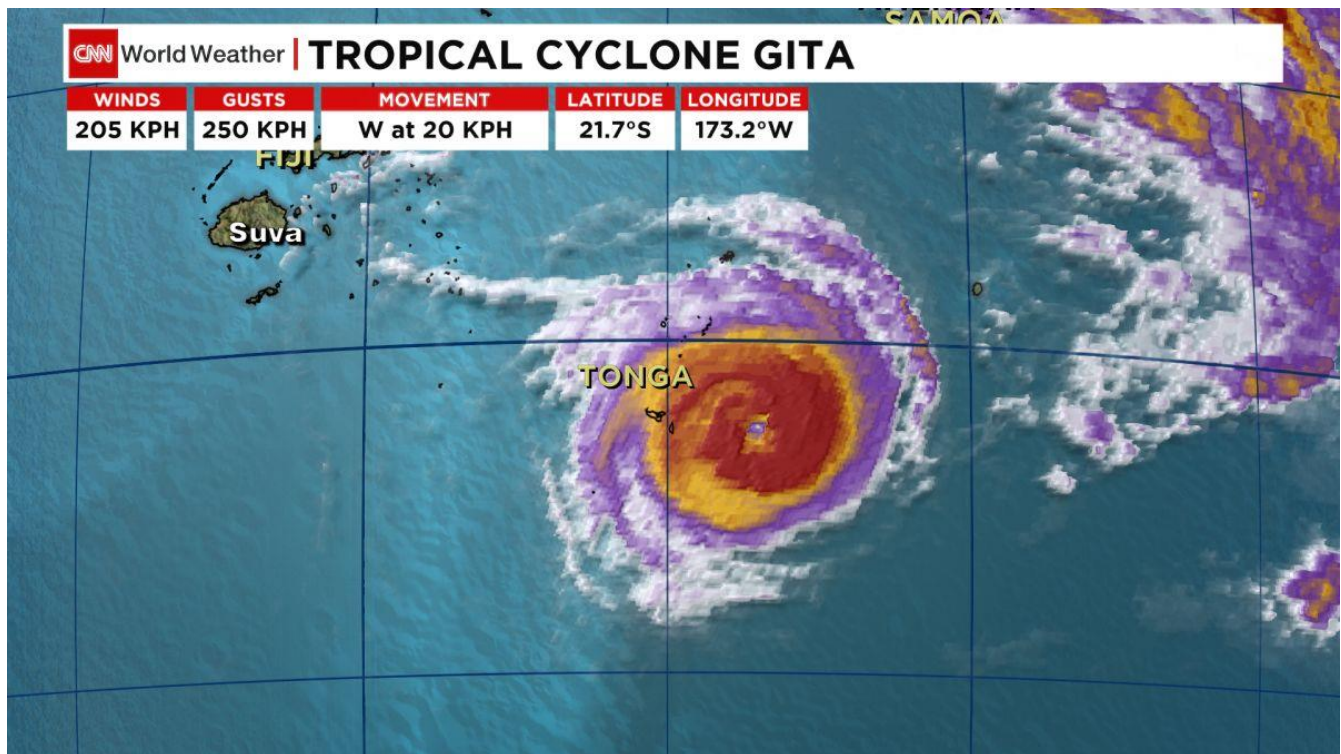




## Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete Sunday Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### A Celebration of Readings and Carols for Advent and Christmas



Today we shall worship – hear readings and sing – in a service of lessons and carols that originated in England in 1918, at the end of World War I first celebrated at Kings College, Cambridge. It is based upon a simple rhythm of seven to nine readings interspersed with congregational singing. The real backbone of the service is the telling of the story. In the original King's College service, the lessons were read by a variety of congregational members, starting with a young chorister and ending with the bishop. Today we will adapt that, for it has been adapted before over the years. Today, we will hear readings in both English and Korean and sing in both languages. Moreover, we shall hear not just Scripture, but a little of the moving experience of the German clergyman and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing to his fiancée, Maria von Wedemeyer, at Christmas 1944.

As part of this service, we will also be focusing upon Act for Peace's Christmas Bowl: today directed to the plight of our near neighbours in Tonga. We will hear the story of Tonga's struggle against changing climate and stronger hurricanes, including Tropical Cyclone Gita, through the experience of a young woman, Mele Moimoi.

## GATHERING

Flash Mob, Seoul Station, December 2012  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_qjiVm6Lzdc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qjiVm6Lzdc)

### Lighting the Candle of Joy

The Third Sunday of Advent, when we light the candle for joy, is known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The word “Gaudete” stems from the Latin imperative verb, “gaude”, meaning rejoice and the noun “gaudium” meaning joy. While Advent has a melancholic side to it – a season that calls us to serious self-examination and repentance, aligning ourselves with the love of God – today is the most joyful of the four Sundays. For this reason, the candle is pink or rose coloured. The introit for the Catholic mass today are the wonderful words from the Epistle reading for today in the Revised Common Lectionary, Philippians 4:4-7, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice” (*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete*).

Rejoice in the Lord always!  
***Again we say rejoice!***

Come  
 for joy invites us!

***In good circumstances and in bad,  
 in situations that are positive, and those that are negative.***

In Advent, we dare to see things differently!  
***To look at society, ourselves and the future  
 with energy and creativity***

*The candle of joy is lit*

This joy calls from wherever we are;  
 from the margins and the centre,  
 from suffering and comfort,  
 from situations of pain and privilege.  
***We too come from the margins and the centre,  
 from suffering and comfort,  
 from pain and privilege.***

Then let us bring our joy  
 and join it to the light of hope and love.  
***We bring our joy to this time and place,  
 celebrating the Source of all joy, who calls us together.***

**Carol:** Once in Royal David's City (TiS 312, Irby, Cecil Frances Alexander)

## **THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
as we await the great festival of Christmas,  
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its real meaning,  
moving beyond the superficial and the frivolous  
which diverts our attention

Let us hear, in readings from Holy Scripture,  
how the prophets of Israel foretold  
that God would visit and redeem a waiting people.

Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns,  
hearing that God works in human history  
toward the purposes of salvation and liberation.  
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,  
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,  
the dead are raised up, and the poor freed.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves:

***Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and for ever. Amen***

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여  
 이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며  
 나라이 임하옵시며  
 뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것 같이  
 땅에서도 이루어지이다.  
 오늘날 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주옵시고  
 우리가 우리에게  
 죄 지은 자를 사하여 준 것 같이  
 우리 죄를 사하여 주옵시고  
 우리를 시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고  
 다만 악에서 구하옵소서  
 대개 나라와 권세와 영광이  
 아버지께 영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘

**The First Lesson:** Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18 (God said, "Let there be light"): *Richard Facer*

**1** In the beginning, when God created the universe,<sup>[a]</sup> **2** the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God<sup>[b]</sup> was moving over the water. **3** Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. **4** God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, **5** and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

**14** Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals<sup>[a]</sup> begin; **15** they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth"—and it was done. **16** So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. **17** He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, **18** to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw.

**Advent Carol:** O Come O Come Emmanuel (TiS 265, vs 1-4,  
Veni Emmanuel, anon, Latin)

**The Second Lesson:** Genesis 22: 15-18 (The Promise to Abraham):  
*Shirley Luttrell*

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time, <sup>16</sup> “I make a vow by my own name—the LORD is speaking—that I will richly bless you. Because you did this and did not keep back your only son from me, <sup>17</sup> I promise that I will give you as many descendants as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand along the seashore. Your descendants will conquer their enemies. <sup>18</sup> All the nations will ask me to bless them as I have blessed your descendants—all because you obeyed my command.”

**Carol:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing (TiS 303, Mendelssohn,  
Charles Wesley)

**The Third Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (Isaiah announces the child to come as a new type of leader): *Wendy Lim in English and Korean*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.

They lived in a land of shadows,  
but now light is shining on them.

<sup>6</sup> A child is born to us!

A son is given to us!

And he will be our ruler.

He will be called, “Wonderful<sup>[a]</sup> Counsellor,”

“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”

“Prince of Peace.”

<sup>7</sup> His royal power will continue to grow;  
his kingdom will always be at peace.

He will rule as King David's successor,  
basing his power on right and justice,  
from now until the end of time.

The LORD Almighty is determined to do all this.

어둠 속을 헤매던 백성이 큰 빛을 보았다.

짙은 그늘이 드리운 땅에 살던 자들 위로 빛! 구름 사이를 뚫고 햇살이 비치었다!

이는, 우리를 위해 한 아기가 태어났기 때문이다!

그 아들을 우리에게 선물로 주셨기 때문이다!

이제 그가 세계를 통치할 것이다.

그의 이름은 '놀라우신 조연자' '전능하신 하나님' '영원하신 아버지' '온전케 하시는 왕'이라 불리리라!

그분의 통치권, 점점 커지고 그분의 온전하심, 끝이 없으리라.

그분은 역사적인 다윗 보좌에 앉으셔서 약속된 왕국을 다스리시고,

그 왕국 굳게 세우셔서 세세토록 다스리실 것이다.

공정함과 올바름으로 이제부터 영원까지, 다스리시리라.

만군의 하나님의 열심히 이 모든 일을 이루실 것이다.

**Carol:** Silent Night (TiS 311, Silent Night, Mohr, *tr.* John Freeman Young)

**The Fourth Lesson:** Isaiah 11: 1–4a; 6–9 (Isaiah's vision of a new world order, grounded in new relationships made possible through this new leader, the Coming One): *Judy Cross*

**11** The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD will give him wisdom  
and the knowledge and skill to rule his people.

He will know the LORD's will and honour him,

<sup>3</sup> and find pleasure in obeying him.

He will not judge by appearance or hearsay;

<sup>4</sup> he will judge the poor fairly  
and defend the rights of the helpless.

<sup>6</sup> Wolves and sheep will live together in peace,  
and leopards will lie down with young goats.

Calves and lion cubs will feed<sup>[a]</sup> together,  
and little children will take care of them.

<sup>7</sup> Cows and bears will eat together,  
 and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace.  
 Lions will eat straw as cattle do.  
<sup>8</sup> Even a baby will not be harmed  
 if it plays near a poisonous snake.  
<sup>9</sup> On Zion, God's sacred hill,  
 there will be nothing harmful or evil.  
 The land will be as full of knowledge of the LORD  
 as the seas are full of water.

**Carol:** The Virgin Mary (TiS 307, Caribbean Traditional)

**The Fifth Lesson:** The Gospel of Luke 1: 26-35, 38 (Gabriel's  
 Announcement to Mary): ...*John Ruskin*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. <sup>27</sup> He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

<sup>29</sup> Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. <sup>31</sup> You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, <sup>33</sup> and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason, the holy child will be called the Son of God. <sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

**Carol:** The North Wind – an Australian carol (TiS 322, North Wind, William Garner James)

**The Sixth Lesson:** The Gospel of Luke 2: 1; 3–7 (Mary gives birth to Jesus): ...*Jane Chorley in English and Gilda Dornan in Spanish*

**2** At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. **3** Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.**4** Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. **5** He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, **6** and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. **7** She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

**2** Aconteció en aquellos días, que se promulgó un edicto de parte de Augusto César, que todo el mundo fuese empadronado.

**3** E iban todos para ser empadronados, cada uno a su ciudad.

**4** Y José subió de Galilea, de la ciudad de Nazaret, a Judea, a la ciudad de David, que se llama Belén, por cuanto era de la casa y familia de David;

**5** para ser empadronado con María su mujer, desposada con él, la cual estaba encinta.

**6** Y aconteció que estando ellos allí, se cumplieron los días de su alumbramiento.

**7** Y dio a luz a su hijo primogénito, y lo envolvió en pañales, y lo acostó en un pesebre, porque no había lugar para ellos en el mesón.

**The Seventh Lesson:** The Gospel of Luke 2:8-16 (The Announcement to the Shepherds): ... *John Holliday-Smith*

**8** There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, **10** but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. **11** This very day in David's town your Saviour was



born—Christ the Lord! <sup>12</sup> And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.

**Carol:** The First Nowell (TiS 301, vs 1,2,3, 5 & 6, First Nowell, Anon, English)

**The Eighth Lesson:** The Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 (Matthew's version of Jesus' birth: an altogether different mood from that of Luke, culminating in the flight of Joseph, Mary and their son as refugees):  
*Robyn Egarr*

**2** Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”

<sup>5</sup> “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea,” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;  
for from you will come a leader  
who will guide my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he

sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9-10</sup> And so they left, and on their way, they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>11</sup> They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

**Carol:** Angels from the realms of Glory (TiS 309, Iris, French Traditional Melody, James Montgomery)

**Act for Peace – Christmas Bowl: Tonga, Finding Joy in Resilience – the story of Mele Moimoi and many like her**

[https://www.actforpeace.org.au/www\\_AFP/media/Christmas-Bowl/CB19-Resources/CB19-04-ThirdSundayOfAdvent.mp4](https://www.actforpeace.org.au/www_AFP/media/Christmas-Bowl/CB19-Resources/CB19-04-ThirdSundayOfAdvent.mp4)

Throughout its path in the South Pacific, during February 2018, Cyclone Gita affected multiple island nations and territories. Tonga was the hardest-hit, with severe damage occurring on the islands of Tongatapu and ‘Eua; two fatalities and forty-one injuries occurred in the kingdom. At least 171 homes were destroyed and more than 1,100 suffered damage. Violent winds destroyed homes and left the two islands largely without power.

**The Ninth Lesson:** Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s last Christmas Letter, 1944 written to his fiancée, Maria von Wedemeyer, and through her, to his parents, students and friends. *Geoff Dornan*



Maria writes as a preface to the letter; Dietrich was moved to the Gestapo prison in October 1944. It was then impossible to obtain visitation permits, and it is improbable that any of my letters reached him there. When the prison was badly damaged during an air raid in February he was moved out of Berlin and my attempts to find him in either Dachau, Buchenwald, or Flossenburg failed. In his last letter to me at Christmas, 1944, he wrote:

“These will be quiet days in our homes. But I have had the experience over and over again that the quieter it is around me, the clearer do I feel the connection to you. It is as though in solitude the soul develops senses which we hardly know in everyday life. Therefore, I have not felt lonely or abandoned for one moment. You, the parents, all of you, the friends and students of mine...all are constantly present to me. Your prayers and good thoughts, words from the Bible, discussions long past, pieces of music, and books, — [all these] gain life and reality as never before. It is a great invisible sphere in which one lives and in whose reality there is no doubt. If it says in the old children’s song about angels: ‘Two, to cover me, tow, to wake me,’ so is this guardianship, by good invisible powers in the morning and at night, something which grown-ups need today no less than children. Therefore you must not think that I am unhappy. What is happiness and unhappiness? It depends so little on the circumstances; it depends really only on that which happens inside a person. I am grateful every day that I have you, and that makes me happy (19 December 1944).”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “Letters and Papers from Prison”, New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing Co, ©1953, 1967, 1971, Enlarged Edition, pp 418–419.

**Carol:** O Come All ye Faithful (TiS 304, vs 1,2,3,5 & 6, Adeste Fideles, John Francis Wade)

*(Offerings may be made after the conclusion of the service for both St Ives Uniting Church and the Christmas Bowl)*

## **DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Go into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
 hold fast to that which is good;  
 render to no one evil for evil;  
 strengthen the fainthearted;  
 support the weak;  
 help the afflicted;  
 honour everyone;  
 love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**We sing:** May the feet of God walk with you (TiS 779, Aubrey Robin Mann)

**Musical Postlude**

**Organist:**

Jim Abraham