

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

6 December 2020

Bulletin for the Second Sunday in Advent

HYMNS: 10 13 6 282 283 9

INTROIT: LORD, You have been favourable to Your land. You have brought Jacob back from captivity. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people. You have covered all their sin.

You have taken back all Your fury. You have turned away from Your fierce anger.

Restore us, O God, You who save us! Withhold Your indignation toward us! Will You be angry with us for ever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations?

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation!

Let me hear what God, the LORD, will speak! For He will promise peace to His people, to His devout people. However, let them not become foolish again!

Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, in order that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth will sprout up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its produce. Righteousness will go before Him, to prepare a way for His footsteps.

Psalm 85

COLLECT: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11 Prepare the way of the LORD.

2 Peter 3:8-14 The day of the Lord.

Mark 1:1-8. John the Baptist prepares the way

SERMON: Isaiah 40:1-11 The comfort of the Lord

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the *AELC Statement of Faith*, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

Second Advent Candle: Preparation and Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5

³ *A voice of someone calling out in the wilderness: "Prepare a road for the LORD! Make a smooth highway in the desert for our God! ⁴ Every valley must be raised up and every mountain and hill must be levelled! The uneven land must become a plain and the rugged ground must become a plain! ⁵ The glory of the LORD will be revealed, and every human being will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

The second herald, John the Baptist, was commissioned to "go before the Lord to prepare His ways," (Luke 1:76-79). He did so when he preached repentance "in the wilderness of Judea," (Matt. 3:1). "Prepare a road for the LORD!" According to His eternal plan, "a road for the LORD" has as its predestined goal the redemption of all humankind through His Son, Jesus Christ. All obstacles will be cleared from His highway of salvation. His chosen people will come forth from the grave of the exile and survive the rise and fall of empires in order that the Saviour might be born "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4) as foretold.

We light the candle of Preparation and Peace. As we light this candle let it remind us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Prayer: **Father, guide us in confession of our sins. We know that in the greatness of Your love, You have promised to forgive us. Cleanse us as we prepare our lives for the coming of Jesus again. This we ask in His name. Amen.**

Welcome to all worshipping with us today!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaelc@gmail.com.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

13 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	20 December 4th Sunday in Advent	24 December Christmas Eve
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 8.30am TMBA HC (Children's Christmas Program) 10.30am AUB HC (Children's Christmas Program) 9.00am MARBURG LR 7.30pm Carols Evening at Greenwood	8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am OAK/GRN Children's Christmas Program 6.30pm MARBURG Children's Christmas Program	7.30pm OAK HC
		25 December Christmas Day
		8.00am MARBURG HC 8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR
Sunday, 13 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28		
HYMNS: 17 1 12 22		
Sunday, 20 December		
READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38		
HYMNS: 4 2 21 627		
Thursday, 24 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25		
HYMNS: 24 633 634 25 623 629		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 13 December, 7.30pm. Carols Evening at Greenwood. Please bring along something for a shared supper.

The ULMA has formally received an application for membership from *Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jackson, Michigan*. The ULMA have had contact off and on with *Faith* for some time. Since the AELC is in fellowship with ULMA, we need to look at *Faith's* doctrinal statements. Information may be found at www.faithlutheranofjackson.com. However, as you leave, please take with you copies of their *Constitution and Bylaws*, and *A Brief Summary of Christian Doctrine*. *Faith's* pastor, Ross Mahan has received a copy of the AELC *Statement of Faith* and is aware of our fellowship with ULMA. If any congregations have questions, or after reading their statements seek clarification, please let Pastor Ziebell know. My next Skype call with the ULMA will be on Friday the 18th of December where discussion will be held on *Faith's* application, so if there are any questions, etc., please let me know before this date.

Christ's First Advent Necessarily Lowly, Jos Second Not

If this birth had been announced to the nobility of this world and the shepherds had compared themselves with these men of influence and their wisdom and wealth, it would have been frightening to them. For men fear power and stand in awe of wisdom. If Christ had come with trumpets and had had a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be comforting to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be considered of little consequence in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to Him. So He now reveals Himself to the miserable in order not to create the impression that He is coming with great power, pomp, wisdom, and aristocratic behaviour. But upon His return on that Day, when He will come against the high and mighty, it will be different. Now He comes to the poor, who need a Saviour; but then He will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting Him here.

Martin Luther