



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2 December 2018

ADVENT SUNDAY: HOPE

Theme sentence

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.

—Luke 21.28

Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrating the Gift of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before 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

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



It began on Christmas Day 1949, when a minister named Rev Frank Byatt in Victoria placed a simple empty bowl on the table before him. He humbly asked his friends and family to contribute what they felt the cost of the meal had been. Rev Byatt asked that they consider their own good fortune in being able to share a Christmas meal together in comfort and safety. And he invited them to share God's blessings of love and friendship in the form of a gift to help people who had fled the horrors of World War Two and were suffering as refugees.

This invitation to Australian Christians to stand by men, women and children living through conflict and displacement is, sadly, more important than ever. For the first time in history, there are nearly 60 million displaced people in the world who need our help.

The Christmas Bowl appeal is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

First Sunday of Advent

Bringing hope in times of disaster

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl will bring hope to families in Vanuatu to help them plan, prepare, and act when a disaster strikes. **Please give to the Christmas Bowl today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101
VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Sharni Boyall/Act for Peace