Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

3rd Sunday of Advent C
"JOY"

Prep: Fleur
Tech-support:
Leader: Jamee
Preacher: Jamee
LA: Fleur
Reader 1:
Reader 2: Jeremy

Holy Hermit St Juan Diego

Church Bell: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7vUAZ9YeDI

The Greeting

The Lord is coming!
Prepare the way.

The Lord is coming!
We are making ready.

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Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Let us meet with our God,
whose Spirit is with us now and throughout our daily lives.
Let us pray for opportunities to share the blessings we receive,
for God to provide the words with which we might speak them,
and inspire actions through which we might share them,
that all might be drawn to the God we serve.

All: **As we prepare to light another Advent candle,**
may its flame be for us a sign of the light
that reveals to us our path through life,
that inspires us to live simply and generously,
after the example and call of John the Baptist,
that we ourselves may be signs of the good news we proclaim.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

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The Trisagion

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

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Sentence

LA: 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

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Centering Prayer

All: O Lord our God,
God of the prophets and God of the now,
you are with us.
Your power gives us victory.
You take delight in us.
And in love, you give us new life.
Hear us as we come to you today.

Amen.

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Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

https://youtu.be/FFZKskHmfS4

Curated by Fleur

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Preparing for Confession

All: **Blessed God, hear our prayers of sadness and regret for times when we have been blind to the needs of neighbours,**
deaf to the cries of the distressed,
silent at the sight of the abused,
careless with the frightened and supportive of greed and corruption.
We confess our obsessions with things material and frivolous, fripperies wrapped in tissue paper.
Open our ears and eyes, and our hearts, to be more receptive to what we see and hear from those we meet.

Amen.

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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.

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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.

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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

Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him
whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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The 1st Reading is from the book of 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 judgments 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.

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

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A Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6)

2 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.
3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
4 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.
5 **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;**
let this be known in all the earth.
6 **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,**
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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The 2nd Reading comes from the letter to the **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.

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

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Prayer before the Gospel

All: God knows the depths of our sorrow.
God knows the depths of our grief for wrongs done.
God knows the pains of regret for deeds undone.
God knows the depths of our hearts and our capacity for joy.
To God we repent, and forgiveness is given,
to God we attend and joy is given.
Amen.

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The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Chapter 3 verses 7 to 18

All: ***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 ax 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,[a] 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[b] 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.

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

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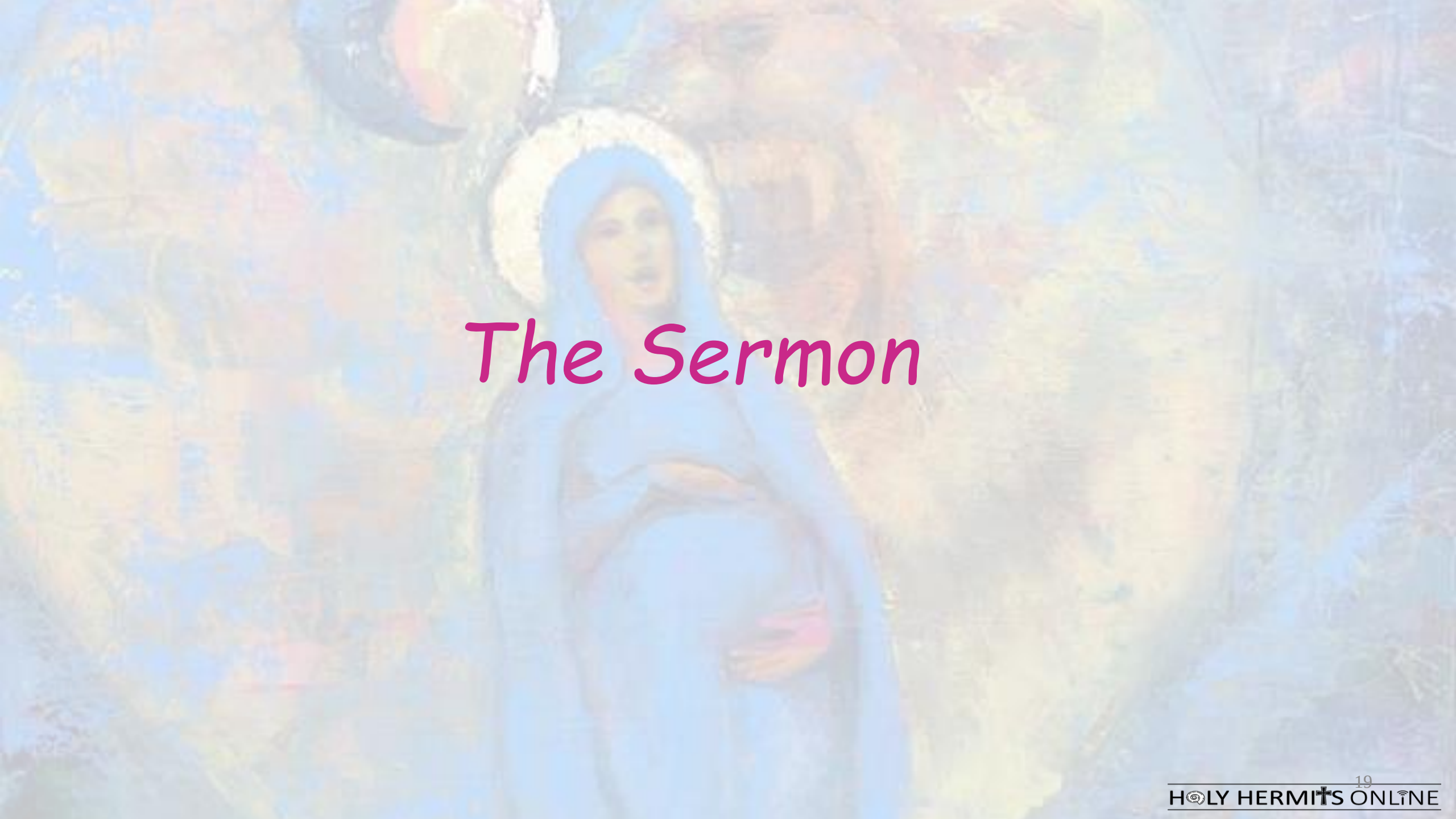

The Sermon

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Hymn – Soon and Very Soon

https://youtu.be/VxarZBxK0iQ

Curated by Fleur

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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.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving before intercessions

Praise to you, Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We praise you for the gift of witnesses to your love.
We give thanks for the witness of John the Baptist and his message to the people and its relevance for us today.
In his story and his teaching, we see the heart of your being, fairness and justice and equality for your people.
We give you thanks for the ordinary everyday life that witnesses to your power and glory.
We give thanks that you are always surprising us and meeting us right where we are.
We give thanks for your light in our times of darkness, for your hand in times of aloneness, for your leading in times of uncertainty.
To you, our triune God, we offer our praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.

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Intercessions

We pray for those that are alone in thought and feeling.
For those that find only emptiness and isolation,
Lord fill the void

We pray for those that are struggling to find meaning in these complicated times, for those that struggle to understand, for those suffering in the face of natural disaster and weather events – especially in New South wales and the mid-west USA.
Lord fill the void

We pray for those that have lost their way and are trying to return to your side,
Lord fill the void

We pray for those that will be alone this Christmas.
For those that do not have friends or family to be with,
Lord fill the void

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We pray for ourselves and ask that you show us how we can be better Christians to those around us,
Lord fill the void

We pray for those who have lost their jobs and will be struggling financially this Christmas,
Lord fill the void

We pray for those countries still battling covid 19 this Christmas, and those that have lost loved ones and are coming to terms with that loss,
Lord fill the void

We pray for our Prime Minister Scott Morrison as he navigates a safe passage with China, and for all of Australia's local authorities managing our boarder opening tomorrow.
Lord fill the Void

We pray for animal welfare groups as they gear up for the influx of unwanted pets this Christmas,
Lord fill the void

We pray for those countries still at war and hope that they find a middle ground to settle their differences,
Lord fill the void

We especially hold before you: Douglas; Chris; Lee, Thom and Ben; Robyn and Lulubelle; May; Jim and Margo; Ray; Kieron; Julie, Marilyn and Brett as they mourn Max. May their grief and pain give way to joy. Fleur Ron and Jordan, for peace and your presence on Wednesday.

Lord we ask for these things in your name, Jesus Christ, and thank you for your understanding and hope, knowing you can fill the void. Amen.

Prayers composed by Phil for Advent 2020.

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

- The Anglican Church of Canada
- The Diocese of Grafton: †Murray Harvey; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Goonaneman: Sue Barker
- Mathew Hale Public Library
- St Luke's Anglican School, Bundaberg: Principal -Craig Merritt; Chaplain -Iain Furby; Chair of School Council - Hermina Conradie; members of School Council; staff & students

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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.

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Devotions

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Lighting The Advent Wreath: Joy

LA: In a world of despair, where depression rates run high, where there has been so much sadness and loss, where joy has become a distant memory, Lord, we call upon you to come.
Come, Lord Jesus, Come

We long for Hope, pray for Peace, and welcome Joy, as we await the God of Love in the promised child, Lord we call upon you to come.
Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

In this season of Advent, we await for the coming of Joy into our world. We await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.
Come Lord Jesus Come. And bring us your Joy

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The Candle of Joy is lit.

Three candles lit as signs of judgement,
shining out against all that is wrong,
flickering and dancing in the darkness,
to say that God is coming to meet us
in the form of a baby in a manger,
bringing hope, and joy
and peace to the world.
Amen.

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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 we stand upon,
be the light, and focus of our lives. Amen.

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Christmas is coming the Church is glad to sing

https://youtu.be/l8WDkIE9BZg

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A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence

Father God,
We offer you all our plans and all our dreams and all that we value and love.
Please hold them all in your loving hands.
Although we may find joy or sadness in the changes around us,
help us always to trust you.
Thank you that in all of life's surprises -
whether we are ready or not to receive them -
we are always loved by you.
Amen.

HOLY HERMITS ONLINE

All: **O God, who by means of Saint Juan Diego showed the love of the most holy Virgin Mary for your people, grant, through his intercession, that, by following the counsels our Mother gave at Guadalupe, we may be ever constant in fulfilling your will. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sometimes we say yes, and sometimes we say maybe, and sometimes we say no, and sometimes we are too distracted to know what we are being asked.

All: **Help us, O God of time, to find and make time for all your gifts that come our way, so that we might say yes with joy, when I can. Amen.**

HOLY HERMITS ONLINE

Hymn - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

https://youtu.be/_JqnsAkuDdM

Study Song from Singing the Story 1

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Sending Prayer

All: Lord, help us to go into the world in peace;
to be of good courage;
to hold fast to that which is good;
to strengthen the fainthearted;
to support the weak;
to honour everyone;
and to love and serve the Lord.
Be within us and among us,
and remain with us always.
Amen.

HOLY HERMITS ONLINE

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.**

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Notices

- **Tithing Online** accessible at holyhermits.com.au Give page.
- Singing the Song Advent Study on Wednesday evening
- The Quiet Christmas this Friday 7pm
- Other Christmas services to look forward to: Events (holyhermits.com.au)

Dismissal.

Send us out, creator God,
bubbling with joy,
overflowing into your world.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

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By Janice Little