

## Sunday 21 December 2025 Cooma Anglican HC 3

### Bondi Candle

#### Hymn: TIS 105 Let all the world

**Let all the world in every corner sing My God and King!**

**The heavens are not too high His praise may thither fly**

**The earth is not too low His praises there may grow**

**Let all the world in every corner sing My God and King**

**Let all the world in every corner sing My God and King**

**The church with psalms must shout No door can keep them out**

**But above all the heart Must bear the longest part**

**Let all the world in every corner sing My God and King.**

### Sentence of Scripture

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1:22-23

### The Great Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

### 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.**

### Advent Candle/Prayer of the Day

Gracious God

you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; and may these Advent candles that signify your love, hope, joy and peace, light the way for Jesus to fill our hearts in memory of his birth to Mary and in expectation of his return; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### Isaiah 7:10-16 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights. ” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test. ” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not

enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

**shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.**

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup> **How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?**

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.**

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup> **Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup> Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> **Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved**

### **Romans 1:1-7 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **Mat1:18-25 (NIV)**

### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Sermon - The Promised One**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the world and the church

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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.**

### Scripture Sentence

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Cor 11:26-28

### The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.**

**By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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 you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen**

### 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.**

### Hymn - TIS 256 The Servant King

Jesus comes with all His grace

Comes to save a fallen race

Object of our glorious hope

Jesus comes to lift us up

Let the living stones cry out

Let the sons of Abraham shout

Praise we all our lowly King

Give Him thanks rejoice and sing

He hath our salvation wrought

He our captive souls hath bought

He hath reconciled to God

He hath washed us in His blood

We are now His lawful right

Walk as children of the light

We shall soon obtain the grace

Pure in heart to see His face

**We shall gain our calling's prize  
After God we all shall rise  
Filled with joy and love and peace  
Perfected in holiness.**

### **Thanksgiving for Offering**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **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.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying 'Drink from 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.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen**

## **The Holy Communion**

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

## **After Communion**

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

**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.**

## **Notices**

### **Hymn - TIS 289 - Christmas is coming**

Christmas is coming, The Church is glad to sing  
And let the Advent candles, Brightly burn in a ring

The first is for God's promise, To put the wrong things right  
And bring to earth's darkness, The hope of love and light

The second for the prophets, Who said that Christ would come  
With good news for many, And angry words for some

The third is for the Baptist, Who cried prepare the way  
Be ready for Jesus Both this and every day

The fourth is for the Virgin, Who mothered God's own son  
And sang how God's justice, Was meant for everyone

At last we light the candle, Kept new for Christmas day  
This shines bright for Jesus, New-born and here to stay

Christ is among us, The candles in the ring  
Remind us that our Saviour, Will light up everything

## **Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Sermon - The One who was promised Isaiah 7:10-16,  
Ps80:1-7,17-19, Rom1:1-7, Mat1:18-25**

Have you ever thought about how much of what we do involves predicting the future? My wife Cath is a meteorologist who predicts what the weather will be like in the future. Economists try to predict how rich or poor we will be in the future, particularly if governments follow different policies, and even engineers, my profession for many years, try to predict how machinery will work if it is designed in particular ways.

In most cases there is no shortage of people that will tell us what they think will happen, usually with quite different amounts of expertise and accuracy.

The Bible often makes predictions of what will happen in the future, and as I mentioned some weeks ago, prophecy - proclaiming God's word, often had an element of foretelling the future. Afterall, God is all knowing and all powerful, so is the only one capable of foretelling the future with complete accuracy.. The Old Testament, the first half of our Bible, which was written before Jesus, has a particular focus of foretelling that Jesus would come and who he was.

Paul makes this point in our New Testament reading this morning: Paul, who wrote the letter under God's inspiration, wrote that the gospel of God that was promised beforehand through God's prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord.

The early Christians recognised these prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus, but what is sad is that even since Jesus came, those other faiths who believe the Old Testament, the Jews and Muslims, do not recognise that these prophecies refer to Jesus.

This is why it is so important that we understand these prophecies, and why we are looking at some of them this morning, and in particular, the ones that are referred to in the readings set down for today.

In our gospel reading from Matthew which I just read, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said that Mary's pregnancy to the Holy Spirit was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet. "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Luke was at pains to make it clear that Mary was a virgin, that she had not had special relations with any man prior to Jesus being born. This was as the prophet Isaiah said to king Ahaz. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah also said 'He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.' Isaiah 7:10-16

Similar to reading last week, Ahaz was worried about two kinds matching on Jerusalem to overtake it, and God told Isaiah to give him the sign of the virgin conceiving Immanuel to give confidence that God would not allow this. While it was some 800 years before Jesus, the prophecy was about God's protection of Judah, and about the coming of Jesus. Many Old Testament prophecies follow this pattern: they were an immediate fulfillment of a local issue involving God's chosen people Israel, but they also had a greater reality and in their fulfillment showed God salvation, not just of his own people, but the whole world, which is why Jesus came.

The angel went on to tell Mary that she would have a son, which you might say had a 50-50 chance of being true, but was actually vastly more significant in that he would be conceived of God the Holy Spirit, making him God the Son. So Jesus wasn't just any son, but as God's Son is seen by Christians as divine. Again, many people dispute whether this necessarily follows from the Old Testament prophecies, but when Isaiah, and the angel, go on to say that they will call him Immanuel, which like helpfully explains means God with us, Jesus divinity is not just a logical and reasonable progression, it is a belief entirely consistent with the prophecies and then circumstances, but



also helps us to understand how Jesus could grow up to take the punishment the world deserved for everyone's sin when he died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Another pattern when the New Testament refers to Old Testament prophecies is that they may only directly quote a small section, a verse or so, but the readers are assumed to know the context of the prophecy, the whole passage if you like. So this morning, our Old Testament reading didn't just include: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.' We went on read: He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,<sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste

The first century Jewish traders would have known that this was part and parcel of the prophecy, but I suspect many modern readers aren't quite so biblically literate. The angel was also saying that while he is still very young - basically just moving to solid food, he will know enough to reject wrong and know what is right. This is probably an allusion to creation when humankind was made in the image of God, and the concern that reading from the tree in the middle of the garden would improperly give humankind knowledge of good and evil. When Jesus was still a babe, he would properly discern God and evil, again suggesting his divinity.

Isaiah says that even before then, the land of the two kings that Ahaz dreaded would be laid waste. This was obviously the case as Samaria and Sennacherib were laid waste before Jesus was onto solid food, but also the nation's opposing God would surely be defeated as soon as Jesus entered our world as a man. Ultimately, the details God planned had to proceed, Jesus had to live his sinless life, preach and heal, die and rise again, but the kingdom of Satan was absolutely doomed as soon as Jesus was incarnate, even if they wouldn't fully see their defeat until the plan was fully complete. Nevertheless, the outcome was absolutely certain as soon as Jesus was born.

So, today as we contemplate what Isaiah said to Ahaz, what the angel said to mark and Joseph, and ultimately what God says to us today in his word, including the words of Isaiah and of Gabriel, we hear the predictions, the prophecies, the word of God who cannot lie, and who perfectly knows the future, who knows his plans, and what their outcome will be.

God knew, and told us some 800? Years in advance that his Son, God the Son, Jesus the Messiah, the promised one would be born of the virgin Mary, would reject the wrong and choose the right, and ultimately defeat the devil that had corrupted the world since sin entered the world in Eden.

We couldn't know the details of how good would fulfil his plan just from the Old Testament prophecies, just some hints and the certainty that they would be fulfilled, but this is what makes following Jesus so exciting, we get to see and understand the fulfillment of God planned as they unfold. We can look back on Jesus' birth to the virgin Mary, understand that he is Immanuel, God with us, and through him, evil is being defeated, and for all intents and purposes has been defeated, even if we don't see it fully yet.

As we issue this, let us say with the psalmist:

God almighty,

Let your hand rest on the man Jesus at your right hand,  
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

18 Then we will not turn away from you;  
revive us, and we will call on your name.

19 Restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.

Amen