

**Welcome to worship at
Holy Trinity, Terrigal**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
20th December 2020**



9.00am – Holy Eucharist

Presiding and Preaching – Fr Mark Watson

Organist – Chris Sillince

Hymns: TIS 161, TIS 264, 185 NEH and TIS 283

(All Hymns are from Together in Song unless otherwise specified.)

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD. King David wanted to build a fine temple in which God could dwell among the people. But God did not choose a building made of stones and mortar for a dwelling place but the womb of the virgin Mary. God continues to dwell among us in Mary's son, Jesus Christ, whose body is the Church. Let us pray for a deepening of faith this Christmas that we, like Mary, may continue to give Christ to the world.

We have lit the candles of hope, peace and joy. Today we light the candle of love. The angel Gabriel told Mary a special child would be born to her. The birth of Jesus gave joy to his mother and his coming into the world also brings joy. But it was because God loved the world that he gave the gift of his Son. Through the love of Mary and Joseph, Jesus was nurtured and cared for. Jesus taught and healed because he loved. He gave his life in love.

Love is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love of God shown in Christ.

The fourth candle is lit.

Let us pray.

Lord God, you chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your incarnate Son. With Joseph, she loved Jesus and cared for him until he was revealed to the world.

Give us the same love to help us witness to your Son and so spread the Good News of your love. Make us ready to welcome him. Amen.

Sentence

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1.32-33

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from 2 Samuel Chapter 7 verses 1-11 and verse 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your

enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;

and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant: From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him: from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm: and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones: and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things: and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel: to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever.

**A reading of the letter of Paul to the Romans
Chapter 16 verses 25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Chapter 1 verses 26-38

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

THE UPHEAVAL OF ADVENT

COVID-19 has created upheaval in 2020. After the year that it's been, we probably seek peace, security and stability. Reality can be tough at times. We can seek escape from the realities of life by retreating into fantasy. During Advent and Christmas, we work hard to sentimentalise the season, to make it cute and comfortable. By contrast, in church we hear words from prophets like Isaiah and John the Baptist and Mary whose words are anything but sentimental or sweet. Rather than cute sentimentality, in Advent we hear revolutionary speech. Mary in her hymn the *Magnificat*, speaks of the rich being sent away empty and the mighty being thrown down from their thrones and the lowly being lifted up. This is revolutionary language, very different from "*I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*"!

Isaiah prophesied after the return of Israel from Babylonian exile. The defeat of Israel was a huge disaster. The nation was shattered, because not only was this a political defeat but God's place on earth, the Temple, was destroyed. How could the Creator and Lord of all the earth be defeated? When Israel returned, Isaiah saw it as proof that God is mightier than the king of Babylon after all. Yet after their return, they were conquered again, first by the Greeks then by the Romans. The cry goes up to God "How long O Lord?"

Then about five-hundred years after the exile, John the Baptist came crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord." The decisive victory is about to happen. "The kingdom of God is

at hand." It turns out that in Jesus, the Lamb of God, God is decisively, and victoriously coming as King, coming to rule the world, to supplant the kings of the world, to replace the kingdoms of this world with the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospels show us the many ways God's kingdom is here. We receive a glimpse of what the world looks like when God, in Jesus, is King. He eats and drinks with everyone, not just the chosen ones, the insiders, the respectable, but the unacceptable, the sick, the weak, the poor, the sinners. God is gathering in new tribes. His kingdom is open to all.

Also, he forgives sins. He conquers the power that has us in its grip. Peace and nonviolence predominate when Jesus is King. By contrast, the kingdoms of this world are marked by violence and hatred and oppression. So they come after this new King. They lynch him by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from the dead. He is the King because he has defeated the greatest enemy of all - death. When we say, "Jesus is Lord" we must not spiritualise it. His hearers would have understood it to mean Jesus was the new David, the king who is to rule the world.

Paul preached to the Roman world and said Jesus, not Caesar, is Lord. The New Testament readings for Advent at daily Morning Prayer are from Mark's Gospel. He wrote about 70AD. The first words of his Gospel are: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The revolutionary nature of these words may be lost on us. Mark's hearers would have understood those words to be revolutionary and provocative. The words translated "good news" are *evangelion* in Greek. When the Roman Emperor won a victory, his heralds carried the good news or *evangelion* throughout the streets. Mark is saying of Jesus, "here is the one who brings victory."

Finally, for Mark to call Jesus the Son of God was also very provocative. The emperor was considered the son of God. Julius Caesar claimed to be *divus*, a god, then his adopted son Augustus was called the son of god. Mark said No, Jesus is the son of God, supplanting the Roman Emperor. He is the one to whom final allegiance is due.

Fr Mark

Prayer for those suffering severe illness (adapted from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, p. 692)

Healing Spirit,

we pray for those suffering from serious diseases and for those who are terminally ill, and those living with the COVID-19 virus. We pray for skill and patience for the doctors and nurses who care for them. We pray that their relatives and friends may be strengthened and comforted. May their faith not falter as they support each other through testing times. We pray for those engaged in research that by your inspiration and their skill the scourges of this generation may be overcome. Help us to live in your way and to seek health in body, mind and spirit. **Amen.**

Please pray for

Graeme Patterson, Ken Hope, Norm Williams, Emma Horton, Isobel Hargraves, Jean Jackson, Marian French, Aaron Lane, Pat Lindsay, Toby Lindsay, Gloria Townsend, Margaret Willard, Pat Stokes, Carolyn Gibbs, Kathy Oakes, Jill Ross, Tania Howlett, Ian Kidson, Maureen Hazlewood, Patricia Bailey and Carmen McGee and Manfred.

Direct Debit details of account:

ASDF Account

Parish of Terrigal

BSB: 705-077

Account number: 00040934

'Whispers of Love' Meditation

'Whispers of Love' Meditation will now be in recess and will resume on Monday 1st February, 2021 at 10am.

Prayerfully Reverend Ann

Christmas Bowl Appeal

Our collection for donations to the Christmas Bowl Appeal continue through to Christmas. Donations can be left in the white bowl when leaving Church each week or you can ask for an envelope.

Thank you.

Op Shop

The Op Shop will be having a Christmas sale until to 23rd December, 2020.

Let all your friends and family know so they can take advantage of great bargains.

Samaritans

We will have our basket for food donations available for those wishing to bring items. Suggestions for donations for the basket are breakfast cereals, pasta, soup, sardines, baked beans, spaghetti in a tin, creamed corn and long-life milk.

Thank you.

Prayer of the week until Christmas Eve

O Lord,
raise up your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us,
that, whereas through our sins and wickedness
we are sore let and hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer on Christmas Eve during the day

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly expectation
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our Judge;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God **Amen.**



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Advent 4

– Sunday 20 December 2020

- 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16;
Either Psalm 89.1-4, 19-27 or The Song of Mary
Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

The Annunciation: Mary is at the very bottom of the social scale - female in a society which values males, young in a society that values age and poor in a society that sees wealth as a blessing from God. However as is often the case in salvation history is it the lowly who are chosen. The youngest sons - Jacob and David, the foreigner, - Ruth, the shepherd - Amos. In fact, the Old Testament people of God are to remember their lowly beginnings. ("I wandering Aramean was my father").

Gabriel tells Mary that she has found favour with God. In spite of all the serious consequences for her, Mary's response is unequivocal. Yes.

- May we too say an unequivocal yes to actively follow the Christ.

- Give thanks for the work and witness of all who are preparing churches throughout the country for Christmas around this time.

Text: The Very Rev Phillip Saunders,
Dean of Canberra and Goulburn
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Mission News – 20th December, 2020
The Christmas Bowl
Sharing love with the most vulnerable in Jordan

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria

Life was already tough for Syrian refugees living in Jordan. And now, the economic crisis unfolding as a result of the coronavirus has made the situation even worse. This Christmas your gifts will help refugees in Jordan to stay safe through the pandemic. Your kindness will translate into lifesaving food rations, hygiene kits and medical care. What a wonderful way to share God's love. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

God's love often appears at the most difficult time. In Jordan, you are helping Syrian refugees harness their love and determination to help each other stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

Life was already tough for the millions of Syrian refugees living in camps in Jordan. Now they are suffering even more with the spread of COVID-19.

Reem* is a mother of five who knows how quickly coronavirus would spread in her community: a crowded urban slum with little sanitation. But the cost of face masks is out of reach for refugees like her, especially since the initial lockdown measures have affected the little income they had.

That's why Reem decided to start making cloth face masks for her community. Reem works with a team of volunteers and accesses sewing machines from Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR).

She said:

"I am very happy that we can find practical solutions during the most difficult closure time in Jordan. We hope with this work, we can stop the pandemic in our camp."

Love gives us the strength to overcome the most extraordinary obstacles. But there is still no end in sight to COVID-19 – or the war in Syria – for struggling refugees like Reem. Please share God's love with them this Christmas, so they can survive the hardships still to come.

Your love will translate to lifesaving food ration packs and medical care, jobs training and psychological support. You'll help women like Reem earn a living, and bring much-needed psychological care to refugee communities. They need support to heal from their past, and to live with the anguish of not knowing if they can ever return home.

As Fares Al Swais, Executive Director of DSPR said:

"We appreciate your support, solidarity and love. But in the aftermath of the lockdown, we expect more poverty. Our journey to help the vulnerable is not over."

*Reem's name has been changed to protect her identity as a refugee.



For **Kenyan** farmers struggling to harvest food crops, being able to live life to the full means less dependence on erratic rainfall, and having greater knowledge about how to work with the land to increase its natural productivity.

ABM's Kenya Sustainable Livelihoods Project assists farmers to build better water storage and to use a range of water conservation methods, including extensive tree-planting.

Farmers are trained to plant drought-resistant crops, and given seeds to begin with. Schools are supplied with rainwater tanks and handwashing facilities, and environment clubs are set up to inform the next generation of leaders about environmental sustainability. The project also reaches out to people with a disability, ensuring that disability is no barrier to inclusion. Thus, your donation can help people with a disability, like members of the Kiangini Farm Pond Self-Help Group (pictured), to continue to have bounteous vegetable harvests which provide them with enough income to live and thrive.

Mission Donations

The Christmas Bowl Appeal and ABM Advent and Christmas Appeals can also be paid directly into the Parish ASDF account (details in pew bulletin). Please note the Appeal for your donation.

Envelopes are available for both the Christmas Bowl and ABM Appeals.

ABM also has a Digital Donation Card - scanning a secure QR code.

Coralie Taylor
Mission Secretary



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, TERRIGAL 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE Thursday 24th December 2020

5.00pm Eucharist for Children and Families

11.00pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY Friday 25th December 2020

8.00am Sung Eucharist

9.30am Holy Eucharist

Incense will be used at 11pm on Christmas Eve and 8.00am on Christmas Day.

Parish Directory

The Church of the Holy Trinity – 92 Serpentine Rd, Terrigal, 2260

Parish Postal Address – P.O. Box 167, Terrigal, 2260

Office Telephone - 4365 1115.

Parish Email – admin@terrigalanglican.org.au

Website - www.terrigalanglican.org.au

Rector – The Reverend Canon Mark Watson – 4365 1374 or 0434 431 400

Email - cyprian7@bigpond.com

Associate Priests

The Reverend Ann Watson – 4365 1065 or 0427 135 771

The Reverend Roy Hazlewood – 0418 290 192

The Reverend Dr Richard Harvey – 0422 109 262

The Reverend Bruce McAteer - 0417 229 296

Parish Executive

Neil Ewer (0412 640 477) – Rector’s Warden

Terry Rowe (4365 0430) - People’s Warden

Kyara Newport (0400 994 779) - People’s Warden

Parish Secretary - Kyara Newport (0400 994 779)

Parish Treasurer - Terry Rowe (4365 0430)

Parish Ministries

Parish Organist - Chris Sillince - 0422 225 849

Sacristan and Mission Secretary - Coralie Taylor

Messy Church Convenor - Rhonda Kiss – 4363 5001

Pastoral Care - contact - 4365 1115

Trinity Band & Cursillo – Libby Harvey – 0431 315 085

Safety Officer - Mike Keaney

Copyright Compliance Officer – Terry Rowe

Parish Bookshop – Kyara Newport

Women’s Fellowship – Pam Flegg – 4384 5326

Market Day Co-ordinator – Ian Wolstenholme

Parish Opportunity Shop

Carolyn Shields / Christine De Gans - 4365 1280

The Op Shop is open Tuesday to Thursday from 9.00am to 4.00pm

Fridays open from 9.00am to 10.15am and from 11:15am to 4.00pm

(Please note Friday between 10.15am-11.15am the Op Shop is CLOSED)

Saturday open from 10.00am to 1.00pm