

Sunday Service

10.30am | Sunday, December 17th 2023 | The Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome: Justin Roberts (Minister for Students)

Song: Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suff'ring,
never trace, nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory;
grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.
Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker

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Confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen

All - Age slot

Children's Song on video

Children leave for their groups

Church Family News

Prayers: Johnny Lockwood

Song: He Who Is Mighty

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
to those who sit in death's shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night;
born was the Cornerstone.

**Unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Child is born.**

**He Who is mighty has done a great
thing;
taken on flesh, conquered death's
sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our
shame.
Holy is His name.**

Oh, the freedom our Saviour won;
the yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace
no more condemnation.

Now my soul magnifies the Lord;
I rejoice in the God Who saves,
I will trust His unfailing love,
I will sing His praises all my days.

Kate DeGraide, Rebecca Elliott ©2014 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign
Grace Worship

Reading: Luke 2:1-14 (p.1027)
Jenny Harris

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: The Greatest Gift (1)
Pete Scamman (Associate Minister)

Song: Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
by the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
to the anguish and the shame of
scandal
came the Saviour of the human race!
But the skies were filled with the praise
of heaven,
shepherds listen as the angels tell
of the Gift of God come down to man
at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
humble servant in the Father's hands,
filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my
pain,
joys and sorrows that I know so well;
yet His righteous steps give me hope
again -
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's
transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
and with a shout our souls are free -
death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
crowned with glory on the highest throne,
interceding for His own beloved
till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet
sounds
hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
but the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
giving glory to Immanuel!

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Hymn: Christians Awake

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
on which the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice:
'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations upon earth!
This day has God fulfilled his promised
word;
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

To Bethlehem these eager shepherds ran
to see the wonder of our God made man;
they found, with Joseph and the holy maid,
her son, the Saviour, in a manger laid.
Amazed, with joy this story they proclaim,
the first apostles of his infant fame.

O, may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost
mankind;
trace we the babe, who has retrieved our
loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again
takes place.

Let us, like those good shepherds, now
employ
our grateful voices to declare the joy:
Christ, who was born on this most happy
day,
round all the earth his glory shall display.
Saved by his love, unceasing we shall sing,
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

John Byrom and John Wainwright
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Closing Prayer

