



## 19 DECEMBER 2021



### Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome to church this morning, it's great to be able to worship together again.

### Lectionary Readings

#### This week 19 December, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

#### Next week 26 December, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

### COVID Update

Under the latest guidelines, we are still required to check in each time we attend church. This will also apply to all groups who meet in the hall or chapel until further notice.

Whilst masks are no longer compulsory, feel free to wear one at church if you feel more comfortable doing so.

### Christmas Day Service

Our Christmas Day service will be at 9am and will be led by Adrian Pearson.

**Please note there will not be a service here next Sunday 26th December.**

### Christmas Bowl

This year the Christmas Bowl celebrates their 72nd anniversary and you are invited to share your good fortune with our brothers and sisters in need and respond to Jesus's call to love our neighbours. The world needs God's love now more than ever. There are more than 80 million people who have been driven from their homes and loved ones by war or persecution; more than ever recorded. Your gifts this year will provide urgently needed access to food, shelter and life-saving support for families suffering with war and unrest in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries.

**We will be having a Retiring Offering on Christmas Day for the Christmas Bowl**, alternatively envelopes are available on the back table if you would like a tax receipt for your donation. Please place your envelope in the offering plate. You can also donate online at our church's online Christmas Bowl donation page if you prefer, visit [mycb.link/48489](https://mycb.link/48489).



## **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **TRUE WORSHIP IN MARY'S SONG LUKE 1: 46b - 55**

We come to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, and we are reminded of the angel's song to the shepherds as the heavenly host praised God: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests" This morning we remember another song in Luke's choir. They say there are 5 songs recorded in the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel. They are sung by two women, two men and a host of angels. They are words of PRAISE. Zechariah and Simeon, Elisabeth and Mary and a host of angels.

Can we imagine Christmas without Christmas carols? It would be sad if the first Christmas had no music to announce Christ's coming.

I think that "had there not been a burst of song, (and that the most joyful burst in history), we would have listened for the very stones to cry out, rebuking the silence." Anything is possible to a great and powerful God. My theme this morning is titled 'True Worship in Mary's Song' or the 'Magnificat'. The Magnificat is a Latin word that just actually means 'to magnify'.

So, Luke invites us to 'PRAISE God just like Mary in the opening of her song. And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour (verses 46-47).

A careful reading of the text tells us that the word 'soul' is expressed in present tense (magnifies) and the word 'spirit' in past tense (has rejoiced). It just means that her soul magnifies the Lord because her spirit has rejoiced. An experience that has happened in her spirit that led to her soul rejoicing. What was that experience? That experience was a feeling- A feeling of being told the good news that she was chosen to carry the Saviour of the world in her womb.

A spirit that rejoices in God leads to a soul that magnifies God. Biblically, the soul is the root and seat of our emotions. It refers to our inner self, our emotional centre (Psa. 6:3; 10:3). It is through our souls that we relate personally and emotionally with other people.

But the spirit is altogether different. The spirit is not our emotional side. It is the side of us that relates to God. It is the part of us that knows who God is, and what He is like, and what He wants from us. It is that part of us that understands what God has done for us, and all that He has given to us.

What kind of songs are we singing this season? Are they songs of joy or sadness? Are they songs of praise and worship?

When Mary said that her spirit has rejoiced in God, she means that she understood who God is. She knows what He has said in His Word. She believed in the truths He has revealed. This is the beginning point of all true worship of God—an understanding of the facts about God. Emotions and feelings are not necessarily part of true worship.

Grace and Peace.—Hani