

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 29 November, Advent Week 1
Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.



Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -
10am Worship at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford,
ALSO Via Zoom, Facebook or ‘Phone-in’.

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: 'Come thou long expected Jesus' – TiS 272

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Public Domain

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship

Loving God, this Advent season calls us to watch and wait.

Help us notice the signs of your presence around us.

In ancient times you acted to save,
Come again and restore your people.

Just when we had given up hope,
You come to our aid.

Just when we thought it was all in vain,
Your words of promise revive us.

When we remember your kindness and compassion,
Our hearts are glad.

The Sentence

“O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.”

(Psalm 100. 1)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Minister: Today is the first Sunday of Advent - the time when we prepare once again for the coming of Jesus.

We light a candle each week to remind us that Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.

Liturgical Assistant: The prophet Isaiah describes a future shaped by peace for all nations as they walk in the light of the Lord. We wait in hope for this prophecy to be fulfilled.

We light the candle of hope to proclaim that God’s light is coming into the world.

The first candle is lit

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Silence for self-reflection

Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**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.**

Absolution

God is slow to anger and full of compassion,
forgiving all who humbly repent
and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord.

God therefore forgives us in Christ Jesus,
in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

The Trisagion – *We will say the Trisagion together*

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

The Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,
whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:
renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 ^{*}—as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.*

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered* us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people. *Isaiah 64.1-9*

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;**

**2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**

**3 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

**4 O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**

**5 You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.**

**6 You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**7 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

**17 Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man
whom you made so strong for yourself.**

**18 And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.**

**19 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

Early Talk

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

24 ‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^{*} is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert;^{*} for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a

journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Mark 13. 24-37

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
who calls, equips and sends out God’s people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
**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.**

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks
because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us
inheritors of everlasting life;
that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the
world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence may stand before him.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.**

**Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.**

**As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.**

**Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

For those unable to receive Holy Communion this Sunday, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:

O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever

separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out of God's People

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Announcements

Final Hymn: 'My hope is built' - MP 1334

//1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.//

Refrain:
*Christ alone, cornerstone,
weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm He is Lord,
Lord of all.*

2 When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil,

my anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone...

3 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in Him be found.

Dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless stand before the throne.

Christ alone...

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The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
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.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

Everlasting God, as we come before you at the start of the Season of Advent we ask you to prepare us for the coming, of your son Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the Church and the world and to thank you for your goodness.

We pray:-

*For our greater care and preservation of our environment.

*For peace in places of conflict and violence. Provision of safe-haven and

new beginnings for refugees.

For an end to domestic violence and safe care for victims.

For an end to the racial and social injustices in our own country.

For those living through ill health, social unrest and economic hardship viewed through the lens of a world-wide pandemic. We pray for people in the Northern Hemisphere and in America where there is 12 million cases and up to 2000 deaths a day from Covid-19. We pray for the work of world medical scientists as they trial vaccines and for all front-line health carers.

*Guidance and wisdom for those undertaking the long process of bringing to justice the very few SAS personnel who have committed war crimes against humanity and for compassionate justice for the suffering families in Afghanistan.

*For the worldwide church, our Diocese, and the churches in our local community.

For Bishop Richard and his family as our Bishop leads the Diocese through yet another tragedy. We pray for our Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, the Venerable Brenda Burney, her family, friends, the parishioners of Bairnsdale and beyond, our Bishop, all Clergy and Registry Staff as they mourn the death of Rod Burney, a beloved husband, father, family member, friend and parishioner.

For Dave as he supports Bishop Richard in his role as Chaplain.

For guidance, inspiration, and energy for Dave as he leads the parish through our emergence from lockdown and into an intergenerational post pandemic parish. For Emma and their 4 children.

For good discipleship here in Avon, to take Your message of love and concern for everyone into our community.

*For our mainly music families, that we may continue to connect with them.

*For all who support the op shop. Coordinator Bev, volunteers, and all who donate to our ministry and mission.

*For our Retiring Offertory – Act for Peace, Christmas Bowl.

*Healing God, we lift to you those who are suffering in our parish. Those with physical, mental or emotional illness, all carers and for those who are mourning.

We pray especially for Marion, Aubrey, Paul, Julie, Brenda, Lillas, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

God of compassion, shower your loving comfort and peace upon the Archdeacon of our Eastern Region, the Venerable Brenda Burney, her family, friends, the parishioners of Bairnsdale and beyond, our Bishop, all

Clergy and Registry Staff as they mourn the death of Rod Burney, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, family member, friend and parishioner.

Advent Lord, as we move into the new liturgical year, draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours and open our eyes to the wonder of your creation, so that when our Saviour comes he may find our hearts ready to receive him.

NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings friends,

How nice it was to join together in fellowship at Brenda's farewell high tea. Many comments indicate it was a lovely afternoon tea.

Our thanks to Bev T and Wendy for coordinating the food and refreshments and to all who attended.

Joining with the Senior Citizens Group was a bonus.

Brenda, dressed in style as always, responded as our guest of honour, and says she really enjoyed the occasion as did Christine, her daughter.

For those who do not know, our gift to Brenda (from your donations) was a Myer Gift Voucher with which she can purchase something she may need for her new home etc, from Myer in Doncaster.

Our heartfelt love and prayers go with Brenda and Christine as Brenda moves to her new apartment with Christine's loving guardianship nearby. Apparently, there are many social activities and groups on site and we pray Brenda will have company and an opportunity to make new friends.

Next Sunday 6 December will be an ordinary service at Holy Trinity not a family service.

Also on Sunday 6, Dave is asking parishioners to join together for an offsite social afternoon tea in the garden at Wa de lock @1pm.

We do hope you can all come along.

This year the Christmas Morning Tea for the Community will take place in the form of delivering Christmas morning tea packs to all in the business houses of Stratford and supporters elsewhere.

We are urgently asking for Christmassy cooking in the way of slices, mini Christmas cakes, short bread etc, or cup cakes etc. etc.

Could your donations please be brought to the Parish Hall on Monday 7 December. We have at least 70+ packs to make up so we are very much in need of your generous help please. We will not be including sandwiches this year.

Early notices: on Saturday 12 December there will be a Parish Christmas Dinner at the Avon Valley Food-house in lieu of the Parish Christmas BYO Party in the Parish Hall. Two course meal @ \$30 per person. We hope everyone will come along for some Christmas cheer as this 'tough' year nears its end. If anyone is in need of financial support, with the cost, please speak confidentially to Dave.

Tuesday 15 December there will be an ordinary meeting of Parish Council at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

We will join together on Zoom for a time of social fellowship at 11.30am today, after the service at Holy Trinity.

The Parish Christmas Hamper stationed at the op shop.

Raffle prizes include a \$100 Petrol Voucher and a great Christmas Hamper.

Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. This is our annual raffle for the parish and parishioners are asked to please assist with selling tickets – thank you.

Please remember that when intending to come to church, contact Dave early in the week. If for some reason you have a change of plans, please then cancel your booking ASAP so that Dave knows exactly how many folks to expect.

WHATS ON IN THE PARISH

DECEMBER

OP Shop / Parish Raffle.

Retiring Offertory: Act for Peace, Christmas Bowl

School Holidays: Saturday 19 December to Wednesday 27 January 2020.

- Mon 7** 3pm. Christmas Afternoon Tea for Op Shop Volunteers at Wa de lock.
- Wed 9** Delivery of Christmas Morning Tea to the business houses of Stratford and other supporters.
- Sat 12** Parish Christmas Dinner. Avon Valley Food House.
- Sun 13** Advent 3. All Age Family Worship
Healing Service
- Sun 20** Advent 4.
- Thurs 24** 6pm Family Christmas Service at Holy Trinity
- Thurs 24** 8pm Christmas Eve, Holy Communion at **St Mary's
- Thurs 24** 11pm. Candle-lite Holy Communion at Holy Trinity
- Fri 25** 8.30am & 10am Christmas Day HC at **All Saints & Holy Trinity.
- Sun 27** First Sunday after Christmas

JANUARY

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

School resumes Thursday 28 January 2021

Dave and family on leave this month.

Retiring Offertory: CBM plus completion of Act for Peace Christmas Bowl

- Fri 1** New Year's Day. New Offertory Envelopes
- Sun 3** Second Sunday of Christmas.
All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity
- Wed 6** The Epiphany
- Sun 10** 1st Sunday after Epiphany. The Baptism of Jesus
Healing Service

Sunday 6 December. Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Trinity Ministry Roster

Isaiah 40.1-11. Ps 85.1-2, 8-13. 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Vic . 1st Reading Sandra

Intercess: Vic. Org: Vic. Camera: Denise

Flowers: Judy K. Sac: Bev/Denise

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