



**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA**

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



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

**Holy Eucharist, 8.00 a.m. & 9.30 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.  
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## 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 Greeting*

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

**And also with you.**

### *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

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**you draw and welcome us,  
emptied of pride and hungry for your grace,  
to this your kingdom's feast.**

**Nowhere can we find the food  
for which our souls cry out,  
but here, Lord, at your table.**

**Invigorate and nourish us, good Lord,  
that in and through this bread and wine  
your love may meet us  
and your life complete us  
in the power and glory of your kingdom. Amen.**

*The Priest 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*

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **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:*

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.

Mark Earey  
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*The Collect is said or sung*

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**

*Sermon*

*A period of silence for reflection may follow the Sermon*

*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*

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

Come, Lord, and give peace to your world.  
Disperse the clouds of war and violence, of calamity and disaster.  
Let your power and your glory be revealed to the nations.  
We pray for all who watch and wait while we sleep:  
for police officers, hospital staff, ambulance officers,  
for fire fighters, SES personnel, and for all who work in the dark  
hours of the night.  
Lord, stir up your strength  
**and come among us.**

Come, Lord, be known in your church,  
for without you we have no message, we have no power.  
Come fill us with your presence,  
that we may proclaim your peace.  
Lord, make us aware, alert to your coming,  
that we may reveal your glory in all the world.  
We pray for those that walk in darkness,  
that they may see your light.  
We remember those whose lives are clouded with troubles  
and pray that they may behold your glory.  
Lord, stir up your strength  
**and come among us.**

Come, Lord, be known in our homes,  
that our homes may reflect your love.  
Come in our work places that they may reflect your glory;  
that we may rejoice in each other's presence,  
that we may be fully aware of others and sensitive to their needs.  
Lord, stir up your strength  
**and come among us.**

Come, Lord, to all who are unable to cope at this time;  
to all who are weighed down with troubles.  
We pray for the ill and for those who have the care of them.  
We remember those whose lives are clouded with despair.  
We pray for the depressed and the suicidal.  
We remember friends and loved ones in their troubles . . . . .  
Lord, stir up your strength  
**and come among us.**

Come, Lord of our salvation, save us and we shall be saved.  
We pray for friends and loved ones departed, especially for . . . . .  
May they now rejoice in the fullness of your presence and your  
glory.  
Lord, stir up your strength  
**and come among us.**

Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.  
Enter into our darkness with your light.  
Come fill our emptiness with your presence.  
Dispel the clouds and reveal your glory.  
**Come refresh, renew, restore us.**  
**Come Lord, come down, come in,**  
**come among us. Amen.**

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

**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 Offertory the following may be said*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your delight.  
Though we chose the path of rebellion  
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.  
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore praising you and saying/singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me. ✠

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

In the same way,  
after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. ✠

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection,  
his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight. ✠

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with  
Michael, Mary, Paul, George, and all your saints at the table in your  
kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.**

*The Priest breaks the Bread*

We who are many are one body in Christ,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

*The following is said or sung by all*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*The priest gives the Invitation.*

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come let us take this holy sacrament  
in remembrance that Christ died for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion Reflection Hymn: AHB 86*

1. Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before thee;  
all on earth thy power proclaim; all in heaven above adore thee.  
boundless is thy vast domain; everlasting is thy reign.
2. Hark the loud celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord.
3. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name thee,  
while in essence only one; undivided God we claim thee,  
and adoring bend the knee while we own the mystery.

Clarence Alphonsus Walworth 1820-1900  
adapted by Anthony G Petti 1932—

## AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples. 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)

Reproduced from Sing Praise Electronic Words Edition, number 195

Words: © Anne Harrison

### *The Blessing*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from your path,  
and make you ready to meet him  
when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **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.