Prepped ✓ proofed ✿⚘✿

Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent

"Peace"

Church Bell: https://youtu.be/Aegjj5a7SIs

Leader: Jamee

Preacher: Jamee

Service Prep: Paul

Proofer: Kristine

Welcomer: Chris

Prayer Prep: Roots

Broadcaster: Jamee

Tech-support: Paul

Cantor: Kristine

Reader 1: Rose

Reader 2: Paul

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

God is here – present always and everywhere.
Let us make God the focus of our thoughts and worship.
Blessed be God's glorious name;
may God's glory fill the earth.
May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord,
as the waters cover the sea.

All: **Lord Jesus, you are the head of your body, the Church.**
Sometimes we can make it seem that church is all about us –
who we are, what we believe and do –
but in truth it's always about you, Jesus.
We come to give you honour and praise.
We come to bring ourselves into line with your example.
We come now to worship you. 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

Cantor:
'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1.15

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Centering Prayer

All:

We come to praise you, Lord,
God of Israel and all the Nations.
We come to you who set your people free.
We come to you who guides us into the way of peace.
We come to you as we journey through Advent
and prepare to welcome, once again, the Christ child.
Amen.

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Hymn

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

https://youtu.be/N6E5vW1lw4A

Preparing for confession

God of humility, we are sorry for times
when we behave as if life was all about us,
when we show off all we do and hide all that we neglect,
when we put others down instead of building them up,
when we dwell on what others have done wrong,
with hardly a thought to our mistakes.
Forgive us, we pray, and grant us the will to change,
and the courage to act after the example of John the Baptist
who lived out his calling with faithfulness and courage,
always pointing to your Son Jesus,
in whom he trusted –
and in whose name we pray. 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.

Prayer of Assurance

Loving God,
you promise us healing when we turn away from the things that harm us;
you promise us a welcome when we leave behind the things that separate us from you;
you promise us forgiveness when we find the courage to name our sins;
for you are full of love and long to see us whole,
living life to the full, generously and compassionately.
Amen.

Collect prayer

God of all peoples,
whose servant John came baptising
and calling for repentance:
help us to hear his voice of judgement,
that we may also rejoice in his word of promise,
and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day
when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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Reflection

We pause to reflect on Peace

How do we experience God's peace?

Are there areas of our lives into which we could invite more peace?

The First Reading is taken from ***Isaiah 11.1-10***

1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of
his roots. **2** The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and
understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the
fear of the Lord. **3** His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge
by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; **4** but with righteousness
he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he
shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips
he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and
faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Continues

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the
kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall
lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie
down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing
child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put
its hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my
holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as
the waters cover the sea. 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as
a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

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Psalm 72.1-7, 72.18-21

[1] Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,
[2] **That he may judge your people rightly:**
and the poor of the land with equity.
[3] Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
[4] **May he give justice to the poor among the people:**
and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
[5] May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.

Continues

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6 May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.
7 In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.
18 Let his name live for ever:
and endure as long as the sun.
19 Let all peoples use his name in blessing:
and all nations call him blessed.
20 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel:
who alone does great wonders.
21 Blessed be his glorious name for ever:
and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen, Amen.

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The Second Reading is taken from **Romans 15.4-13**

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might
have hope. **5** May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, **6** so that
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ. **7** Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed
you, for the glory of God. **8** For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of
the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm
the promises given to the patriarchs, **9** and in order that the Gentiles might
glorify God for his mercy.

Continues

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As it is written, ‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and
sing praises to your name’; **10** and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles,
with his people’; **11** and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let
all the peoples praise him’; **12** and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse
shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles
shall hope.’ **13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

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The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew, Chapter 3 beginning at the 1st verse.

All: ***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'
3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." '
4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Continues

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to
them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume 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. 10 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.
11 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I
is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his
threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will
burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

Sermon

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Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

https://youtu.be/_JqnsAkuDdM

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

Gracious God, for your call on John the Baptist's life,
we praise you.
For his call to us to change our mind and our ways,
we praise you.
For your Son Jesus, who calls us to serve him in your world today,
we praise you.
For calling each of us by name and for the fellowship of your church,
we praise you.
Today and everyday as we journey towards Christmas,
we praise you.

We praise you for Helen's medical team and rehab team and her return to the world this week, especially her return to be with us at worship. We praise you for the royal Brisbane virtual covid team in their support for Liz and others recovering at home.
Amen.

Intercessions

God of hope,
though the night seems very long,
and though winds blow, light fades
and dawn seems a distant dream;
you will never leave us.
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

God of hope,
though the poor are so often denied justice,
and the needy are without relief from their distress,
though we often have different priorities to those of your kingdom,
turn our hearts again to you and renew our trust.
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

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God of hope,
though politics sometimes does not connect with our daily lives,
when leaders fail us,
prioritising the rich over the poor
and leaving inequalities unaddressed,
may we believe that a new world is possible.
When disappointment leads to doubt, especially for Mat Ryan and others under pressure,
may they be reassured of their value in your eyes.
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

God of hope,
though we are far off our climate targets,
though there is little climate leadership,
and we have failed to protect this fragile earth,
its peoples and all its creatures…
especially those species at risk of disappearing through habitat loss and polution.
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

God of hope,
though we live in such troubled times
when so many parts of the world are at war or in conflict,
the suffering of Ukraine continues as the weather gets harsher,
and no peaceful outcome seems close…
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

God of hope,
though life is a daily struggle for many,
choosing between heating and eating,
constantly worrying about debt and rising prices
and feeling overwhelmed by worry,
may we find rest in you.
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

God of hope,
though many are lonely and in distress,
persecuted or in danger,
some sick or far from home,
bring your healing to all who are in need today,
remembering in our own community…

Angela; Paul and Darhon; Heather ; Liam, and Bob, Desley and Mark; Willie ; George and Wendy.
Helen C; Rev'd Juliana; Bobby; Rose; Liz; Dr Julie; Steve; Rev'd Sue; Tony and Dilys.
Leese(y); Mary;
David; Liz; Rev’d Gemma; Judy, and all others recovering from covid.

Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

God of hope,
you come to us as a child
and reveal to us the wisdom of the powerless.
Though many children across the world are suffering,
and many lament the destruction of their futures because of climate change,
teach us to walk more humbly with you.
Give us faith to watch for the morning.
We wait for you, O God.

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Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

Joining with the wider Church in the cycle of prayer we uplift to you Lord…

- The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem &The Middle East
- The Diocese of Bathurst: †Mark Calder; Clergy and People
- The Parish of All Saint's, Brisbane: Duncan Gorwood, Andrew Gilbert, Robert Long
- Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital: Carol O'Ryan, Judy Shepherd & volunteers
- Canterbury College, Waterford: Principal - Daniel Walker; Chaplain -Melusi Sibanda; Chair of College Council - Jeff Thomas; members of College Council; staff & students

- We uphold all those ordained yesterday as they take up their new appointments this week. May their first week of ordained life as Deacons and Priests make them ready for the season of life coming up.

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Prayer for Deliverance Ministry team

Come Holy Spirit and make the hearts of your servants, Reverend Claye and the deliverance ministry team, your dwelling place and home.
May darkness be dispelled by your light, and troubles calmed by your peace.
Lord Jesus, we ask that you protect, guide and strengthen them, and all whom they encounter.
Give them courage, ability, wisdom and discernment.
Surround them with sound advice and support, that they may have insight and discretion.
Drawing on the Holy Spirit may they be strong in vocation and trust in you.
We pray for those in need of healing and their ongoing relationship with you, as they journey towards the fullness and freedom of eternal life.
May all evil and pain be transformed through the suffering of Christ and all dying glorified by your risen life. **Amen.**

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

Lighting The Advent Wreath: Peace
Cantor: *In a world of unrest, where war and oppression are rife, where destruction and hate are the norm and peace is far from us, Lord, we call upon you to come.*

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

We long for hope, and pray for peace, 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 the time of peace, where all humanity may live in harmony and unity. We await the birth of the Prince of Peace, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come
Come and bring us your peace.

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The Candle of Peace 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.

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Light the Advent Candles

https://youtu.be/lCfpDyrfPk0

A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence

Lord, may the whole world come to know about your love.

May all the people of the whole world praise you.

And, just as the water covers the sea, may the whole world be covered with your glory.

Lord, may we care for the world and for each other, as people who know your love.
Amen.

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Making a Spiritual Communion

O my Lord Jesus,
I turn to you present on the Altar and in the Tabernacle.
I believe that you are present in the most holy Sacrament
of your most sacred Body and Blood.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally in Holy Communion.
Come, spiritually, into my heart.
Purify it, sanctify it.
Render my heart like your own heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly with you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.
Amen.

Hymn:

My peace I leave you

https://youtu.be/45IOPN27kFc

Sending Prayer

All:

Lord, lead us and help us to follow you.
Lord, lead us and help us to keep our eyes on you.
Lord, be at the centre of our lives,
our thinking and our actions.

Make us useful in your service,
and show us how we can live
so that our lives point towards Jesus.
Amen.

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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.
- Angels from the Realms of Glory Advent Study continues this Wednesday
- Contemplative Blue Christmas - 16 December, 7pm, reaching out to all who need this in their life.

Please feel welcome to unmute for the dismissal.

Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

In the name of Christ,

Amen.

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Image credit:
"Anything but a silent night" by Lillian Jane Neal