

Chum Street & Kangaroo Flat Service
Sunday 27th December 2020

Video: "Do you have room for the Saviour?" (*YouTube*)

Acknowledgement of Country:

Welcome:

Call to Worship: *"Seeing Deeply"* by Geoff Shrowder

HYMN: TIS 303

**Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.**

**Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem".**

***Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

***Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.**

***Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47

Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10,11

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession:

Assurance

Second Reading: Psalm 148

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.
- 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!
- 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!

HYMN: TIS 93

**Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him;
praise him angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him,
praise him, all you stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken,
worlds his mighty voice obeyed:
laws, that never shall be broken,
for their guidance he has made.**

**Praise the Lord, for he is glorious;
never shall his promise fail:
God has made his saints victorious:
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high his power proclaim:
heaven and earth, and all creation,
praise and glorify his name.**

*Adapted from Franz Joseph Hadyn 1732-1809
Anon. Foundling Hospital Collection 1796/1801 alt*

Third Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our^[a] hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

HYMN: TIS 319

**Child in the manger, infant of Mary
Outcast and Stranger, Lord of us all
Child Who inherits all our transgressions
All our demerits upon Him fall**

**Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived here below
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer
See Him victorious over each foe**

**Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder
Angels behold Him on His throne
Worthy our Savior of all our praises
Happy forever are His own**

*Mary Macdonald 1789-1873
Tr. Lachlan Macbean 1853 1931 aly
Gaelic Melody Arrangement Lawrence Francis Bartlett*

Reflection: Luke 2:22-40

Who would dare to speak of hope
In this world where numbers are more important than people,
Where with a little patience, the powerful can explain to the powerless
why it's necessary that they get by with less
Less money to live on
Less community to live with
Where the powerful can even stand in the face of the cosmos
and say "Sorry Nature, you're in our way."
Who would dare speak of hope in such a world?

We would.

Then who would dare to speak of peace
in a world where neighbour attacks neighbour in streets and cafes,
drones patrol foreign skies, taking out entire rooms and hoping for the
best,
Who would speak of peace when nobody can even explain what victory
would look like?

We would.

And Joy...
It's 2020 and we haven't even figured out basic joy...
Who, rubbing the sleep from their eyes, worrying about how to get from
here to lunch then back again in time for work on Monday would even
contemplate speaking of Joy?

We Would.

Would you?

Yes. We would.

And that's before we even get to Love... Who, in their right mind
would...

We would.

You didn't let me finish.

You don't need to finish. We will speak of love.

**We will speak of the hope that comes when the most powerless
one of all;
a newborn baby;
cries out and wraps the hearts of a universe around it.**

**The hope that it can be different;
that we can be different
and from our response to an infant's cry,
the world will pivot and change.**

**We will speak of the peace that comes because it must.
The peace that a newborn child demands we strive for,
the peace that comes when as a people we refuse to put another
like this child in harm's way.**

**We will speak of the joy
that comes when we live together in hope and peace,
when our differences are cause for celebration rather than fear
When that which lets us belong outweighs that which sets us apart.**

**And most of all we will speak of love.
For without love there will be no joy,
no peace,
no hope.**

**We will tell of the love of a mother for a child,
a lover for a beloved,
a sister for a sister
a friend for a friend**

**We will tell of the love
of a God for a people
One love which drives us
to sacrifice our own needs for others.**

**We will not speak lightly,
but we will speak of love
until our voices are just part of a mighty wind.**

We will speak of love.

Posted 30th December 2015 by [Gareth Darlow](#)

HYMN: TIS 690

**Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.**

**Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.**

Refrain:

***God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.***

**Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.**

**Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.**

Refrain:

**Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.**

Refrain:

*Graham Kendrick 1950-
Words and music by permission Make Way Music
Administered by Integrity Music*

Offering Dedication:

Notices:

Prayers of the People:

Sending Out:

HYMN: TIS 778

**Shalom to you now,
shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies,
bless you my friends.
In all your living
and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom.
Christ be your shalom.**

Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942-