

ORDER OF SERVICE  
25 December 2021  
Christmas Day

GATHER			
Call to Worship (inc Psalm)			Rev Allan Smith
Hymn/Song	O Come All Ye Faithful (vv 1,2,3,5,6,7)	TIS 304	
Advent Candle Lighting & Prayer			
Welcome			Rev Allan Smith
Children			Rev Allan Smith
Hymn/Song	Good Christians all, rejoice	TIS 313	
RESPOND			
Prayer of Adoration			Rev Allan Smith
Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness			Rev Allan Smith
Passing the Peace			
Children's Talk			Selena
Hymn/Song	Child in the manger	TIS 319	
Old Testament	Isaiah 9:2-7		Pam Elliot
Epistle	Titus 2:11-14		Pam Elliot
Hymn/Song	What child is this	CCLI 30983	
Gospel	Luke 2:1-20		Pam Elliot
Hymn/Song	Love came down at Christmas	TIS 317	
Message	<i>A way in a manger</i>		Rev Allan Smith
Video	<a href="#">Francesca Battistelli - Messiah</a>		
BLESS			
Christmas Prayer			
Mission/Benediction			Rev Allan Smith
Benediction/Going Out Song	Joy to the World (reprise)		

Preaching	Rev Allan Smith
Worship Introduction	Rev Allan Smith
Notices of the Church & Prayers of the People	Rev Allan Smith
Music selector	Allan Smith
Piano	Nicky Rippingale
Backup Singers	Ros Bambrick, Joy Duffield
Other Musicians	Emily Field, Mary Bambrick
Sound System	Nathan Rippingale
Data Operator	Liam Rippingale
Power Point Producer	Nathan Rippingale
Bible Readings	Pam Elliott
Offering Collectors	Heather Warren, Ian Rippingale, Helpers Please
Communion Bread	NA

**Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Augustus and Quirinius—  
ancient names that seem odd to today's ears...

**characters in an ancient story  
that we long to hear.**

Nazareth and Bethlehem—  
distant towns we know little about...

**places our hearts long for,  
because of the One who travelled there.**

We gather together to hear once more,  
a story so ancient and yet so current,  
so distant and yet so near.

**We come to hear the story  
of God coming to us.**

Let us worship God.

SONG     [O Come All Ye Faithful](#)

CANDLE LIGHTING – CHRISTMAS DAY (see below)

SONG     [Good Christians all, rejoice](#)

SONG     [Child in the manger](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Angels sang their anthems at the midnight hour to awaken a sleeping creation;  
shepherds came to worship you, and went away rejoicing;  
wise one gave their hearts to you, so they could dwell in yours.

**O Immanuel, we adore you!**

You came to us as a baby, to hold us in your grace;  
you came to us in a stable, so we would have no trouble finding you;  
you came to us in poverty, to enrich our lives.

**O Beautiful Messenger of Peace, we adore you!**

You play with us in the streets of the kingdom;  
you build your home deep within our souls;  
you walk with us in the winter of life.

**O Wisdom from on high, we adore you!**

God in Community, Holy in One,  
We lift our songs of joy to you.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that Jesus is Lord. We confess that your love has come into the world, incarnate in the person of Jesus the Christ, and that you have been revealed to us through his love, grace, and truth. We confess that through Christ we have the promise of eternal life, the hope of salvation, and the forgiveness of our sins.

We confess that through Christ we are challenged to love our neighbours as if they were ourselves, we are encouraged to seek reconciliation and wholeness, and we are empowered to work for Your justice. We confess that you are the One in whom we live and move and have our being. We confess that you are the Love that saves the world. In the name of Emmanuel, God With Us, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

What has come into being through Christ is life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. The light now lives in each of us. Go, share the Light of the World, for the Light of the World is Christ the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## BIBLE READINGS

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

[Titus 2:11-14](#)

SONG [What child is this](#)

## BIBLE READING

[Luke 2:1-20](#)

SONG [Love came down at Christmas](#)

SERMON [A way in a manger](#)

VIDEO [Francesca Battistelli - Messiah](#)

## OFFERING AND PRAYER

Loving God, receive and bless these gifts, which we give in response to the greatest gift of all - your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. May our lives and these offerings be used to reveal your love in as many ways and to as many people as possible. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Great God of light, you have awakened us from our sinfulness and offered yourself in our place. Though we continue to sin, you keep us ever in your grace. As we receive your Son, the Prince of Peace, answer our prayers for forgiveness and establish us in your righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Isaiah 9:2-7)

Great God of heaven and earth, you created the world out of nothing. You strengthen your people and surround us in beauty. Accept our offerings of time, talent and treasure and use us in your service until all the world rejoices in you.

Come into our lives and make us worthy to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Psalm 96)

Great God of grace, bringer of salvation, inspire us to live in such a way that we are examples of your own goodness. Lead us into kind deeds and thoughtful acts so that our lives might praise you in thanks for your gift of redemption. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Titus 2:11-14)

Great God of rich and poor, you sent your Son into this world to be the Lord of all. He is the child of Bethlehem who promises wholeness and healing to all creation. Lord, we need your healing touch in our lives and in the lives of those we love. We lift in prayer those who are lost and lonely, those who are struggling or carrying heavy burdens.

As the shepherds were led to the stable, lead us all to find our strength in you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. (Luke 2:1-20)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father...

SONG     [Joy to the world](#)

#### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*(A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson)*

#### WORD OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Go now, glorifying and praising God  
for all you have heard and seen.  
Renounce ungodly living and unworthy desires,  
and take control of your life with godliness and honour.

And may the God of grace increase your joy.  
May Christ Jesus be born as Saviour within you.  
And may the Spirit, the Wonderful Counsellor,  
make the good news known to you and through you.  
Amen.

## CHRISTMAS DAY CANDLE LIGHTING

*The four Advent candles are lit before the service begins.*

Speaker 1: The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

Speaker 2: "O sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Tell of his salvation from day to day.  
"Declare his glory among the nations,  
His marvellous works among all the peoples" (Psalm 96:1-3).

Speaker 1: "Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
Bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
Tremble before him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:7-9).

Speaker 2: "Say among the nations, 'The Lord is King!'  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
And the peoples with his truth" (Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b).

Minister Holy God,  
in days of old  
you sent your angels  
to tell shepherds the good news:  
"To you is born this day a Saviour,  
the Messiah, the Lord."  
Help us hear with the shepherds this good news,  
that we too may glorify and praise you  
for all that we have seen and heard. Amen.