



St Ives Uniting Church

19th December 2021

Advent 4

Welcome and lighting of the fourth Advent Candle

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit who created the earth and everything in it, create in us pure hearts and renew within us steadfast spirits, so that the hope fulfilled in Bethlehem may more and more permeate our lives until we share fully in your glory. In the name of the King who comes for our salvation we pray.

Amen.

Hymn: 301 The first nowell (Verses 1,2,3,6)

Prayer of adoration

Prayer of confession

**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out all our transgressions.**

**We ask you to cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.**

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's word of grace to us:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 309 Angels from the realms of glory

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Micah 5:2-5a

Stephen White

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labour bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth White

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Mary's boy child

Sermon: O little town...

Hymn: 316 O little town of Bethlehem

Offering and prayer

Prayers of the people

Annette Burne

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 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 forever.
Amen.**

Hymn: Come sing the songs of Christmas time

Blessing

Postlude

Pianist

Rosemary Osborne

