

Welcome to Worship at; Balmain Uniting Church

December 5th 2021

Advent 2 - Peace



liturgy: Words for Worship, Uniting
in Worship II and Rev. James Aaron

CCLI #339483

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This week's Reading:

Acknowledgment of Country

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation, traditional custodians of this land with God. We commit ourselves to working for reconciliation and justice for all people and all creation.

Let us collect in silence.

— ***A Silent Collect*** —

Advent

Call to Worship

We come today for peace.
God of all peace,
As we come limping toward this Christmas.
Call our hearts and souls into your peace.
Breath fresh peace into our lungs,
Put new peace on our lips,
And build peace from our words and actions.
Be with us, in our worship this day.

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

And we confess...

God we pray confession.
Give us the courage,
To stop for a moment and seek the moments where we have fallen short,
Not of the trivial, or benign, but those moments when others were looking for
peace, when we could have spoken peace, where we could have been peaceful.

God hold these prayers.
Hold our moments, and our days,
As we watch and wait for you.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

The kingdom of God is near, it is among us, around us, within us,
Emmanuel, God has already said,

Our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.
AMen.

God,
For what do we give thanks for today?

Blessed are you Lord, God of it all,
For you have called us to actions of peace.

For the moments where we think that peace was frail,
For the times we have had great peace fall upon us,
And even for the times we have longed for peace,
We thank you that you have been there in and with us.
You are indeed Emmanuel, God with us,
And we give you thanks.
Amen.

Hymn / Song: Tell a Story of Hope

The Liturgy of the Word

All Age Conversation ADVENT

Reading

Malachi 3:1-4
New Revised Standard Version
The Coming Messenger

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight —indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.^[a] **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6
New Revised Standard Version
The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler^[a] of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler^[b] of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler^[c] of Abilene, **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4** as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

6

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

In this we hear the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Grace, Peace and Mercy are yours from the triune God,
Creator Christ and Spirit forever.
Amen.

God may your word live in us, and bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn/ Song:

Prayers of the People.

God of the trinity, lover of the world,
We commit our prayers for others, your world and ourselves today.

....

In your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

...

Open our eyes,
heal broken hearts and spirits,
teach us how to feed the hungry and provide shelter to those in need,
how to speak words of peace, and offer hope.

in all that we do and all that we say.

Amen.

Announcements and Offering

Prayers over the offering

God of peace

We bring ourselves and our resources
Seeking not to be afraid to live as people
Of your good, abundant and generous kingdom.
May what we bring be used for peace.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

The Sending forth of the people of God

Commissioning and Blessing

We are God's children,
Forgiven, loved and blessed,
Sent that we might be bearers of hope in the world.

**May the love of God enfold you,
The presence of Christ surprise you,
And the breath of the Spirit give you joy.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Amen