

Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

"Love"

Church Bell: <https://youtu.be/fvXyJmdOh-U>

Holy Hermits: [Thomas Merton](#) and
[Catherine De Huek Doherty](#)

Leader: Jamee	Prep: Kristine	LA: Kristine
Preacher: Jamee	Prayer prep: Viki & Paul	Reader 1: Vanessa
Broadcaster: Jamee	Tech-support: Kristine	Reader 2: Mark



The Greeting

The Lord is coming!
Prepare the way.

**The Lord is coming!
We are making ready.**

Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Come, greet one another in the name of the Lord.
Come, bring all you have and be blessed.
Come, and worship the God of the great and the lowly,
and share your hopes and fears.
Come, young and old - for God is calling you.

All: As we light this Advent candle,
may its flame be for us a sign of blessing.
As Mary and Elizabeth greeted each other,
and Mary praised God for the blessings received,
may we know God's blessing in our lives and
community, as we offer prayers and praises in
Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Trisagion

All:

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

Sentence

LA:

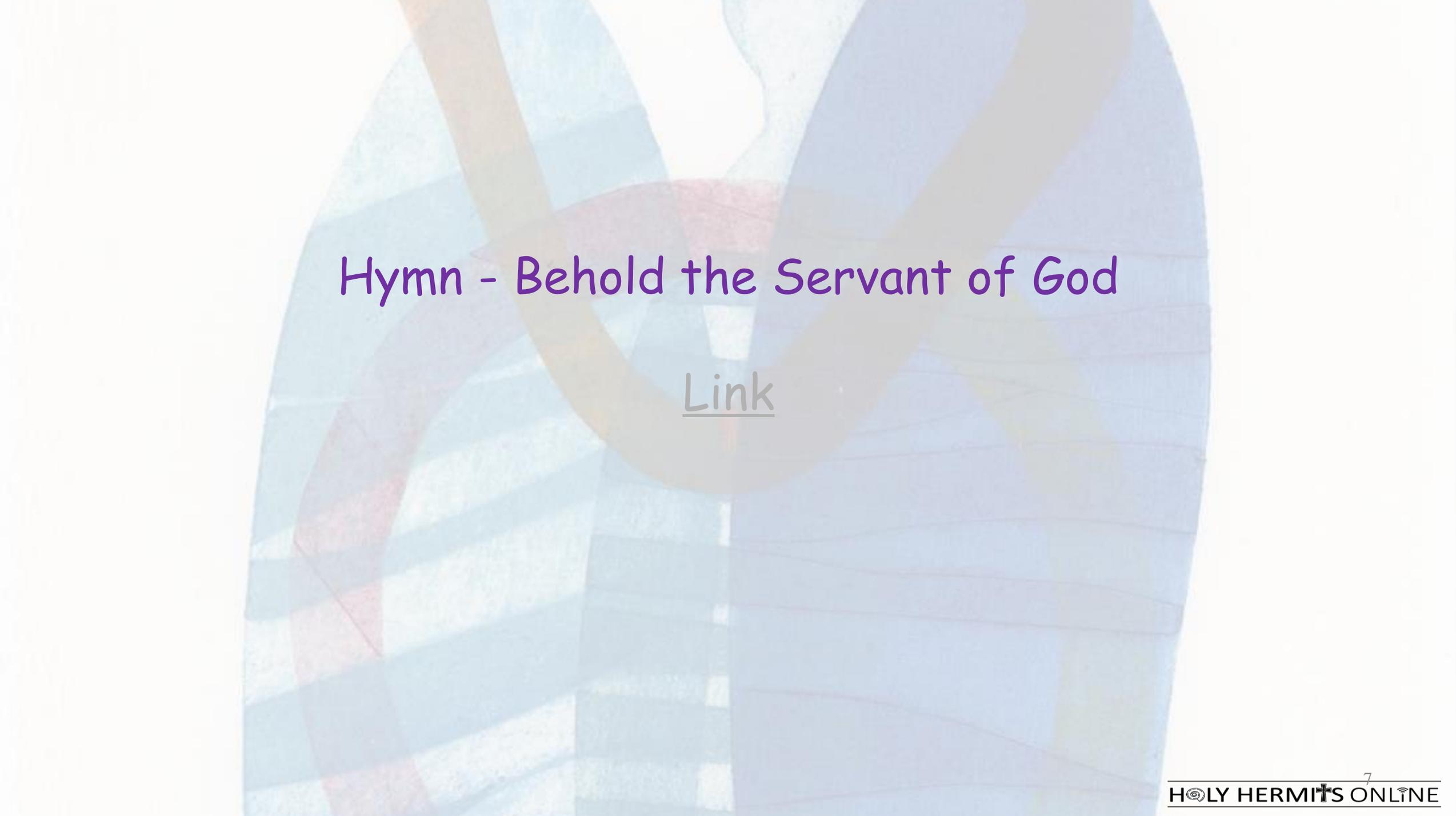
Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

Centering Prayer

All:

Lord God, we come in expectation,
we come with joy at what is to come,
we come to worship and centre ourselves.
We come knowing your greatness,
your eternal presence, your abiding love,
your overwhelming generosity.
We come to rest in this place
and to see afresh the wonders of your being.
Lord God, we come, we come, we come.
Amen.



Hymn - Behold the Servant of God

[Link](#)

Preparing for Confession

All:

Almighty God, we have not always followed your path.

(silence)

**Bring us back to you, from all the diversions we have been on;
bring us back, Almighty God.**

Almighty God, we have often lost focus on our Advent journey.

(silence)

**Bring us back to the meaning of Christmas, of loving and giving,
of receiving and blessing; bring us back, Almighty God.**

**With penitent hearts, we stand before you,
seeking your gift of blessing and forgiveness.**

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

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through 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.



Kids' Time

The First Reading is from the book of Micah Chapter 5, Verses 2 - 5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord , in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

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

Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;**

The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

**God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.**

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Song of Mary

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,**

The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**



Magnificat Song:

[Link](#)

The Second Reading comes from Hebrews, Chapter 10, Verses 5 - 10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' ⁸ When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Prayer before the Gospel

All: In all our busy-ness, among the parties and preparations, the carols and crackers, may we hear the gentle words of God, offering us the gift of incarnate forgiveness.

Amen.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 39-45
All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, **40** where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit **42** and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? **44** For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

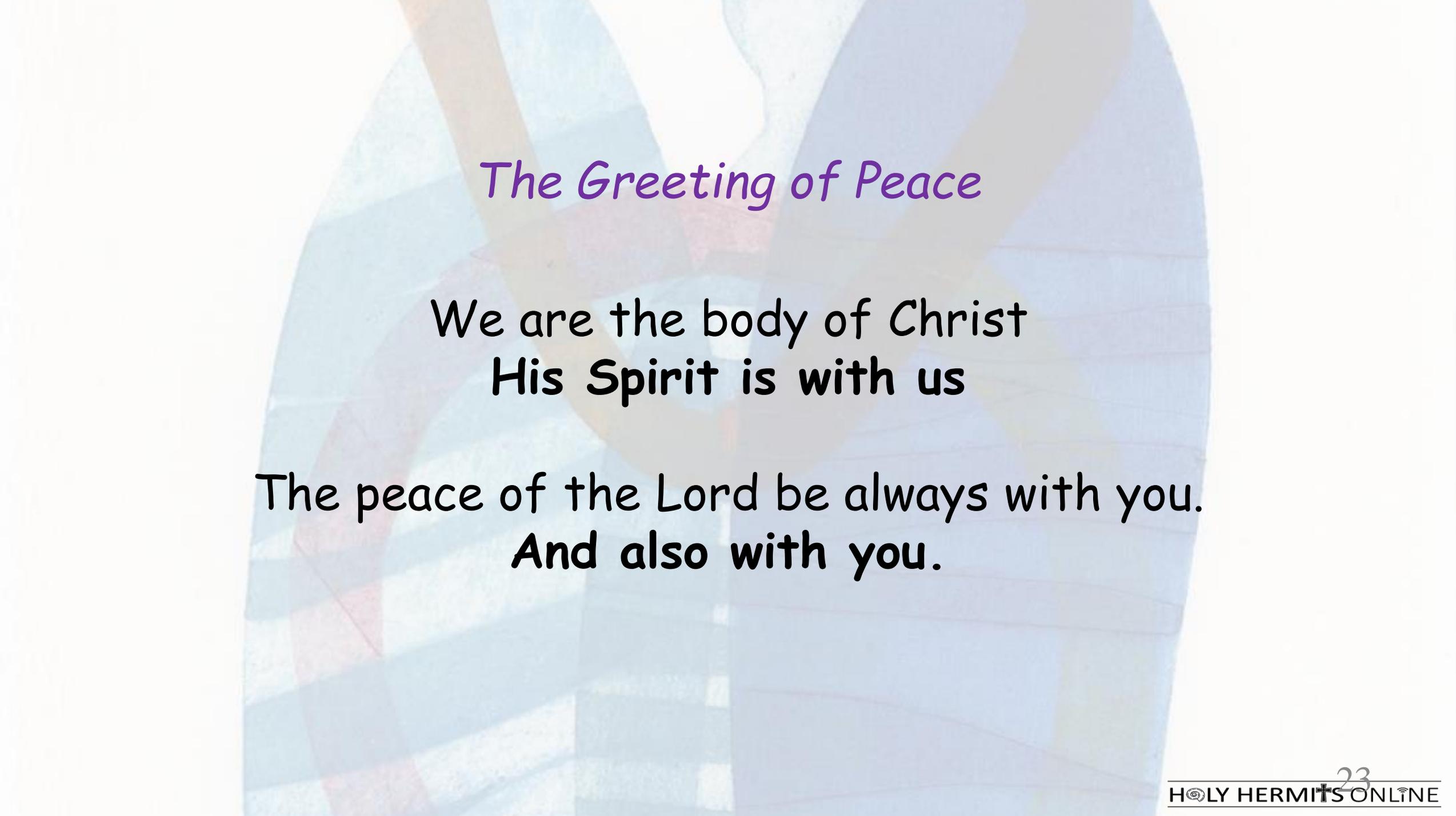


The Sermon

Hymn - Unexpected and Mysterious

[Link](#)

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

For the gifts that Advent has bestowed:
come, let us sing, praise to our King.

For the gift of hope, hope for the world:
come, let us sing, praise to our King.

For the gift of joy, joy for the world:
come, let us sing, praise to our King.

For the gift of love, love for the world:
come, let us sing, praise to our King.

For the gift of peace, peace for the world:
come, let us sing, praise to our King.

For the gift of the journey, a journey in the
world:

come, let us sing, praise to our King.

For the gift of Jesus for the world:
come, let us sing, praise to our King.

Amen.

Intercessions

God of Advent

As the world awaits the birth of your son this week with great anticipation and excitement,
we pray for all those in our world that are yet to hear the Good News,
who have not been touched by the Christmas Story,
or have turned their back on it
or are exploiting it to their own ends.

God All-Powerful who has done great things
Please listen to our prayer

God of Hope

This week please hold all those close that are preparing to travel across town, across borders, across countries, across continents for Christmas, New Year and holidays.

We give thanks for the people that provide transportation to carry them to their destination and home safely again.

Thank you for the engineers who have designed the transportation; for the workers who operate machinery to assemble, repair and service them; for the miners who supply the energy to propel them; for the governments, communities and private enterprises who maintain the infrastructures to support them and for the drivers, pilots, sailors and riders who facilitate these travels.

God All-Powerful who has done great things
Please listen to our prayer

God of Love

Please continue to help each of us offer our support and encouragement to our Holy Hermits Online community.

We give thanks for Reverend Jamee, our leaders Paul, Chris, Julie, Fleur and Leonie and our host St John's Cathedral, Brisbane.

We extend our thanks for their willingness to share gifts, talents and time for the good of HHO.

As we face a new year with different challenges, taking HHO into 2022 and continuing to promote it to the wider world as a safe space for all to come, share and worship, seems more important than ever.

It is truly awesome that out of pandemic, a super scary twenty-first century plague, we can be worshipping here together today and preparing for Christmas 2021.

God All-Powerful who has done great things
Please listen to our prayer

God of Joy

At this time when there will be so much excess, we pray for all who have less than they need.

We remember people and animals displaced by political, economic or domestic violence. Please help us to pause and consider how we can channel our extra dollars, food and even shelter into bringing hope, love, joy and peace to others less fortunate than us.

We pray for all the children without parents for too many reasons.

We give thanks for all those who will be working to care for them and also the sick and sad at what is for us, a joyful time.

We lift up and send prayerful thanks for all doctors, nurses, carers, vets, technicians, cleaners, caterers, scientists, undertakers and emergency service personnel.

We pray that they are inspired by you to continue to provide comfort, relief and dignity to those in need.

And now we pray especially for Douglas; Chris; Lee, Thom and Ben; May; Jim and Margo; Ray; ; Julie, Marilyn, Dianne and Brett as they mourn Max; Chalene mourning her mum; and those who are mourning children in the wake of the jumping castle tragedy in Tasmania.

May their grief and pain give way to joy. We ask your blessings on Jordan as he comes to terms with the loss of his housemate and his search for a new companion.

God All-Powerful who has done great things

Please listen to our prayer

God of Peace

As we light our fourth Advent candle this day we pray for all those souls who have gone before us.

For Barbara and Dick's families as they face the first Christmas without them here on earth.

We take comfort in the knowledge that Barbara, Dick, and all lost loved ones are singing with the host of angels preparing the way for Christ, our Light, coming soon.

God All-Powerful who has done great things

Please listen to our prayer

AMEN

Written by Viki and Paul.

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

- The Church of the Province of Central Africa
- The Diocese of North-West Australia: †Gary Nelson; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Hervey Bay: Greg Loumeau, Vic Burgess, Lorraine Dawson, Michael Nixon
- Parish secretaries and volunteer staff in the Diocese
- Toowoomba Anglican School, Toowoomba: Head of School - Simon Lees; Chaplain - Vacant; Chair of School Council - Mac Drysdale; members of School Council; staff & students

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.**

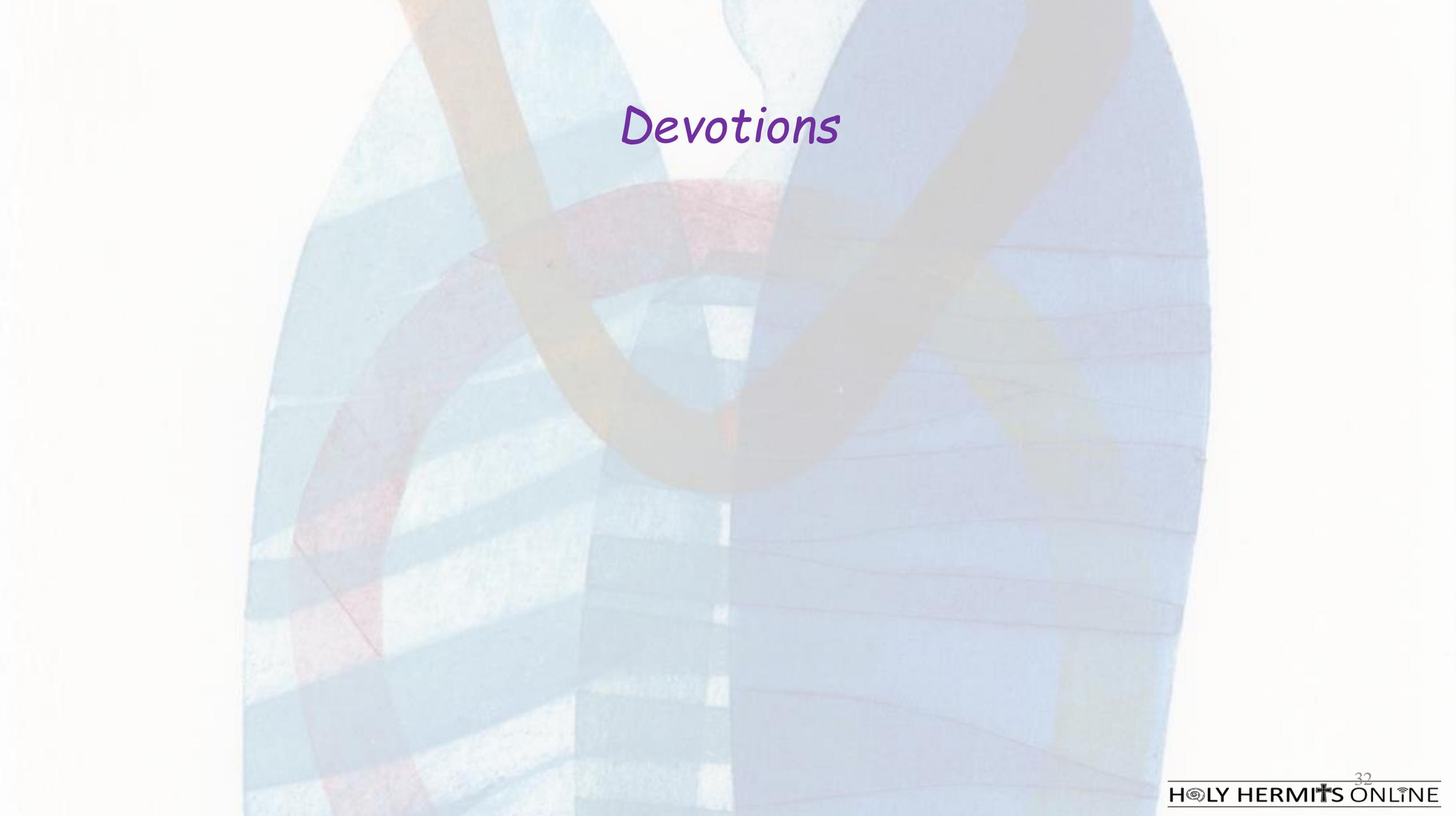
Give us today our daily bread.

**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

Today we light the fourth Advent candle and celebrate the faithfulness of Mary the mother of Jesus and the support she received from her cousin Elizabeth.

How shall we name the name beyond all names?

We will light a flame and proclaim that God is with us.

We remember Mary who faced the shock of being pregnant and yet had the courage to believe the words of an angel.

We are waiting for the birth of Mary's child.

We remember Elizabeth, cousin to Mary, and the solidarity and support of women together in pregnancy.

We are waiting for the birth of Mary's child.

We celebrate the changes that occurred in Mary's body as the Word of God became the Child of God within her.

We are waiting for the birth of Mary's child.

Lighting The Advent Wreath: Love



LA: In a world of fear, where broken relationships are prevalent, where there is a lack of love, where compassion has been missing among us, 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.

The candles of Hope Peace and Joy are already lit.

In this season of Advent, we await for the coming of Love 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 Love.

The Candle of Love is lit.

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.





Hymn - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

[Link](#)

Sourced from Signing the Story 2

Thomas Merton's offerings on Love

"The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to... fit our own image. Otherwise, we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them."

"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone - we find it with another."

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

Catherine's Little Mandate

- ❖ Rise — go! Sell all you possess. Give it directly, personally to the poor.
- ❖ Take up My cross (their cross) and follow Me, going to the poor, being poor, being one with them, one with Me.
- ❖ Little — be always little! Be simple, poor, childlike.
- ❖ Preach the Gospel with your life — without compromise!
- ❖ Listen to the Spirit. He will lead you..
- ❖ Do little things exceedingly well for love of Me.
- ❖ Love... love... love, never counting the cost Go into the marketplace and stay with Me.
- ❖ Pray, fast. Pray always, fast. Be hidden.
- ❖ Be a light to your neighbour's feet.
- ❖ Go without fear into the depth of men's hearts. I shall be with you.
- ❖ Pray always. I will be your rest.

A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence

O God, it is nearly Christmas, and there are many ways to celebrate.

Some of us are excited, (jump up and down)

some of us are tired, (head slumped)

some of us are busy getting ready, (mime doing things)

some of us are partying. (dance)

But we know it is all because of Jesus, your gift and blessing to us.

Amen.

Hymn - O Come O Come Emmanuel

[Link](#)

Sending Prayer

All:

God, who blessed the earth with life and love,
thank you that you greet us in the person of Jesus,
and pour your blessings on us by the power of your
Holy Spirit.

Empowered by the same Spirit,
send us out to be signs of greeting and blessing
to a world so in need of your peace,
and people in need of your love.

Help us serve and bless in your name,
and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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](#).
- Final Advent Study - Wednesday evening
- Christmas Eve 6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols - Readers required for 9 lessons
- Birthdays and Anniversaries for December!

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.



Image credit:
Together by Mariann
Johansen-Ellis (2021)