

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 5 December 2021

Welcome and Notices  
Mr Keith Ferres, Session Clerk

Hymn 35  
Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore Him.

Prayer of Invocation

Young at Heart  
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 1:10-25  
Ian Rutherford

Offering

Hymn 435  
Come, Thou Fount of every blessing

Sermon  
Redemption

Prayer of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 323 (verses 1-3)  
Here O my Lord

Service of Holy Communion

Hymn 323 (v.4&7)  
Too soon we rise

Benediction



## NOTICES

Second Sunday in Advent  
[www.blackburnpc.org.au](http://www.blackburnpc.org.au)

- Wednesday 8 December 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting.
- Sunday 12 December 11 am Advent Service. **Gathered**  
Also streamed on Facebook Live.
- Saturday 25 December 9.30 am Christmas Day Service

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Congregational members:  
**Ian HILL** with Katie and family

and



**Matt and Kate Vinicombe** and family are  
with CMS in Australia, learning the  
Anindilyakwa language and serving in the  
Groote Eylandt community.



GARDENIA ST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
53 Gardenia Street,  
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BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

## GARDENIA ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLACKBURN

5 December 2021

Is not the cup of blessing  
that we bless a participation  
in the blood of Christ?



And is not the bread that we break a  
participation in the body of Christ?

1Corinthians 10:17

# WELCOME



Six months after the Transitional Military Council (CMT) came to power, civic space continues to be largely closed, peaceful protests are still violently repressed, and security forces enjoy impunity," said Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch. "The CMT should end its assault on dissenters and protesters and ensure that security forces implicated in rights abuses are held accountable.

In a move that raises concerns and risks further fueling the culture of impunity for serious human rights abuses, on October 14, Mahamat Idriss Déby appointed Abdel Kader Mahamat, known as Baba Laddé, former leader of the rebel group Popular Front for Redress (*Front Populaire pour le Redressement - FPR*), as the new director of Chadian intelligence services. Baba Laddé and his armed group have fought in the Central African Republic since 2018. The United Nations (UN) and national and international human rights groups have documented serious human rights crimes by Baba Laddé's men there, including rape, killings, and looting.

Human Rights Watch 2021

The Muslim majority dominates Chadian society. Discrimination against Christians is the norm in Chad, which has a long history of Muslims oppressing Christians, including Muslims raiding non-Muslims to seize them as slaves.

Poor and uneducated Christians are still vulnerable to exploitation. Being the poorest section of society, Christians are the most severely affected by the multiple disasters afflicting Chad this year.

Barnabas Fund 2020

Sermon Outline

Concerning this salvation:  
**Redemption**

**A**dvent this has come round again and we think about what it means to have a Saviour. After a strange (second) Covid affected year we celebrate Holy Communion for only the second time this year. While the meal Jesus gave us is central to understanding his death, there are also many places where its multi-dimensional significance is explained. Today in Peter's first letter we discover: Redemption!

**1. The empty life (v.18)**

The quest for meaning and purpose arises naturally in the human heart. Are we alone in a meaningless universe, or here for a reason? If so what might that purpose be? If we get this wrong we may discover we have given a god-like place in our lives to things which are 'non-gods'. The most familiar trio are wealth, power and pleasure, but it can be anything that has distorted our humanity by occupying an excessive role in our lives.

As Christians we believe that giving Jesus the central place in life frees us from 'non-gods' and progressively restores our humanity. The letters of the New Testament call Jesus' followers to the highest ethical standards. They are to be transformed by the presence of the Spirit of Jesus from their previously 'worthless manner of life'.

**2. Jesus' costly sacrifice (v.19)**

In an Empire founded on slavery, redemption was a familiar concept. Slaves dreamed of freedom and earnestly desired that the price of their redemption might be paid.

Christians believed that at the cross, the most repugnant and vile death imaginable in the Roman Empire, the cost of freedom was secured.

This is not a novel idea. It was an ancient plan, unfolding in Jewish history, but revealed in these last days for our sakes. The cross of Christ is the redemptive act that liberates believers from serving the non-gods.

**3. New kindled belief (v.21)**

The payment of a redemption price is one of the many ways in which the Bible explains Jesus' death. Peter is not alone in using the word for 'ransom' in connection with Jesus' death. (Mark 10:45 and Titus 2:14).

How a shameful death came to be associated with a transformative experience of living is most simply explained by believing the resurrection. Without the resurrection the death of Jesus would be undifferentiated from thousands of other cruel and brutal killings.

The first believers claimed 'the Lord is risen'. This is the simplest and most obvious explanation of the transformation in their lives.

**4. God conceived life (v.23)**

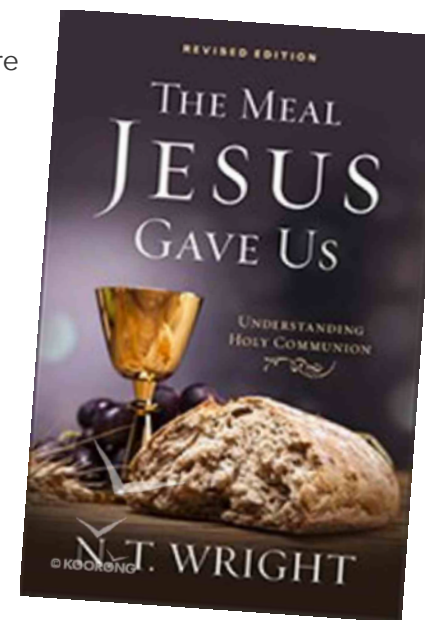
Ignorant and insufficient as we are, we have been loved from all eternity. This love has been actively pursuing us with redemptive intention.

That the Creator could, and would suffer to ensure our redemption has the power to generate love of others in the unlovely and unloving.

The love of fellow-believers is a test of genuine faith. The kiss of Christian love is one marker. Another is sharing in the meal that speaks of our redemption: the Lord's Supper.

Nothing is more central to Christian practice than Holy Communion.

Yet, curiously enough, little attempt is made to explain it. So many outside the Christian community are just puzzled by it, and many within the church got to Communion from habit but know very little about how it arose or what it means. This is the ideal book for both types of reader. It is written by one of the foremost New Testament Scholars in the World, who has the enviable ability to write with engaging charm. . . Best of all Dr Wright has written a book which will speak to all types of Christians and unite them over a subject that so often proves divisive.



Michael Green,  
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