

The Wagga Wagga UCA Family

Christmas Day Service



Friday 25 December 2020
Wesley Uniting Church at 9.30 am

Dear fellow Carol singers,

Welcome to our Christmas Day Service!

Naming ten things I love about Christmas is all too easy for me. I love this time of year. I love nativity scenes, Christmas trees, decorations, wrapping paper, cards, presents, dressing up, decorating the house and the dinner table, turkey with cranberry sauce, Christmas movies, carols and music—especially one song in our service today, “Mary did you know?”

In the song we hear a set of questions asked of a young expectant mother uncertain about what the future holds for her unborn child, other than a promise that he is wonderful and precious.

Today, we celebrate the birth of this wonderful and precious child, our Lord, Saviour and brother Jesus Christ. As you engage in praise, prayer, listening, and song, may you hear you're part of God's beloved family—special, precious, irreplaceable and loved.

And this Christmastide, may God give you wisdom, guide your actions, and make you passionate for peace on earth. May you too be a sign of holy, healing love.

Janice

Prelude - In dulci jubilo

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being
through him, and without him
not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the word became flesh
and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Let us worship and praise God for this child
born for us and for the world.

Hark! The herald angels sing

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1: 18-24

Angels we have heard on high

Prayer of Praise

We praise you God, for the joy
and delight of children and grandchildren.

We praise you God, for the calmness
after the shrieks and wrapping being
shredded.

We praise you God, for laughter, thank you,
for words of wonder and surprise.

We praise you God, for Bethlehem's birth,
for Calvary's suffering, for Easter's life.

We praise you God, for your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-33

Do you hear what I hear?

A 'wee' Christmas story

Away in a manger

Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 1-14

Musical Interlude - Mary did you know?

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2: 5-11

O' little town of Bethlehem

A very short interruption

Nativity

May the Incarnate Christ
be born in you this Christmas!

Your will be as Mary's
saying YES to your ways.

May your mind as Joseph's
opening to your unfolding revelation.

Your voice be as the angels
joyfully proclaiming Good News!

May your knees be as the animals
quietly bent in adoration.

Your feet be as the shepherds
running eagerly to find you.

May your hands be as the wise men's
offering up all that you have.

Your heart be as the manger
poor yet containing heaven's
greatest treasure.

May your life be as the stable,
hallowed and expanded by God's presence.

May the Incarnate Christ,
be born again in you this Christmas!

Pat Bennett

[De Virgin Mary](#)

Prayers for Others and the Lord's Prayer

Let us unite our hearts and voices in prayer
let us pray:

Lord our God, we rejoice and sing
for you love us with a great love.

We give thanks to you
for coming into our world
and into our lives.

May we enjoy your presence with us,
and the love you offer to us in your
Son Jesus our Lord.

We pray for pregnant women,
as new life grows within them.

We hold before you their hopes and fears,
the anticipation of pain,
and the expectation of joy.

We pray for fathers to be
wondering about the part they should play,
those who fear responsibility
and commitment, who are tempted to run away.

May they find encouragement
and affirmation.

We pray for those who cannot have children
to whom the story of Mary's cousin
Elizabeth, must seem all at once hopeful,
far-fetched and frustrating,

May they find hope and inspiration.

We give you thanks for our homes,
for our families and the friends
with whom we will celebrate this Christmas.

As we go about our daily lives
may we, like Mary,
treasure our experiences
and ponder them in our hearts,
holding before you our own needs
and those of others, praising you
and giving thanks, for the sake of the
Christ child, all that he is and was
and shall be and who teaches us
to pray together:

*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 forever. Amen.*

Some-one to watch over you

Joseph watching over Mary
shepherds watching over sheep
angels watching over shepherds
kings watching over stars
stars watching over kings.

And overseeing all
is God watching over everything
sheltering all under his outstretched wing.

The hand that rests
on Mary's shoulder is God's.

The life-giving heat transferring
from shepherd to lamb is God's.

They are each an echo of God's love.
We are each an echo of God's love.

Lisa Debney

The Christmas Blessing

May you receive protection
and care this Christmas.

May you have the chance
to offer protection and care to others.

May you return to a childlike wonder
and be inspired to consider the infinite
possibilities God might hold for you.

And above all, may you know
that you are sheltered under God's wing,
and he is watching over you today
and all the day's to come.

Now may the blessing of God,
the Creator,
the Son
and the Spirit
go with you,
and remain with you,
now and always. Amen.

Joy to the world

Glory to God
in the highest heaven
and on earth peace
among those whom he favours.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us,
authority rests upon his shoulders
and he is named:

Wonderful Counsellor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Postlude - Ding! Dong!



Joy to the world

