

Service Knox Church Ōtepoti-Dunedin
7pm Sunday 11 November 2025
Doing December Differently – Preparing for Advent

leaders – Rachel Tombs & Tui Bevin

music – Mark Bevin

Intro Music

You are born in us again

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Advent Calendar by Joy Cowley

from Psalms for the Road, #3

My heart is too uncertain for a cosmic event.
Its doors open one at a time, and slowly,
each door measuring the amount of light
that can be safely gifted to smallness,
each door uncovering an advent scene
tinselled with sweet familiarity:
a phone call from an old school friend;
story upon story read to a child;
the sun rising like a fire after a storm;
a batch of shortbread for a neighbour;
an afternoon weeding in sweet earth;
a pot of tea, two cups, and forgiveness;
such small pictures, yet each one
is held with reverence like an icon.
Now there is the last door,
the final opening of the heart.
Will I see the Christ Child in the manger?
Of course, I will, but why do you ask?
Wasn't he there every day?

Song

©Shirley Murray; tune: Colin Gibson

Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;
Snow is not falling the trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,
Warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
Water and river and lure of the beach.
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
Sing a nativity summer can reach!

Shepherds and musterers move over the hillsides,
Finding, not angels, but sheep to be shorn,
Wise one's make journeys whatever the season
Searching for signs of the truth to be born.

Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe
Made in the moment a woman gives birth;
Hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
Everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.

Reading

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say,

"Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing?

"Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear.

"For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity", says the LORD of hosts.

Song

words & music: Colin Gibson

He came singing love
and he lived singing love:
he died singing love.
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers

He came singing faith...

He came singing hope...

He came singing peace...

Reflection & Activity

1. What you love and hate about Advent
2. Making your own personal Advent Calendar

Song

Words by Shirley Erena Murray, Music by Marnie Barrell; *HiOS*^{#35} (i)

Go gently, go lightly, go safe in the Spirit,
live simply, don't carry much more than you need:
go trusting God's goodness, go spreading God's kindness,
stay centred on Jesus and where he will lead.

Go singing, go bringing the gifts of the Spirit,
go hopefully searching for things that are true:
in living, in loving, whatever befalls you,
God keep you, God bless you in all that you do.

Benediction

And we all say together:

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always. Amen