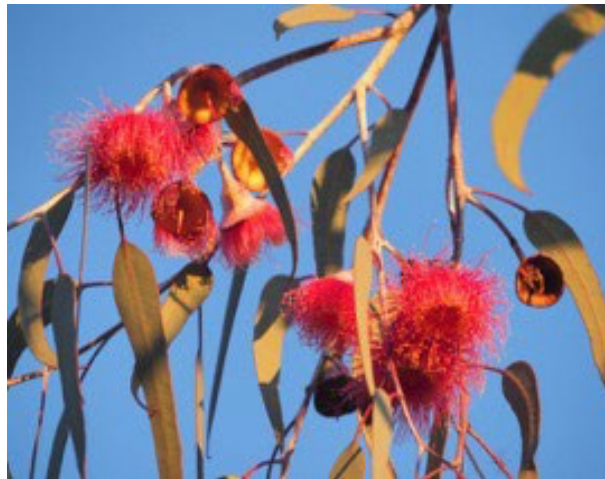




WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

<https://woden-valley.uca.org.au/>



Advent 3 - Joy

10 a.m. Worship 14th December 2025

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

We Gather as People of God

The Gong is sounded 3 times

Prelude Music

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Lighting the Community Candle

Call to Worship

In the wilderness places of our lives, God meets us.
Joy comes, even in the dry and weary land.

When doubt rises and questions linger, Christ speaks gently to us.
Joy comes, even in the shadows.

When the world's noise grows loud and our hearts grow faint,
The Spirit breathes courage and hope.

Open your eyes—God is at work in quiet, steady ways.
We look again, and we see signs of the kingdom.

Come, let us worship the God who brings life to the desert
and joy to the waiting heart.
We rejoice, for the Lord is near!

Song – Tell out my soul

TiS 161

Welcome & Introduction

Prayer of Approach

Advent Wreath

Leader Our Advent journey this week continues in Joy.
All We journey in joy

Leader: Bringing our flowers of Joy
All: Lighting a flame for Joy

Leader: Joy is not far from us, for God is near
and new petals and pollens beckon bees and birds
and bats, all the creatures with wings
to feast and spread joy around
life will go on and on
All: Bearing a gift of Joy

Leader: In the midst of this waiting season
We notice the colour breaking out in the natural world
Above us, around us, even beneath our feet on the path
All: Joy bursting forth again

Leader: This is the way the kingdom of God comes.
 So we bring ourselves as God's gorgeous flowers
 Delighting God with Joy and celebrating God's joy

All: **Praying for Joy in God**

So let us join together in the first three verses of our advent song:

Advent Song

Slowly and gently ♩ = 80

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef. The tempo is 'Slowly and gently' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The first staff contains the first four measures of the song, with lyrics: 'We bring seeds of hope', 'We bring leaves of peace', 'We bring flowers of joy', and 'Hope our world so needs'. The second staff contains the next four measures, with lyrics: 'Peace that binds and weaves', 'Joy be - yond dark powers', 'Hold - ing hope in God's near king - dom', 'Leaves of heal - ing for the wound - ed', 'Find - ing joy in God's near king - dom', 'We bring hope - ful seeds', 'We bring peace - ful leaves', and 'We bring joy - ful flowers'. Chords are indicated above the notes: C, C/E, F9, G, F, G/F, C/E, F, G, C.

We bring seeds of hope
 We bring leaves of peace
 We bring flowers of joy
 Hope our world so needs
 Peace that binds and weaves
 Joy be - yond dark powers

5
 Hold - ing hope in God's near king - dom
 Leaves of heal - ing for the wound - ed
 Find - ing joy in God's near king - dom
 We bring hope - ful seeds
 We bring peace - ful leaves
 We bring joy - ful flowers

Passing the Peace

We Reflect on the Word for our time

Readings from the Bible and the World Around Us

Psalm 146:5-10. Responsive.

Happy if your help is the God of Jacob,
Those whose hope is in their God

God made heaven earth, the sea and all therein
God keeps faith for evermore

Justice when oppressed, and food to the hungry
and God sets the prisoners free

God will open the eyes of the blind
And lift those who are bowed down.

Loving the righteous, watching over strangers
Orphans, widows, under God's care.

God frustrates the way of the wicked
God will reign for evermore.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-6

Messengers from John the Baptist

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his^[b] disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Reflection – Joy that Rises in the Dark

We Respond to the Word

Song – O come all ye faithful

(Please stand as you are able)

TiS 304

Light the Care Candle and Collecting the Offering.

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

God of all hope and joy,
we pray for a world longing for your healing and peace.

For places where the wilderness feels endless:
for nations torn by conflict,
for communities facing disaster or displacement,
for people living in fear or under oppression.
Lord, in your mercy,
Bring your quiet kingdom of justice and restoration.

For those who struggle in body, mind, or spirit:
for the sick, the lonely, the grieving, the exhausted,
and for all whose darkness feels deep today.
Lord, in your mercy,
Bring your comfort, your strength, and your gentle joy.

For those who doubt, who question, who feel far from you:
May they sense your nearness.
May they hear again your invitation to look for the signs of life and hope around them.
Lord, in your mercy,
Renew their trust and lift their hearts.

For your church in every place:
Help us to be people of love, justice, and mercy.
Make us attentive to the quiet work of your Spirit.
Give us courage to bring light into dark places
and joy into weary hearts.
Lord, in your mercy,
Shape us into signs of your kingdom.

For ourselves:
In our own questions,
in our waiting,
in our longing for you,
fill us with the joy that comes from Christ -
**The One who has come, who is present,
and who will come again in glory.**

We place these prayers before you, trusting in your faithfulness.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ,
who brings life out of death and hope out of despair,
and who teaches us to pray, saying:

**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 in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Song – Joy to the World

TiS 268

Blessing

The Community Candle is extinguished

Postlude

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Travel Candles

Fellowship

Morning tea is now served.

You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.

Order of Service has congregation responses printed in **bold**

References for OOS:

CCLI licence#546647

Leader: Pastor Julie Connah

Reader: Pam Johnston

Prayers: Pastor Julie Connah

Music: Helen Swan