



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA

**The Parochial District of
Wangaratta West and
The Warbys**



**First Sunday of Advent
3rd December 2023**

Ante Communion, 11.00 a.m.



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St. Michael's, Wangaratta. St Paul's, Glenrowan. St George's, Taminick.

Direct Debit: Parish of Wangaratta West & Warbys

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath started in Germany as a Lutheran family custom. Since they were originally used in the home, most of the ones you find for sale are small. They didn't become popular in churches until the middle of the twentieth century. Now they are nearly universal.

Historically, the candles have no more meaning than a countdown. That is, they originally stood for 4, 3, 2, and 1. However, people like it if things in the church to have symbolic meanings, so the candles have gradually acquired meanings. If someone in your church tells you that the candles have some other meaning than Hope, Love, Joy, or Peace, they aren't wrong, they are just different. The meanings are so new that they aren't completely standardized.

In some locations, the third candle is pink, in others the fourth candle is pink; in still others, all four candles are purple. The purple candles are lit during Advent, when the liturgical colour is purple, and the white candle is lit on Christmas Eve (that is, after sundown), when the liturgical colour is white. So that explains the colours of the purple and white candles—they just match the liturgical decor. But what about the pink candle, if there is one?

The pink candle is becoming more and more popular, but it has a strange origin. Long ago, the Pope had the custom of giving someone a rose on the fourth Sunday in Lent. This led the Roman Catholic clergy to wear rose-colored vestments on that Sunday. The effect was to give some relief to the solemnity of Lent, so this was a very popular custom. Originally—before shopping centres—Advent was a solemn fast in preparation for Christmas, so the custom was extended to the third Sunday in Advent to liven it up a little bit, too. Somewhere in there the third colour of the Advent wreath turned pink.

Whatever significance one chooses to give the candles, there is but one thing to remember, and that is that they symbolise **the light of God coming into the world to banish the darkness.**

The resources used in this order of service are: A Prayer Book for Australia.
Confession from The Methodist Worship Book (GB) 1999.
Prayers of the People from Traces of Glory © David Adam 1999.
Common Worship (Church of England): Thanksgiving Prayer F & After Communion prayer.
Permission granted by The Ordinary for use in the parish in Advent 2023.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn AHB 198 /TiS 271. tune Franconia (AHB 376/TiS 448)

1. The advent of our God with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon his road his coming reign to meet.
2. The everlasting Son was born to make us free;
and he a servant's form put on to gain our liberty.
3. Daughter of Sion, rise to meet your lowly king;
nor let your stubborn heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again,
his scattered people to unite, with them in heaven to reign.
5. Then evil flee away before the rising dawn!
Let this old Adam day by day God's image still put on.
6. Praise to the incarnate Son who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one, to all eternity.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
tr. John Chandler 1806-76 and others

The Welcome & Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Acclamation

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
He has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.

In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Let us pray

**Gracious God,
we humbly thank you for life and health and safety,
for freedom to work, leisure to rest,
and for all that is beautiful in creation
and human life.**

**But, above all, we praise you for our Saviour,
Jesus Christ,
for his death and resurrection;
for the gift of your Spirit;
and for the hope of sharing in your glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Minister says

The Lord is coming! Prepare his way:

The Lord is coming!

We are making ready.

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love let us look within, search our hearts and seek God's healing grace.

A moment or two of quiet thought

The Confession

**Holy and forgiving God,
we have sinned against you and each other
in thought and word and deed.
We have turned from your life-giving word,
and ignored the message of those you sent.
We are unprepared for the coming of your Son.
Have mercy upon us and forgive us,
that strengthened by your love
we may serve you more faithfully;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Priest stands and declares God's forgiveness

God desires that none should perish,
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.
God pardons those who humbly repent,
and truly believe the gospel.
Therefore we have peace with God,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, ‘Keep awake,
for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.’

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing: tune Angel Voices

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness
on that Day.

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The Collect is said

Rend the heavens and come down,
O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep,
deliver us from our heedless ways,
and form us into a watchful people,
that, at the advent of your Son,
he may find us doing what is right,
mindful of all you command.

Grant this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the prophecy of Isaiah [64. 1-9]

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 80. 1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
**you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;**

Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.

*Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

O Lord God of hosts:

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.**

You have made us the victim of our neighbours:

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

*Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:

**on that son of man
whom you made so strong for yourself.**

And so we shall not turn back from you:

give us life, and we will call upon your name.

*Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

[1. 1-9]

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

please stand

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia!

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark [13. 24-37]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

A time for reflection

Affirmation of Faith

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17, 20

Offertory Hymn: AHB 201/TiS 273. tune, Helmsley

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own;
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly; Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.
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At the presentation of the Offering, this prayer may be said

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Notices may be given at this point.

Concluding Hymn:

The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus) A&M 392. tune Blauenwern.

1. Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,
 who has come to set us free.
He has raised for us a Saviour
 sprung from royal David's tree.
Through his prophets God had spoken
 of the hope the Christ would bring;
of his faithfulness and mercy
 let each generation sing.
2. Long ago God made a promise
 he would set his people free,
that in all our life and worship
 we might know true liberty,
to be holy, to be righteous
 in his sight throughout our days;
now this child will be a herald
 making ready all God's ways.
3. Let all people know salvation
 through forgiveness of their sin,
as our God in his compassion
 bids a shining dawn begin.
So may all who dwell in darkness
 see the shadows disappear
while he guides our feet in pathways
 where his peace is ever near.
4. *(Second half of tune)*
To the Father be all glory
 with the Spirit and the Son,
as it was, is now and shall be
 while eternal ages run.

Anne Harrison (b. 1954)

based on Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus, The Song of Zechariah)

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Words: © Anne Harrison

Eternal God and Father,
**by whose power we are created,
and by whose love we are redeemed:
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,**

and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
in the name of Christ. Amen.

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR AND THE LECTIONARY

The Christian year is a re-enactment of the life of Jesus from birth through ministry, death and resurrection, to the birth of the church and its witness in the world today.

The way we use our time in daily life is one of the best indications of what is really important to us. The church also shows what is most important to its life by the way it keeps time.

One answer to "What do Christians believe?" could be 'Look how we keep time!'

In **Advent** we prepare for Jesus' birth, and our own renewal.

At **Christmas** we celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth—of God with us.

Through the **Season after the Epiphany** we read of Jesus' baptism, his call of the disciples, and his ministry of teaching and healing. It is a time to look at the church's ministry of teaching and healing.

Lent is a season of penitence and preparation--preparation for Easter. It is a time of decision and commitment.

Easter season, or "The Great Fifty Days" from Easter to Pentecost, is a season to celebrate the Resurrection appearances, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Christian church.

We see the power that Jesus embodied, being passed on to the disciples.

In the **Season after Pentecost** we look at what it means to be part of the church—Christ's body carrying on his work in our world. We are called to witness to Christ, to love and serve others and to seek justice and peace for all humanity.

As the seasons and their colours change and repeat, we can better understand the rhythm of our lives as the followers of Jesus the Christ.