

CHRISTMAS BOWL - *Video Clip*

BIBLE READINGS -

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-29 (*Pages 587-588*)

Wendy Phelps
Luke 1:26-38 (*Pages 1012-1013*)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

MESSAGE:

“This is Love”

Krikor Youmshajekian

HYMN: 217 (i) *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

NOTICES - Christmas Eve Service: Thursday 24th December 7:30 pm.
- Christmas Day Service: Friday 25th December 9:00 am.

OFFERING - DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Loving God, this Advent time we remember Your gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. You call us to give generously and love extravagantly in response to all You have given us.

We give back to You all that we are, all that we have and all that we will be, through Your love freely given to us.

May we share Your great love with our families, friends, neighbours and strangers, those nearby and far away.

As we experience the wonder of this season, may we know the beauty of giving and receiving.

We ask You to bless the work of the Australian Council of Churches and Act for Peace and all whose lives will be touched through giving to the Christmas Bowl this Christmas. *Amen.*

HYMN: 153 *“God is Love, Let Heav’n Adore Him”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER - SENDING OUT

Loving God, our hearts echo the ancient cry: Come, O come Emmanuel!
Go with God’s love shining in your hearts. Look with eyes of compassion, be alert to the promptings of God’s Spirit. Be ready to share God’s love with all whom you meet, Be alert to the unfolding purposes of God in your life and the lives of those around you. *Amen.*

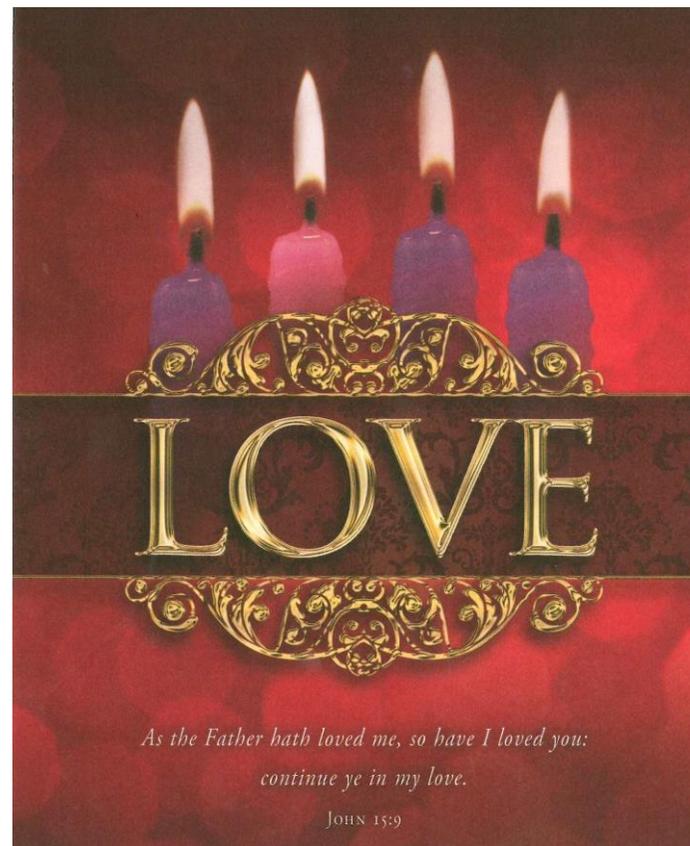
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Longueville - St. Andrew’s Uniting Church



ORDER OF SERVICE

Advent 4 - Love

20 December 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

“I am the Lord’s servant. May it be as You have said.”

A young woman named Mary opened her heart to Your song. She heard the promise that she would give birth to a son who would break the bonds of oppression and transform the world.

And she believed.

You are a God who acts to save.

You are a God who does marvellous things!

You strengthen the weak.

You hear the prayers of the forgotten.

Come, let us give thanks to God!

Let’s sing of God’s love forever!

HYMN: 283 “Long Ago, Prophets Knew ”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Today we particularly pray for peace in Syria and Syrian refugees who have been given refuge in Jordan.

In a world darkened by war clouds and the shadow of hunger, come into our world, as into Mary’s womb.

Come Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places and places where human hope and expectation has dried up.

Come Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope.

Come Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the sad and despairing.

Come Lord Jesus

Into the lives of the weary and homeless bringing rest and comfort.

Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

A LITANY FOR ADVENT

God, we adore You because You have come to us in the past. You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel. You have challenged us in the words of the prophets. You have shown us in Jesus what You are really like.

Lord God, we adore You because You still come to us now.

You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.

You come to us through men and women who need our help.

You come to us as we worship You.

Lord God, we adore You because You will come to us at the end. You will be with us at the hour of death. You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail. You will still be God when our history has run its course.

We welcome You, God who comes. Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord God, we come to adore You. You are the source of all that is.

You have spoken, and given form and beauty to the world. You have spoken, and given purpose to human life.

You have spoken, and declared the forgiveness to our sin, You have spoken, and freed us from the fear of death.

Lord Jesus Christ, divine Word, speak to us the eternal purpose; remove our guilt; conquer the fear of death in our hearts. Speak and let us hear You, Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Most wonderful God, it is You who inspires every noble thought and every loving deed. When we draw near to You in worship, save us from wanderings of mind and coldness of heart, that with a deep longing for more truth and a warm desire for more love, we may know You, embrace You, and worship You in the incarnate life of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We wait for Your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of Your temple and we wait in silence for Your loving-kindness, O God. *Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE *Virginia Knowles*

LOVE

For Yolŋu people, Märr-ŋamathinyamirr is the deep love and affection we first learn in our families and kinship relationships that extends outwards to include God’s creation. As Christmas draws near, we give thanks for God’s great love. God sends Jesus not to condemn the world but to save it. He unites us into one family.

God loved the world so much that he sent his Son, that believing in Him, we should not perish but have everlasting life.

Thanks be to God. *(The fourth candle is lit)*

HYMN: 317 “Love Came Down at Christmas ”