



Third Sunday of Advent

12 December, 2021

We welcome you to St. Oswald's Church and to this service, especially if you are new or a visitor among us. Please make yourself known to the welcomers, so that they may introduce you to other members of the congregation. Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the service.

We acknowledge the sovereign country of the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin nation on which we gather.

**Outline of Today's Service from
A Prayer Book for Australia
[Eucharist Setting Together in Song 757
and Hymns 10 am Service only]**

Advent Liturgy Page 2

Opening Hymn **TiS 224 (i)**

Holy Communion Page 119

The Collect

Readings Zephaniah 3: 14—20
 Song of Isaiah
 Philippians 4: 4—7
 Luke 3: 7—18



After the Sermon P. 124

Offertory Hymn **TiS 216 v, 1, 2, 3**

After the Collection **P. 127**

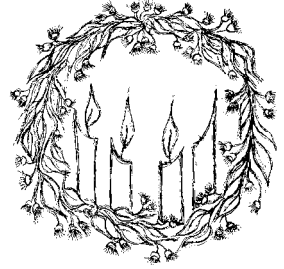
Prayer after Communion **P. 143**

Final Hymn **TiS 106**

Today's Ministries		
8 am	Reader	B. Loh
	Counting	
10 am	Reader	J. Barrat
	Cantor	J. Barrat
	Intercessor	N. Hill
	Welcome /	H. Rehn
	Offertory	P. Dalrymple
	Counting	
	Morning Tea	J. & P. Williams
	Covid	P. Johnson
	Cleaning	J. Johnson

Advent Liturgy — Advent 3—John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'



Amen, Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The third candle is lit

Jesus is the light of the world
A light no darkness can ever put out.

All Sing

1. **Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow,
tears and sadness,
changed for gladness
on that Day.**
2. **Prophet voices loudly crying,
Making pathways clear;
Glimpsing glory, self-denying,
Calling all to hear.
Through their message— challenged,
Shaken
Hearts awoken:
God is near.**
3. **John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
Brought to those who heard his teaching
News of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
And be ready
For the Lord.**

Intercessions

For the church:

The Anglican Church of Canada; The Diocese of Ballarat; Defence Force Chaplains; St Mary's Sunbury; St Luke's Sydenham; Church of the Ascension Springvale.

For those who face challenges in daily living:

Lesley Whitehead, Gaye Loughrey.

Departed

Rev. Eric Christiansen, Daniel Kellar, Ina Norton, Bunty Loughrey, Gordon Carr.

From the Vicar

Today's Gospel is full of natural symbols connected to ground, earth, and the proper care of the soil - fruits, stones, axe, roots, trees, fire, winnowing fork, threshing floor, wheat granary, chaff. It is an earthy Gospel reading. Yet we often focus only on one interpretation - that of fear of retribution for failure, sin, and selfishness.

The Zephaniah reading follows several passages which reinforce the symbolism in the Gospel but ends with an image of wellness and all being put right. God does what is necessary to restore balance and harmony, not just for people but for the earth. Our New Testament reading reminds us to rejoice for the God who brings harmony and balance, not happiness and power/wealth, is always present with us.

Aboriginal people connect the health of country and those who live on it directly as one. If one is unhealthy and out of balance, the other will be too. There seems to be a direct causal relationship in our thinking. Bad behaviour on country will be reflected in an imbalance in that country itself.

Our readings are not just calling us to live in a right relationship with all so as we will be saved, but so as all, including the earth, will be saved.

It is a timely message in this time of pandemic and climate change.

Glenn



Diary for the week

St Oswald's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stoswaldchurchgleniris>

go to Videos on left side of screen

You Tube—St. Oswald's Glen Iris

Tuesday 13 December

10 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 14 December

10 am Holy Communion

Thursday 15 December

10 am Morning Prayer

7. 30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday 19 December —Live streamed

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 am Holy Communion

10 am Family Eucharist

Readings 19 December

Micah 5: 2—5a

Psalms 80: 1—7

Hebrews 10: 5—10

Luke 1: 39—45

Parish Contacts

Church Office 9885 0149
Open Monday-Wednesday 9am-1pm

Vicar

Rev. Glenn Loughrey
Mobile 0418 911 714

Churchwardens

Tim Andrews 9885 4659

Dick Adams 9885 1054

Organist

Daniel Brace 0412 806 034

Treasurer

Helen Rehn 9885 7477

Vestry Secretary

Tom Fetherston 0411 730 752

Carol Harrison)

Hall Hire) **0419 535 085**

Pew Sheet Notices)

Email carolh@bigpond.net.au

St. Oswald's Website

<http://www.stoswaldsgleniris.net.au>

Third Sunday of Advent



Finding Joy in times of COVID-19

Many families who have been living in crowded refugee camps in India for decades want to return home to Sri Lanka. Sadly, the COVID-19 crisis has meant that many are unable to travel. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner keep refugees safe by providing medicine and protective clothing and equipment. Once the emergency is over, they will continue helping families experience the joy of returning to their homeland in Sri Lanka. **Please give today.**



CALL: 1800 025 101

VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl



The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Covid-19 Regulations

- For the vaccinated there is no longer any limit on the number of people attending church services.
- Attendees must provide proof of vaccination, preferably by linking their digital certificate to their Service Victoria check in app.
- It is not necessary to book if you wish to attend Church.
- The 10:00am service will be live streamed if you wish to follow the service from home.
- All must check into St Oswald's using the QR Code poster. A Covid Marshal will assist you if you do not have a smart phone. In this case you must show a paper copy of your vaccination certificate and give your first name, surname and phone number and photo ID (eg drivers licence).
- Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in the Church. You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask if the church is full, if people are less than 1.5m apart and if people are indoors for 2 hours or more. You are welcome to wear a mask at church if you feel more comfortable. Mask wearing is mandatory for those not disclosing vaccination status.
- People serving refreshments or food before or after services, including fully vaccinated services, must wear masks. Self-service food is not allowed.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times (keep 1.5 meters from other parishioners).



John the Baptist used harsh words of criticism and warning and it seemed to have caught the attention of those he was addressing. "Even tax collectors came to be baptised and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'" They knew that their corruption had been exposed and they were now at a point of decision making, to keep being corrupt or 'repent', i.e., change direction. I wonder what there is in our lives that needs to change direction?

- Give thanks for the unconditional love and forgiveness of God who does not hold our past sins against us.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

*Text: The Reverend Canon Matthew Jones: Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans
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St. Oswald's Church – Caring Food

You will be aware that many people in our community are doing it very tough due to COVID, with lockdowns and job losses. We have been wondering how we can help. We have come up with a plan to provide some food relief to those people who need it in our local area, and for this I am asking for you to get involved if you can.

The plan is to provide a shopping bag containing basic food items to be collected from the church on a certain day, probably Wednesday morning.

Our task as a church community is to provide these bags, which should contain the items listed below, and can be left at the church foyer when the church is open, or I can pick them up from your home. You could perhaps make up 1, 2 or 3 bags each time, but if you feel unable to put a complete bag together, we are happy to accept monetary donations. Once we begin, this will be an ongoing project and we hope you will continue to provide these donations regularly – but any contribution will be appreciated. We are trying to achieve a system where the food does not need to be handled and sorted, hence the need for the supply of full bags. This collection will replace our annual collection for Anglicare for the time being.

People who would like this food support will make direct contact with Glenn, or via Samarinda or Ashburton Support Services. The food bags, one per person, will be available for collection from the church each Wednesday morning between 11.00 am and 12.30, or will be delivered by me or Peter. The scheme will be limited and not be open to the general community or widely publicized – and we will see how it goes, and make changes as we need to.

The food needs to be placed in a green shopping bag and should include the following items (approximate value \$25.00):

- Soup (tinned or packets of cup of soup)
- Rice/2 Minute Noodles
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Baked beans/tinned spaghetti
- Tea Bags (small)

- Coffee (small instant)
- Long Life Milk
- Dry biscuits
- Sweet Biscuits
- Block of Chocolate (or any other treat)

For any more details or information about the scheme, please contact me (0417 315 542) or Peter Johnson (0417 548 896) or email judysjohnson@icloud.com.

Thank you for your support of this new initiative, which we hope will be helpful in our community.

Best wishes

Judy Johnson

Music today—From the Organist

Daniel is unable to write this week so instead is sharing with us his delight in his new baby harpsichord—see below.



TODAY'S READINGS & PRAYER

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3.16–17*

Prayer of the Day

**God of flood and fire,
calling us to turn
from dead halls
echoing with greed:
may the gift of your Spirit
come to us from another place,
burning with life and a hope
that will not be quenched;
through Jesus Christ,
the one who is to come. Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah

[Zephaniah 3: 14—20]

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God.

Song of Isaiah



With joy you will draw wa - ter from the wells of sal - va - tion.

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Cantor:

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation. **R**

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing praises to the Lord,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

A Reading from the Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

[Philippians 4: 4–7]

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,
Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Fintan O'Carroll

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia al - le - lu - ia

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Gospel Acclamation: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

The Gospel

[Luke 3: 7—18]

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore

that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’¹¹ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’¹² Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’¹³ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

