



Virtual Service Sunday 19 December 2021

Fourth in Advent - PEACE

Introduction

(Larry Robbins)

“Welcome to our virtual service this Sunday, the fourth in Advent. We hope you will be able to join us in person on Christmas Day at 9.30am, but if you are not able to do so, may I take the opportunity, on behalf of the leadership and members of the church, to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

We can only hope and pray that 2022 will be somewhat more settled than the present year has been, but whatever the new year brings, I pray that you will experience the **peace** of God in all things.

If the weather permits, we plan to have a group singing carols outside New World Supermarket on Wednesday 22nd at 4pm. This is an outdoor event, and if you are unable to join us in person for our Sunday Services while the ‘Traffic Lights’ are at red or orange, perhaps you might like to join us as a singer or in the audience.”

Call to Worship - *Psalm 29*

(Brian Lima)

¹ *Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*

² *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.*

¹⁰ *The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as King forever.*

¹¹ *The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with **peace**.*

Jesus said, “**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

“Let us encourage one another to enter into his **peace** today.”

Carol: Silent Night**(Brian Lima)**

“This carol describes Jesus sleeping in heavenly peace. Let us worship the peace he gives us from heaven.”

Silent Night**Carol: O Holy Night****(Brian Lima)**

“This carol ends with the words ‘Christ is the Lord, O praise his name forever.’ Lift up your voice with these words on your heart.”

O Holy Night**Prayer****(Rosemary Cavander)**

Lord our heavenly Father we come to you this morning with thankful hearts – thank you that we can meet again and worship You together. Thank you that where ever we are, we can direct our thoughts towards You, no matter where we are, even for those who may be bedridden and weak. Thank You that you are our heavenly Father and we are your children. You are always available to hear our prayers, sometimes a cry for help, sometimes just happy to be in the presence of such a loving Father God. Forgive us when we have been fearful, trying to make decisions for ourselves that may not have been for our good, but You are such a gracious and forgiving God and Father who waits patiently for us to realise that we can't overcome those fears alone, or make the right decisions. We have looked around us to seek help and find answers, but You O God wait patiently for us to look upwards and allow Your Holy Spirit to overwhelm us with Your presence and peace. We pray now that we can turn away from the busyness of the world, with all its short-lived festivities, and allow us to give thanks for the Christmas season.

We give thanks that You have guided our Leadership Team, small in numbers, but huge in willingness to guide us so positively through these past four months of lockdown. We have been contacted by so many of our church friends, prayed for those who are unwell, or had medical procedures, or given encouragement to those still awaiting surgery. We give thanks O Lord that you have guided our Pastor to bring in many of the fellowship to take part in the virtual services, enabling us to know more about each other through their choice of songs/hymns, prayers and personal testimonies, and the preaching by Pastor Brian on sermons from John's gospel, and now Advent.

But, our heavenly Father we are aware that there are those in our midst who have been separated from loved ones for a very long time, and for some, the borders are still closed. We thank you for the internet that can maintain some contact, but there is still a disappointment and sadness, especially for those who cannot see their family at Christmas in person this year. Please comfort those with an extra measure of Your love, we pray. This prayer we extend especially to those who have lost a loved one this past year, and are feeling an extra loneliness.

Lord our heavenly Father with only a week away to Christmas morning, we pray that we will all make the time to ponder the real reason for Christmas. You, Father God, looked down on mankind and saw that they needed a Saviour and You allowed Your only Son, Lord Jesus to leave His home in heaven and become one

of us, to show us the only way to be redeemed, bought back, to You O God. Lord our Father, our best Christmas present from You, is not wrapped up and placed under the tree. It is the One, Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift” (1 Cor 9:15). You gave Jesus who will be called “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and our Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 6:9).

Prayer for offerings – Lord the Giver of all things, You have given us so much compared with the majority of others in the world – we know there is so much poverty, homelessness, not enough food or clothing or shelter, and many Christians being persecuted for their faith. Please accept the offerings we have given towards the ministry here and to other parts of the world where there is such desperate need, and may it be distributed wisely. Thank You our Father, for hearing our prayers to You today, through Your precious Son Lord Jesus Amen

Advent - Peace

(Serene Hu)

Peace is defined as a state of calm, freedom from strife or discord, harmony in personal relationship. Our Heavenly Father is the God of Peace (Hebrews 13:20), Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9). The night when Jesus was born, the angels proclaimed: Glory to God in the highest and on earth Peace to men on whom his favour rests. HE promises Peace to all who seek Him. Peace I leave with you, my Peace I give you (John 14:27). The Lord blesses his people with Peace.

God himself, the God of Peace, sanctifies us through and through (1 Thessalonians 5:23). This Peace of God transcends all understanding (Philippians 4:6). Peace is the fruit of righteousness which is in Christ Jesus. Peace gives life to the body (Proverbs 14:30). Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to Peace. May we truly experience this gift of Peace especially as we remember the birth of Our Lord and Saviour.

Amen!

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

(Brian Lima)

“The next carol speaks about how Jesus, even as a child, was our Lord who was to lead us to our inheritance with God in heaven.”

[Once in Royal David's City](#)

Carol: While Shepherds Watched

(Brian Lima)

“Continue to lift up your voice and hearts to Jesus.”

[While Shepherds Watched](#)

[Listen to the Reading](#)

¹²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Sermon – Peaceful Presence

(Brian Lima)

[Watch the Sermon](#)

[Read the Sermon](#)

Carol: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

(Brian Lima)

“This last carol starts with the words, ‘Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.’ May this truth give us peace as we trust in his word.”

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

Benediction

(Brian Lima)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and **peace** as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13