



# ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

*An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action*

Minister: .....Rev. Ken Day  
Director of Music: .....Mark Quarmby  
Choral Conductor: .....Dr David Hood  
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***27 December 2015 – 10 am***

***MORNING WORSHIP***

***Christmas 1***

**Led by Rev. Ken Day**

*(The St Stephen's Choir is in recess until February)*

## **SOME HELPFUL NOTES FOR YOU ABOUT THE WAY THIS WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWS:**

- **CHILDREN** are welcome here. If you have a pram, there are aisles beside the walls where you can 'park' your pram, if that helps. Also, there is more pram space at the back of the church where there is a wider gap. Children do not disturb us, and we are very happy for you to explain to your children what is happening during the service.
- We stand to sing. In the Order of Service it will say other places **WHERE WE STAND UP**, if you are able.
- **HYMNS** are numbered and found in the red hymn book *Together in Song*, or printed in the Order of Service. We sing the hymns unannounced, except for the first hymn.
- If the **LORD'S SUPPER** (communion) is being celebrated, (there will be a white cloth on the communion table) everyone of every age and background is welcome to share in the supper with us. We serve bread (and gluten free bread is available if you indicate to the server) and grape juice.
- **TEXT IN BOLD** is to be said by the congregation.
- It is the tradition at St Stephen's to refrain from talking during the **PRELUDE** and **POSTLUDE** as these form part of our worship.
- After the service has concluded, you are most welcome to join us downstairs in the hall for **MORNING TEA**. Please use the stairs at each end of the vestibule.
- **TOILETS** are located downstairs below the vestibule. A baby changing table is located in the women's toilet area.
- For those with **IMPAIRED HEARING** a hearing loop is available in the church. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position.

# ***The Gathering of the People of God***

## **Organ Prelude**

*Christmas is here*

Dale Wood (1934 - 2003)

*Please stand at the entry of the minister and remain standing for the...*

## **Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

## **Call to Worship**

**Hymn 319**      *Child in a manger*      (Bunessan)

## **Prayers of Adoration and Confession**

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

...This is the Gospel.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Doxology 301

*Now let us all with one accord*  
(The First Nowell)



Now let us all with one accord sing praises  
to our heav - en - ly Lord, who has made heav'n and  
earth from naught, and with his blood sal - va - tion  
brought. No - well, no - well, no - well, no -  
well, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## Welcome

Ministry and mission news, celebrations and pastoral prayer.

## Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Congregational greeting and welcome to visitors and newcomers*

## Hymn 292

*Infant holy, infant lowly* (Infant Holy)

## *The Service of the Word*

Listen for the word of God to you:

### **First Reading**      Colossians 3:12-17

**12** As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*A space to breathe and reflect on the previous Bible reading.*

### **Gospel Reading**      *Luke 2:25-40; 3:18*

**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **27** Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, **29** "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; **30** for my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." **33** And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This

child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed **35** so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” **36** There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. **39** When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40** The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. **3:18** So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

In this is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 324

*Lord, bid your servant go in peace*  
(Tune: 568 Lloyd)

## Sermon

## Hymn

*What child is this?* (Greensleeves)

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,  
the cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary.

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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.**

## Offering

*Please stand for the remainder of the service.*

## Prayer of Dedication

### ***The Sending Forth of the People of God***

**Hymn 268**      *Joy to the world*      (Antioch)

## Blessing

... and remain with you always.

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ.**

## Threefold Amen

## Organ Postlude

*Chaconne in C*

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707)