John Lennon and Yoko Ono*

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events (eg: decade birthdays)

Fellowship

Morning tea is now served.

You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.

CCLI licence#546647; Rev Charissa Suli Uniting Church President;

[https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/45682/Three-Poems-for-Gaza-aaaBy : Anthony Alessandrini](https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/45682/Three-Poems-for-Gaza-aaaBy%20Anthony%20Alessandrini); Call to worship <https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Prayer-Service-for-Peace-and-Justice-2020.pdf>

Photo: Annette Blair, an acclaimed glass artist based in Canberra, was commissioned to create *Quiet Skies, as the sun rises* and *Quiet Skies, as the sun sets*, two glass sculptural installations suspended above the Memorial's new spiral stairwells. Each artwork is composed of approximately 900 handcrafted glass eucalypt leaves, evoking the Australian landscape and the enduring memory of those who have served.

It is a universal symbol of hope and renewal, endings and beginnings, and remembering the sacrifices made for a new day. Using this as a starting point, I incorporated elements from my previous works by utilising the falling leaf form. The leaves reference passing time, the changing of seasons, renewal, remembrance, and growth."

– Annette Blair, artist