



Services – Sunday 6 December, 2020

Advent 2

9.30am Five Dock – Rev Don Everhart

Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

Theme: "Joseph"

We give thanks to God that today we are able to again gather together in worship.

“This is the day which the Lord has made – we will rejoice and be glad in it.”



PEACE

Today we light the second candle of advent, the candle of Peace.

God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it too.

We dream of a peaceful world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves.

We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table.

We light this candle in Peace.

On this day, we remember the Lord of all who brings peace surpassing all understanding

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27



DIARY DATES

Advent and Christmas Bible Readings:

- 13 Dec *Advent 3* Lessons and Carols
- 20 Dec *Advent 4* Luke 1:26-45 – Mary
- 25 Dec *Christmas* Luke 2:1-20 (9am)
- 27 Dec *Christmas 1* Matthew 2:1-15 – Wise Men

Christmas Message from Synod Staff –

Please see a letter of greeting from the Synod staff, which has been placed on the Notice Board for our reading and encouragement.

Recently I was reminded of the song *The Sound of Silence* written by Paul Simon in the 1960s and sung by Simon and Garfunkel. (I wonder if you are singing this song in your mind as you read.)

In the song the writer presents the conflict between spiritual and material value in the modern world. The poetic persona is a visionary who warns against the lack of spiritual seriousness in modern people. People have forgotten the real meaning and value of life. They are running after material prosperity and physical luxury. They accumulate a lot of wealth and things but this does not make them happy. Rather they are moving further and further away from true happiness because they have ignored the true goal of life. They debate and quarrel about worthless things. This is probably what the writer means by *talking without speaking and hearing without listening*.

According to Simon, the multinational companies and the capitalist have taken the position of God. They guide choices, necessities and goals through their commercial advertisement. The neon signs or hoarding boards have taken the place of the Scriptures. People listen to or see what these advertisements say and work accordingly. They have neither their own voice or their own choice. They are obliged to choose among a few goals put forward by the industrialists. When such materialistic waves are dominant, the voice trying to remind people what their goal should be is always subdued.

The song presents a picture of the modern world doomed by the lack of spirituality and true meaning of life. It is a voice asking people to be serious towards the true meaning and goal of life.

adapted from
The Sound of Silence: Paul Simon
– Summary and Critical Analysis



SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A variety of music and styles of Bible readings have been included to enrich our worship. Our thanks to Beverley Monk and Phillip Cant for their preparation of this Service.