

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

20 December 2020

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

HYMNS: 4 2 21 627

INTROIT: Let me sing about the mercies of the LORD for ever.
With my mouth I shall make Your faithfulness known to every generation.
For I have been saying, "Mercy will be built up for ever; You will keep your
faithfulness unshaken in the heavens."
You have said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have
sworn an oath to My servant David: 4 'I shall establish your Descendant
for ever, and I shall build up your throne to all generations'".
Once in a vision You said to Your devout people: "I have bestowed help
upon a Warrior; I have raised up One chosen from the people.
I have found David, My Servant ; I have anointed Him with My holy oil.
With Him My hand will be secure; indeed, My arm will make Him strong.
No enemy will deceive Him, and no wicked person will subdue Him.
I shall beat His enemies fine before Him, and I shall strike down those who
hate Him.
My faithfulness and mercy will be with Him, and in My name His horn will
be raised high.
I shall put His hand over the sea, and His right hand over the rivers.
He will call out to Me, 'You are My Father, my God, and the Rock of My
salvation.'

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

COLLECT: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your
might, that the sins that weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your
grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 God's promise to David.
Romans 16:25-27 God reveals His age-long purpose in Jesus.
Luke 1:26-38 God's call to Mary.

SERMON: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 We Worship

Fourth Advent Candle: Revelation and Love

Scripture: Luke 2:10-14

¹⁰ The angel said to them, "Stop being afraid! For look! I am bringing you Good News of great joy, which will be for all the people, ¹¹ because a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord, has been born for you today, in the city of David. ¹² This will also be the sign to you: you will find an Infant wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, who were praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people whom He favours!"

The darkness of night is shattered by the bright light of angelic beings. Angels serve as messengers of God to interpret events that would otherwise go unnoticed or be misunderstood. The shepherds are told that the Baby wrapped in such ordinary cloths and lying in a manger is none other than the Saviour, Christ the Lord!

This is the first occurrence of the name Christ in Luke's gospel. This is a Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah, meaning "Anointed One." The word is found, for example, in Psalm 2:2, where we are told that the kings of the earth take their stand against the Lord and against "His Anointed One." Since it was customary to anoint kings in the Old Testament, the word "Christ" has reference to the fact that Jesus is a king, descended from David and destined to rule forever. The birth of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promise that God would send a King, a Messiah, to save His people.

We light the candle of Revelation and Love. We celebrate the announcement of the coming King and the greatness of God's love revealed through the Christ Child.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for revealing Yourself though Jesus, and we praise You for the greatness of Your love. Help us to share Your peace with others and live our lives more like Christ every day. In His name we pray. Amen.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.

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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

24 December Christmas Eve	27 December 1 Christmas	1 January 2021 New Year's Day
7.30pm OAK HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR	9.30am AUB HC
25 December Christmas Day	9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	3 January 2 Christmas
8.00am MARBURG HC 8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR		8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR
Thursday, 24 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25		
HYMNS: 24 633 634 25 623 629		
Friday, 25 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18		
HYMNS: 26 624 622 (628 33) 34		
Sunday, 27 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40		
HYMNS: 14 23 part 2 20 (741 290) 508		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve service at Oakey, 7.30pm. Collection will be received, so please place your collection in envelopes marked back to your own congregation.

Christ the Saviour is Born!

No one knows for sure just exactly when our Lord Jesus Christ was born in the City of David. Perhaps it was sometime from late 3 BC to late 2 BC. Many of the customs which so strongly associate with Christmas celebration have, in and of themselves, little to do with what really happened 2000 or so years ago. Culture, tradition and popular lore have developed so that over the years it is often difficult to pick out a truly Christian message from “Christmas” festivities and celebrations.

One occasionally reads literature from cultic groups that not only call attention to that fact, but also that many of our customs are of pagan origin. It is hard to argue with that.

But at the same time, it must be said that we ought to celebrate the coming of God’s Son into the world, and it may just as well be December 25, as any other date. And even though many of our decorations could well be used to celebrate something else, we use them to proclaim to the world that something very special took place two millennia ago that affects our lives very deeply right now. The Son of God was born of a humble virgin and laid to rest in a manger – that is, an animal feed box.

Now the Bible says nothing about “ox and ass” or any other animals for that matter “bowing before Him.” Nor is there any evidence that the wise men were three in number, or that they were kings. It seems unlikely that our Lord was born on December 25. Many Bible scholars have conjectured that Jesus was born in the spring when shepherds are usually watching their flocks because it is lambing season. These are additions and speculations that may or may not have been. But the fanciful words of our Christmas carols, even though not always historically accurate, proclaim this great truth: Jesus, the Son of Mary, is “very God of very God.” The angels of God, people, kings and even the animals and all of creation owe Him homage and obedience.

He is the One who humbles Himself to accomplish with great might what none of us could. In His humility is the power of God to destroy the power of the Evil One, and to win for us everlasting salvation. In His suffering and death, comes the victory that wins us life and eternal joy. The Child whose humble throne was once an animal feed box, now sits at the right hand of the Father.

Yes, the trappings, the culture, the lore often have become more important than the Gospel story itself, and that is truly sad. It is sometimes hard to find Christ in all the clutter.

But on the other side, get out your decorations and proclaim to the world that something important has happened. Our Saviour has come to dwell among us, to bring us salvation. There is no reason to be quiet about it. Christ, the Saviour, is born!