



Order of Service
26th December 2021

Opening hymn: TiS 317 Love came down at Christmas

Call to Worship:

Praise the Lord, all the earth, from the highest heights to the deepest depths!

Let everything sing and shout praise to the Creator!

Praise the Lord, all the heavens and starry host!

All throughout the universe may praise to God abound!

Come, let us joyfully praise God!

Let us live our praise in deeds of loving kindness. AMEN.

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on Bangerang country of the Yorta Yorta nations.

We honour the custodians of the lands and waterways; and pay our respects to their elders - past, present and emerging.

Welcome

Opening Prayer

God of new birth, God of Christmas, God of the gift of love,
today we celebrate your breaking into the world in the life of Jesus.

We celebrate you surprising a weary world with peace and joy.

Today, God, we know your presence in the fragile body of a baby,
and in our fragile bodies and communities.

We welcome you again in our midst.

Amen.

HYMN TiS 299 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Responsive Psalm 148 Praise for God's Universal Glory

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;**
praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,**
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.



**6 He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**^[a]

**7 Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,**

**8 fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

**9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!**

**10 Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

**11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!**

**12 Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

ALL

**13 *Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.***

**14 *He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we have celebrated again the Christmas story.

Some of us have done so with family and friends,
some in community and some alone.

But all of us have been blessed with your presence this Christmas
as we have been in every Christmas, and every day of our lives.

Forgive us if we are just going through the motions.

Forgive us if we have not been stunned and surprised by your presence with us.

Forgive us if we have treated the Christmas story as something normal and unremarkable.

Forgive us if we do not live in joyful and humble gratitude and delight.

May we, in this quiet time after Christmas Day,
let the joy of your presence sweep into our bones.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

It makes no difference if we are ready.

It makes no difference if we understand.

It makes no difference, if we are waiting in anticipation or not
– the new life of God has dawned on us.

The new life of God is growing in us.

We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

AN EARLY WORD – *Christmas Bowl story*

HYMN TiS 323 Born in the night



BIBLE READINGS:

Luke 2:41-52

Colossians 3:12-17

REFLECTION

Hymn TiS 442 All praise to our redeeming Lord

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

God, the Psalmist sings out praise after praise.

The whole earth sings out praise continually and joyfully.

We join that chorus today with our lives, with our time,
with our resources and with our thanks for your generous love.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN TiS 312 Once in Royal David's city

Blessing

The love of God clothe you and bless you,

The peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

The Holy Spirit weave new purpose in your lives.

We go with joy to love and serve our Lord.

Amen

TiS 779 May the feet of God walk with you

