

Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

1st Sunday of Advent C
"Hope"

Commissioning of Leaders & Servers

Prep: Paul

Proofing: Viki

Tech-support: Paul

Broadcaster: Jamee

Leader: Jamee

Preacher: Jamee

LA: Julie G

Reader 1: Bob

Reader 2: Mark

Church Bell: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT1R_a0rCiA

The Greeting

The Lord is coming!
Prepare the way.

The Lord is coming!
We are making ready,

Gathering Invitation and Prayer

To be alive is sometimes to experience pain and even disaster.

Jesus warns us not to overreact to disaster,
but to try to see life from a wider perspective,
looking for the coming of the kingdom of God.
There is always hope: God will not forsake us.

As we gather this day,
may Christ's light be for us a sign of hope;
may its warmth be a symbol of God's love for us;
and may it inspire us to be hope bearers -
people of compassion and integrity,
as we gather in the name of Jesus
who is the light of the world. Amen.

The Trisagion

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Sentence

LA: 'Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.' Luke 21.28

Centering Prayer

All: God of mystery,
we have stepped into Advent and await your revelations.
We have stepped into Advent, hoping that we and others
will see and feel and know your message.
You are a patient, persevering God, who offers your all for us;
you offer to us the depth of your being, the essence of life,
the gift of love beyond compare.
And we wait to celebrate again the gift of Jesus born for us,
given for us.
We look to you, for you will show us true life bursting forth.
Amen.

Hymn - Come Now O Prince of
Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ANS45vhMJc>

Preparing for confession

We wait, but don't always find it easy to wait,
and for that we are sorry.

We confess our impatience and our lack of attention
to the journey and its signposts.

**Teach us that preparation is part of the journey
and that the journey is part of the gift.**

You offer us a way to follow, a path to tread,
a journey that leads to hope, to joy, to trust and to love,
and we confess we do not always follow.

Now, may we step into this Advent as faithful people,
**seeking forgiveness and trying to follow your path,
and believing you will be walking with us every step of the
way. Amen.**

Introduction to confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All:

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness
of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Absolution

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.**

Collect prayer

Eternal God

You have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may go out joyfully to greet him;
and, with all the saints, may worship you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Kids' Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord , when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25.1-10

¹ In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:
in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² **Let none who wait for you be put to shame:
but let those that break faith
be confounded and gain nothing.**

³ Show me your ways, O Lord:
and teach me your paths.

⁴ **Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:
for you are the God of my salvation.**

⁵ In you have I hoped all the day long:
because of your goodness, O Lord.

⁶ **Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:
for they are from of old.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions:
but according to your mercy think on me.

⁸ **Good and upright is the Lord:
therefore will he direct sinners in the way.**

⁹ The meek he will guide in the path of justice:
and teach the humble his ways.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:
for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.**

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Prayer before Gospel

**All: God promises to all who follow,
that he will take away our sins
and set us on the path to life eternal.
Hear God's word, know God's forgiveness,
and feel God's peace.
Amen.**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke
Chapter 21 beginning at the 25th verse.*

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

²⁵ 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.' ³⁷ Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸ And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

Hymn: To You O Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kAoFZI5j4c>

Curated by Paul

The Greeting of Peace

**We are the body of Christ
His Spirit is with us**

**The peace of the Lord be always
with you.
And also with you.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving before intercessions

God, your name is Love, and in your great love
you have called us into community with each other.
With you and in you and because of you,
we are nurtured in love.
Yours is the name that lasts for ever.
Your love reaches into all corners,
confirming those who wait for you -
that they wait in the name of Great Love.
Amen.

Intercessions

Your voice sings through creation, from the dawning of light to the end of time.
You are our beginning and our end and our days are held in the palm of your hand.
O God, you are the beginning and end of all things, we pray to you:
for those who nurture new life both physical and spiritual;
for teachers and leaders and those who have inspired our faith;
for midwives and prophets;
for the people who call us to start again;
for all who are at the beginning of a new adventure of faith,
For all who are moving to a new place and making a transition of home,
and for all who feel that it is time to lay down some responsibilities;
for children growing up in challenging times;
for those we know who are approaching the end of their life;
and for all who watch at the bedside of the sick.

Give us expectant hearts as we listen for your voice.
Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Your voice sings through Scripture and through the words of the prophets, calling us back to your heart of love and filling us with hope in your vision of a better world where justice and gentleness shape our lives.

God our protector and provider, we pray to you:

for trust in you when our world seems so troubled;

For those facing the covid-19 variant in South Africa;

for faithfulness to your work of life in your church;

for those to be ordained Deacon and Priest next Saturday in the cathedral;

for a narrative of hope in society and in our leadership;

for the courage to challenge the lies of exclusion and inequality;

and for a new beginning.

Give us expectant hearts as we listen for your voice.

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Your voice sings in the darkness
where people are lost and alone;
distant from home, sick or afraid.

O God, you mend what is broken, we pray to you:

for all refugees and asylum seekers;

for a decent, humane and workable immigration system;

for the collective will to face our responsibility for the conflict-torn areas of the world;

for Afghanistan as winter begins to bite and food is in short supply;

for support workers and volunteers working in rescue;

for those on flood watch, those still in drought and dealing with natural disturbance in

creation; for Queensland steady rain to fill the dams and prepare us for summer;

and for all who are in danger today.

Give us expectant hearts as we listen for your voice.

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Your voice sings in the witness of faithful people through the ages
the ones who have stood on the edges,
and those who have felt the pain of the excluded.
God of challenge and love, we pray to you:
for the marginalised;
for those whose voices are silenced;
for the observers of the times and the critics,
and all who call our attention to the gap between the talk and the walk;
for serious government that meets the challenges of the day with wisdom, guidance, calm
and faith.

Give us expectant hearts as we listen for your voice.
Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Your voice sings in the desert, in the land which is dry and parched;
in the hidden places where you are at work
and in the quiet places that are full of unseen acts of kindness.
God of peace and wholeness, we pray to you:
for the chance encounters of the week ahead;
for friends and family and the blessing they add to our lives;
for everyone that has helped us through the past year;
for people we usually overlook;
for the bereft and bereaved,
For the sick and the suffering
and for those who watch over them.

We ask your voice to speak to those we are concerned for, especially Douglas; Chris; Lee,
Thom and Ben; Robyn and Lulubelle; May; James and Margo; Ray and others known to you and
to us who we entrust to you now.

Give us expectant hearts as we listen for your voice.
Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Your voice sings of a future as yet unknown.
You ask us for our trust,
and you point us to the power of our everyday choices.
God of time and space, we pray to you:
for greater commitment to preserving the resources of the planet;
for true love of neighbours near and far;
for lives that honour your justice and your truth;
for gentleness with ourselves and one another.
Give us the ability to wait patiently for you.
Give us hearts that stay faithful,
hands that are ready to reach out to others,
and lives that are shaped by your love.

Give us expectant hearts as we listen for your voice.
Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

- Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- The Parish of Cunnamulla (Maranoa-Warrego Anglican Mission Area): Vacant
- Queensland Children's Hospital: Carol O'Ryan

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us saying:

**All: 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 for ever. Amen.**

Devotions

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

This is the season of Advent.

Advent means "coming" and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ.

One of the ways we prepare for Christ coming is by making an Advent Wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of God's gift of Jesus Christ; the light who dispels all darkness.

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first born of the dead, the one who is, who was and who is to come; and so we create a circular wreath, which has no beginning or end to symbolise this.



The wreath contains five candles which represent Christ's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love and of himself, the white Christ candle.



The candles light, dispels the darkness and remind us of Christ's light in the world.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.



+ Bless us and this wreath of light.
May its ever - increasing brightness be a sign to us of the
approachable nearness of your Son,
that we might prepare in joy for his humble birth and be
ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through
the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

As the light from the candles grows stronger each week in
Advent, may it remind us that Jesus is the light of the
world.

Lighting The Advent Wreath: HOPE

LA: *In a world of war, famine, and disease, where children grow up as orphans, where families go hungry and entire regions face destruction by illness and oppression, in a world where many have lost hope, or never had it to begin with, we call upon you Lord to come.*

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come.*

LA: *In this season of Advent, we await the coming of Hope into our world. We await the birth of the Christ - child; hope realised, the promise of God, come to us in a new way.*

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come, and bring us your hope.*



Light the first purple candle. Digital background change



Let us Pray,
*All: God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be
the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock on which we stand, be the
light, and focus of our lives. Amen.*



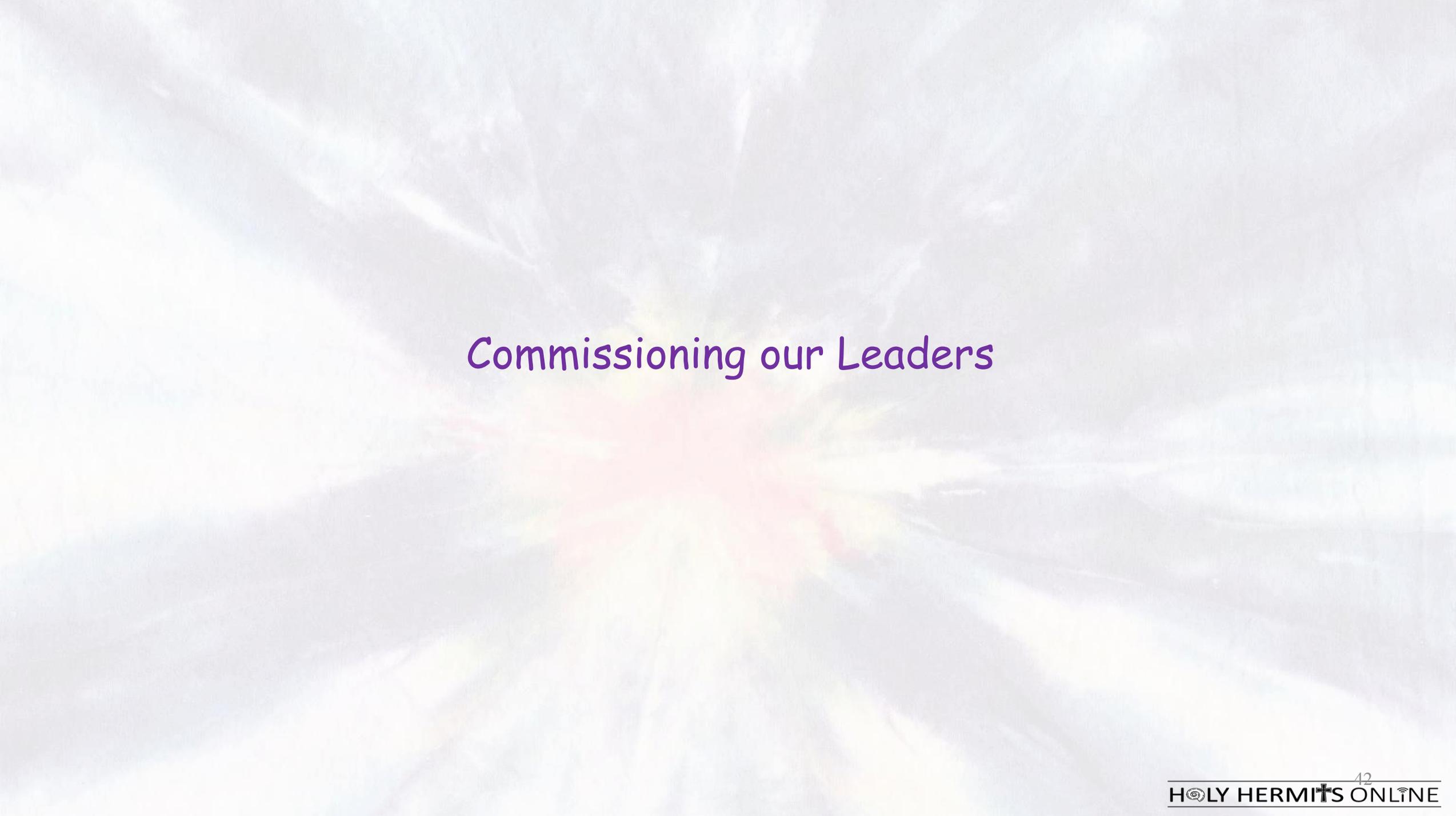
*'Christmas is coming!',
the Church is glad to sing,
and let the advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.*

A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence

Loving God, we give you our fears, *(hands in front of face)*
help us overcome them. *(spread hands apart)*
We give you our hopes, *(palms up, offering)*
help us bring them to life. *(hands raised high)*
May this Advent be a time of new beginnings
as we look forward to the coming of...
our friend and Saviour, Jesus. *(jump up and down)*

Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utpZAIycWFU>



Commissioning our Leaders

Leadership at HHO is a developing space. 5 of our community members have entered that space as leaders, responding to a vocational call to be part of our governing team and contribute their ministry gifts and energy to further building our community alongside us all.

I welcome Chris, Paul, Julie, Leonie and Fleur to the roles of leadership which they have been called to explore with us and invite us all to uphold them in this commissioning.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptised by one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this community to a special ministry to which they are called.

The Examination of leaders

These persons are presented to us for leadership having been prepared by their commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord, regular attendance at worship, acknowledgement of their vocational call, and their willingness to step forward to exercise their ministry to the honour of God, and the well-being of this community.

Leaders Unmute

You have been called to a ministry in this community and taken it up. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with prayerful diligence, to the honour of God and the benefit of the members of this community?

Leaders: *I will with God's help.*

The Commissioning of Leaders

The Lord gives wisdom; from God's mouth come knowledge and understanding

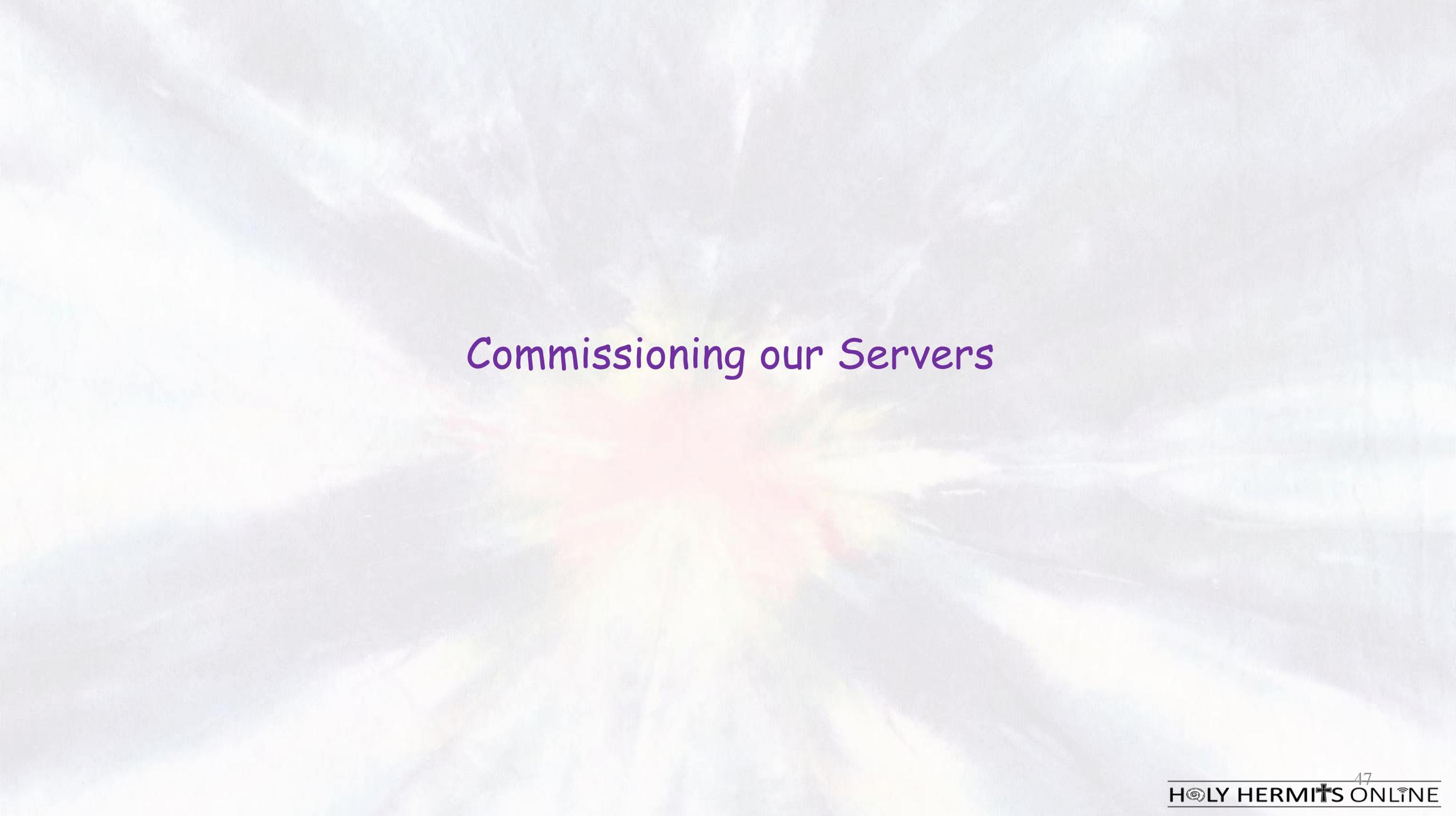
Leaders: I am your servant; grant me understanding that I may know your wisdom.

All: O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace our Leaders, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of God and of this community we commission you Chris, Paul, Julie, Leonie and Fleur as leaders of Holy Hermits Online.

All: We acknowledge and uphold our leaders in their ministries and will seek to support them as long as they choose to exercise this ministry in our midst.

Eternal God, who by the Holy Spirit presided at the council of the apostles to guide them in all knowledge and truth: be present with our leadership team. In the passions of discernment and dialogue give them a quiet spirit, in the complexities of the choices they are called to make give them clear minds, and in the moments of decision give them courageous hearts. Guide them in all things to seek only your glory and the good of your Church: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Commissioning our Servers

Many of our members have begun exercising ministry for and at worship each Sunday as part of the serving team.

I welcome all who serve at worship to bring themselves forward as part of this commissioning to intentionally recognise God's call on their lives.

Including: LAs, readers, service prep team, tech-support, broadcasters, music curators, proof-readers, prayer writers, welcomers

The Examination of servers

I present to you our servers who have begun in earnest to explore online worship alongside the Holy Spirit.

Servers Unmute

You have been called to a ministry in this community and begun exercising it at worship. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with prayerful diligence, to the honour of God and the benefit of the members of this community?

Servers: I will with God's help.

The Commissioning of servers

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servants whom I have chosen.

Servers: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the name of Jesus, make known Christ's deeds among the people.

Servers mute again

All: O gracious lord, confirm with your heavenly benediction your servants commissioned to minister in your Church, that with sincere devotion of mind, body and soul they may offer acceptable service to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of God and of this community we commission our servers for their various ministries and recognise the call God has placed on their lives to serve at worship online.

All: O Lord, without whom our labour is lost: we beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to your workers a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Prayer

All: Loving God,
as we end our time together and leave this place,
let us go in hope, live by hope,
and be signs of hope for all to see.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Blessing.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Notices

- **Tithing Online** accessible at holyhermits.com.au [Give page](#).
- Cathedral Annual Meeting today 11.15am
- Singing the Song Advent Study begins this Wednesday
- Christmas services to look forward to: [Events](#)
[\(holyhermits.com.au\)](http://holyhermits.com.au)

Dismissal.

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.



" Hope" by Erin Beardemphl