

St Edward's Anglican Church

4th Sunday of Advent - 24 December 2017

Welcome to our service this morning.

Lighting of Advent wreath (Standing)

Alan

1st Candle - Watch: the King comes

2nd Candle - Prepare: turning back to God (John the Baptist)

3rd Candle - Rejoice: joy at his coming – the witness of John the Baptist

4th Candle - Hope: in God's promise (to Mary)

**Lord, as we light this Advent wreath,
may your blessing be upon us,
and help us to prepare our lives
for the coming of your Son,
who brings us out of darkness
into his own glorious light.**

Verse of the day

Alan

“This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

(Lk 1:32-33)

Hymn 275 “Hail to the Lord's anointed” (vss 1-4)

**Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Confession

Alan

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in
darkness and disclosing the purposes of the heart.
Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, give us grace
that we may cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came among us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he comes again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Absolution

Rob

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him
in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture readings

2 Samuel 7:1-16 (p. 310)

Chris

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-29 (APBA, 315)

Alan

Luke 2:26-38 (All stand) (p. 1024)

Dawn

Hymn 265 "O come, O come Immanuel" (vss 1-4)

Sermon

Rob

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The Apostles Creed

Alan

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture reading: Luke 1:46-56 **Alan**
Hymn 288 "Not the powerful "

Intercessions **Ray**

Preparation for communion
Scripture readings: Galatians 4:4, 1 John 4:9 **Rob**

Let us pray

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell
in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: MP 697 “Thou didst leave thy throne” (vss 1,2 & 4)
(Offertery hymn)

1 Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
when Thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
for Thy holy nativity.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for Thee.

2 Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
proclaiming Thy royal degree;
but of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
and in great humility.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for Thee.

4 Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
that should set Thy people free;
but with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,
they bore Thee to Calvary.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for Thee.

Holy Communion

Rob

Thanksgiving Prayer (p. 128), Advent Proper Pref (p. 147).

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours
always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence stand before him
who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of
me.'

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
For we all share in the one bread.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world
Happy are those who are called to his supper:
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Prayer after communion

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us
with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

Hymn 304 "O come all ye faithful" (verses 1-3, 5-6)

Benediction

Rob

Sending out of God's people

Alan

Thank you for joining in our time of celebration today. We look forward to seeing you at our regular services which are at 9:30 am during January.

Notices

Alan Gibbs would like to thank all those who have made generous donations and gifts to the Angel Tree Appeal. This year \$500 was raised in donations. The toys and cash were greatly appreciated by Prison Fellowship.

Our Christmas Service times

Tonight at 11 pm and tomorrow morning at 9:30 am.

Please note: throughout January the Thursday morning 10 am service be in recess.

Our website: stedwards.org.au will have the latest news and events on it.