

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

All that we have and all that we are come from you, God of life.  
Bless these gifts that they may bring messages of love  
in the most unlikely and unexpected places where words of  
peace are the greatest treasure.

And in the giving may we find again the simple, inexplicable  
delight of the gift of your presence, born in our lives.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

## HYMN 304: "O come, all ye faithful" (Vs. 1,2,3,6 & 7)

## DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

We have come to adore him, Christ the Lord.  
We go, rejoicing over this wonderful gift of God,  
embraced by the love of Jesus Christ  
and celebrating the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the blessing of God and the peace of the  
one born today - Jesus Christ - go with you.  
And also with you.

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Christmas Postlude, Richard Lloyd.  
(Please remain seated during the postlude)

## Notices

**Christmas Bowl Appeal:** Our Christmas Bowl contributions will help people acutely displaced because of war, violence and climate change.

Flowers Today: Daphne Arthur  
Reader Today: Chris Simpson  
Readings next week:

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13  
Revelations 21:1-6a

Next Week: Heather Suriano  
Next Week: Alan Chuck

Psalm 8  
Matthew 25: 31-46

Church messages: 9818 2119

Organist: Margaret Pettitt. 0402 848 089

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# Auburn Uniting Church Hawthorn

We are worshipping on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations. We acknowledge them as traditional custodians of the land past, present and future.

## Sunday 25th December 2022

### Service Today

10am Worship Service  
Rev Steve Crump

### New Years Day

10am Worship Service  
Rev Ross Carter

### Sunday Service

10 am weekly

### Holy Communion:

**monthly:**

10 am: 3rd Sunday

### Church Lunch:

12 noon in the Hall  
monthly 3rd Sunday

### Morning Coffee

10.15am monthly  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, March  
to November, in the  
Eileen Pawsey  
Room

### Church Council:

7.45 pm monthly  
2nd Thursday in the  
Pawsey Room

*NB: Dates and times  
may occasionally  
change documented  
in the pew sheet  
notices*

Welcome to all who worship at Auburn today.

The order of service proceeds without announcement.

Responses by the congregation are in **bold** type.

You are invited to stay for morning tea in the church after the service.

## Christmas Day

ORGAN PRELUDE: *'In Dulci Jubilo'*,

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

INTROIT: *Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus ex  
Maria Virgine. Alleluia*

Rejoice, rejoice. Christ is born of the Virgin Mary,  
Alleluia.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The shepherds remind us that the message  
of Jesus' birth was announced first  
to ordinary working people.

The angels remind us of:  
who appeared to the shepherds singing news  
of great joy for all people – the birth of a Saviour;  
who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
Joy to the world. The Lord is come!

**HYMN 268: "Joy to the world"**

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we praise you for revealing your face of love  
in the child whose birth we celebrate today.  
Immeasurable love brought to birth in this tiny baby.  
Jesus not only embodied your love, he blesses our lives with it  
because he passed it on to us in full measure. So we thank you  
for this gift of love that Christmas brings to a world where many  
people are denied it because of the circumstances of their lives –  
lives which are spoiled by the unloving attitudes of others.

Help us to reveal in our lives the love that Jesus so fully made known:  
the love that the Apostle Paul wrote about so eloquently;  
the love that is patient and kind;  
the love that is never envious or boastful, or arrogant or rude;  
the love that does not insist on its own way  
and is not irritable or resentful;  
that in all things we may put love first.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

**HYMN 318: "Away in a manger"**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 62: 6-12

PSALM 98 (words: UiW p.319)

Refrain: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.  
Praise the name of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT: Titus 3: 4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has  
come upon the earth. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke: 2: 1-20

ANTHEM: Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes (*words TIS 270*)

**HYMN 311: "Silent night"**

SERMON

**HYMN 316: "O little town of Bethlehem"** (verses 1, 2 and 4)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, in a land far away,  
your angels sang the news  
that Jesus was born in Bethlehem,  
your love wrapped up in a baby.  
We pray for babies born in refugee camps  
And children growing up in them.

Loving God, in a time long ago  
some shepherds heard the news  
of great joy for all people  
and your peace enfolded in this child.  
We pray for those whose lives lack any joy or peace:  
people who are sick, lonely, or afraid of the future.

Loving God, in this time and this place,  
we too hear the wonderful news of Jesus' birth.  
We pray that your love, your joy, and your peace is born  
in hearts throughout the world this day and every day. Amen

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

OFFERING FOR THE CHRISTMAS BOWL

Offertory: Lullaby for the First Noel, June Nixon (1997)