

ADVENT CELEBRATION

**WE ARE CALLED TO TAKE CARE OF
CREATION**



29 November 2011
5.30pm for 6.00pm

RINGING OF THE BELLS:

**Solofelang Gill, staff member and Revd Chundran Chetty, Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Southern Africa**

ALL PROCEED TO THE DENIS HURLEY HALL FOR THE ENTRANCE HYMN:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O, come, Thou wisdom from on high
Who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go
Refrain

O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory over the grave.
Refrain

O come, Thou day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

O come, Thou key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.
Refrain

O come, O come, great God of might
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER: Revd Ian Booth, Chairperson, Diakonia Council
of Churches**

*(Responses are printed in **bold** type)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creating God, You are the source of light and life
So we praise you

Come Holy Spirit
Inspire us

Come people of the earth
We will worship together

You made the earth and the gifts of your creation
We praise you God

For the smiles of your children and the beauty of your people
We praise you God

For the chance to share with others
And to celebrate your glory
We praise you God. Amen

HYMN

God, our maker, great Creator
All creation sings your praise
Sun and stars in all their splendour
Moon in ev'ry changing phase
Earth with all its trees and grasses
Sparkling rivers, ocean blue
All unite to pay you homage
Singing joyously to you.

Provident and wise Creator
As your mighty plan unfurled
You made us to share your labour
In the building of the world.
Man and woman you created
That united, heart and home
They might work and strive together
Till your endless realm may come.

God of truth and love unbounded
Further still your mercy went
When uniting earth with heaven
Your incarnate Son you sent:
First-born of your vast creation
Holding all in unity
Leading all in power and wisdom
To a glorious destiny.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES: Revd Gando Matyumza, African Methodist Episcopal Church

PRAYER FOR CONFESSION: Revd Zandile Myeni, Ethiopian Episcopal Church

Giver of Life,
in the midst of a plundered earth
We groan with creation
Have mercy on us

Giver of Life,
In the midst of poisoned water
We groan with creation
Have mercy on us

Giver of Life,
in the midst of polluted air
we groan with creation
Have mercy on us

Giver of Life,
in the midst of mountains of waste
we groan with creation
Have mercy on us

Giver of Life,
in the midst of a world of war
we groan with creation
Have mercy on us

Giver of Life,
we who are made in the image of God have gone astray
and creation groans with us
Have mercy on us

SILENCE:

FIRST READING: Janice Wahl, Vice-Chairperson, Diakonia Council of Churches

Romans 8: 22-23

For we know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth. But it is not just creation alone which groans; we who have the Spirit as the first of God's gifts also groan within ourselves, as we wait for God to make us children and set our whole being free.

LITURGICAL DANCE: The Parish of St Aidan's Liturgical Dance Group

SECOND READING: Kudzai Taruona, staff member

Revelation 22: 1-3

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, and coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing down the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life which bears fruit twelve times a year, once each month; and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

HYMN

Bonk'ubuhle balomhlaba
Nokucweba kwal'izulu
Nal'uthand'oluhle lwakho
Olusisingatha njalo
Sikubonga kuwe, Nkosi
Sesivum' ingoma yethu.

Zonke izimangaliso
Ezemini nobusuku
Ezemithi nezintaba
Ezenyanga ne'nkanyezi
Sikubonga kuwe, Nkosi
Sesivum' ingoma yethu.

Lonk'uthando lwezihlobo
Abazali nabantwana
Izihlobo emhlabeni
Nazo ezisezulwini
Sikubonga kuwe Nkosi
Sesivum' ingoma yethu

Konke esikuphiwayo
Ngaw' umusa wakh' omkhulu
Nezimilo zokulunga
Okufuza okwezulu
Sikubonga kuwe Nkosi
Sesivum' ingoma yethu.

ADVENT MESSAGE: Revd Ian Booth, Chairperson, Diakonia Council of Churches

INTERCESSORY PRAYER - BY ALL:

Creator God, you make all things
and weave them together in an intricate tapestry of life.
Teach us to respect the fragile balance of life and to care for all the gifts of your creation.
Guide by your wisdom those who have power and authority,
that, by the decisions they make, life may be cherished
and a good and fruitful Earth may continue to show your glory and sing your praises.

Almighty God,
you have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation.
Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals who share this planet with us
and whose lives make possible our own.
Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life and join with us in giving you
praise. **Amen**

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Bishop Mike Vorster, Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Natal Coastal District

- **'Uh Oh We're In The Red, Dear'**

Uh Oh we're in the red, dear on our credit card it shows
Christmas is almost over but the debit line still grows
Shopping like Santa's zombies, sent our budget down in flames
But all our Christmas spirit helped the giant retail chains

I'm so foggy Christmas Eve, wondering how we'll pay
Christmas doesn't seem so bright when our finances are tight

So here's a plan for next year, let's forget the shopping spree
Let's give a gift of love, so all our Christmas gifts are free

- **'Slow Down Ye Frantic Shoppers'**

Slow down ye frantic shoppers for there's something we must say
If you would spare a moment all the stores would go away
Big business has been telling us what Christmas means today
Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.

To some folks Christmas means a time for gathering with friends
And enemies might take it as a time to make amends
But TV says it's time for pricey gifts and selfish ends
Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.

Some people feel that Christmas is when Jesus makes a call
For others it's a time to stress good will and peace to all
But advertisers tell us it means Santa's at the mall
Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.

- **'Profits Here, Profits There'**

Chorus: Profits here, profits there,
profits everywhere
Christmas time is funny
we smell money in the air
Advertise, glamorise,
fool you with a flair.
Let's make sure that Christmas
is a business-like affair.

You're eating up our lies and dashing to the stores
Then all our prices rise and how the money pours
If we don't keep you drugged and watching your TV
You might see the hypocrisy
then where would business be?

Chorus:

We'll tell you how to think and tell you what to try
What to eat and drink and how to live and die
And if our plan succeeds, when Christmas-time is nigh
Instead of seeking love and peace you'll hunt for gifts to buy

SILENT REFLECTION: Bishop Mike Vorster

Why should I be concerned about waste?

Do I make an effort to repair, recycle/re-use materials?

Have I used a bus/taxi, cycling instead of my car?

Consumerism: Think of the latest things you have bought? Do I really need all what I have in my possession?

HYMN: Dean Gilbert Filter, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa (N-T)

I, the God of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain: Here I am, God. It is I, God.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, God, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the God of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them -
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the God of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them -
My hand will save.
Finest bread, I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

**VOTE OF THANKS: Nomabelu Mvambo-Dandala, Executive Director, Diakonia
Council of Churches**

BLESSING: Dean Gilbert Filter

Go out into the world rejoicing, meet your Creator who awaits you there
Delight in the richness and diversity of the world Christ died to save
Live in the power of the Spirit that renews all thing,
And the blessing of the Creator God
The Eternal God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a
blessing to others today and always. **Amen**

DISTRIBUTION AND LIGHTING OF THE SMALL CANDLES BY STAFF

FINAL CHORUS

UThixo ufun' ozomthuma,

Chorus: Thuma mina, weBaba thuma mina

Kulezizwe zonke
Chorus

UThixo ufuna ozomthuma
Chorus

Kulamagumb' amane
Chorus

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The Parish of St Aidan's Liturgical Dance Group
WCC Environmental Programme Resources, 2008



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