

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH GEELONG

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany



**Rev. Denis Tomlins**

**A WARM WELCOME** to any who are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time today. Please make yourselves known. We trust you will enjoy this time of fellowship with us. You are invited to join us over a cuppa after the service.

## WELCOME

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SONG "Joy to the world! The Lord is come;" TIS 268

1.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

TIS 268

Joy to the world! The Lord is come  
Words in the Public Domain

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Whatever we are; Young or old, slow or fast; tall or shorter, super confident  
or anxious learners:

***Wonder of wonders! God has called each of us here.***

How we look on the exterior; Wrinkled, white-haired, stooped with age;

bright-eyed, smooth skinned, battling to get out of a chair or leapers of two steps at a time:

***Wonder of wonders! Each of us is made in God's image.***

Whether we are parents volunteering at school, kids playing tag; workers stocking shelves, retirees planning a trip, or shut in due to infirmity;

***Wonder of wonders! God works through each of us.***

#### OPENING PRAYER

SONG "Worship, honour, glory, blessing," TiS 772

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,  
Lord we offer to your name;  
young and old, our praise expressing,  
join your goodness to proclaim.  
As the saints in heaven adore you,  
we would bow before your throne;  
as your angels serve before you,  
so on earth your will be done.

TiS 772

Worship, honour, glory, blessing  
Words in Public Domain

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF GRACE

SONG "The heavens shall declare" TiS 746

The heavens shall declare the glory of His name  
All creation bows at the coming of the King  
Every eye shall see, every heart will know  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord  
See the coming of the King, holy is the Lord

Words and music from Songs of Geoff Bullock  
by permission Nightlight Music Group (Aus)

## READING 1 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

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The boy Samuel was serving God under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of God was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of God, where the Chest of God rested.

Then God called out, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am."

Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did.

God called again, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am."

Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew God for himself. It was before the revelation of God had been given to him personally.)

God called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am."

That's when it dawned on Eli that God was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, God. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed.

Then God came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

## READING 2 John 1: 43-51

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The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, "Come, follow me." (Philip's hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.) Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, "We've found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It's *Jesus*, Joseph's son, the one from Nazareth!" Nathanael said, "Nazareth? You've got to be kidding." But Philip said, "Come, see for yourself." When Jesus saw him coming he said, "There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body." Nathanael said, "Where did you get that idea? You don't know me." Jesus answered, "One

day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!"

Jesus said, "You've become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again."

## REFLECTION

SONG "Oh God, you search me and you know me" AT 424

O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze,  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising,  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
And with love everlasting you besiege me:  
In ev'ry moment of life or death you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
You have known its meaning through and through,  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future too.

Although your spirit is upon me,  
Still I search for shelter from your light,  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,  
Gave me life within my mother's womb,  
For the wonder of who I am I praise you:  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

## OFFERTORY

SUNG DEDICATION Tune TiS 465

***Grant now your blessing  
upon this offering,  
that we are bringing,  
with our thanksgiving.  
May you bestow, Lord,  
on us your children,  
Your grace and mercy.  
Amen.***

## NOTICES

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in Your mercy. - ***'Hear our prayer'***

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today day 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

### SONG "Christ be our Light"

1.  
Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

***Christ be our light!***

*Shine in our hearts,  
shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2.  
Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

3.  
Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

4.  
Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

5.  
Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants, to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

GA 404 & Misc L1. (Christ, be our light)  
Longing for light  
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## Blessing

Creator God, thank you for everything that makes us who we are. Thank you for our capacity to make wise choices in all that we seek to do. As we go out today, may we remember to value who we are, celebrate our relationships with others, and continue to be respectful, sensitive, and thoughtful in our interactions. May everything we do and say, be centred in

your loving kindness. Amen.

BLESSING SONG "Go walk with God in all you do" TiS 536

Go walk with God in all you do,  
And may God's love bring joy to you.  
May gifts of peace fill all your days,  
And may God's truth guide you always.

O may the grace of Christ our Lord,  
The wondrous love that comes from God,  
The Spirit's fellowship now be  
God's gift to you eternally.

We thank you, Lord, for life we share  
In learning, serving, praise and prayer.  
And when we say good-bye to friends,  
We thank you Lord: Love never ends.

© 2004 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette *"Songs of Grace – New Hymns for God and neighbor"*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17th

**Craft Group**  
10.30 am



January 23rd

**Coffee and Chat**  
10.30 am at the Hub East  
Geelong, All Welcome



February 4th

**Sunday Lunch**



February 5th

**Evening Fellowship**  
7.30 pm



February 18th

**Young Families Lunch**  
12.00 pm  
Congregational Hall



February 21st

**Bus Trip**  
10.30 am



# Daily Diary

Wednesday	17th January	10.30 am	Craft Group
Sunday	21st January	10.00 am	Church Service

## Rosters

	Today	Next Sunday
WELCOME	Gail Pett	Jackson Bell
READER	Bob Craig	Michael Nolan
Camera Operator	Heather Cooney	Lauris Lowe
Data Projection	David Strong	Graeme Harris
Morning Tea	Gail Pett and Michael Nolan	Mercie Wetherall, Nora Morales, Jill Shalless
Offering Counters	Lorene and Judy	Jan and Ruth
Communion		

## MINISTER & CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT

<b>MINISTER:</b> Rev. Tupe Ioelu	0448 415 656
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACTS:</b> <b>Chairperson:</b> Graeme Harris <b>Secretary:</b> Heather Cooney	0429 415 613 0477 805 234
Pastoral Concerns: Lauren Woolnough Jan Watson	0428 365 910 0421 320 296

### CHURCH OFFICE:

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