



# Brougham Place Uniting Church

## Kardlayirdi Karnungga A light on the hill

### A Quieter Christmas

December 17th, 2023. 6pm

*We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional carers of the land on which our church is built.*

Gathering Music

Welcome

We light Advent candles in silence

We Sing: *He Came Down that We May Have Love*

He came down  
that we may have hope;  
He came down  
that we may have peace;  
He came down  
that we may have joy;  
hallelujah for evermore.

He came down  
that we may have love;  
He came down  
that we may have love;  
He came down  
that we may have love;  
hallelujah for evermore.

*Church Hymnary 359. Traditional, from Cameroon. Transcribed and arranged  
John I Bell (b.1949). © 1990, WGRG, Iona Community. All rights reserved.  
ONE LICENSE. License #A-604444.*

## Prayer

### Psalm 13:1-6

How much longer, LORD,  
will you forget about me?  
Will it be forever?  
How long will you hide?  
How long must I be confused  
and miserable all day?  
How long will my enemies  
keep beating me down?  
Please listen, LORD God,  
and answer my prayers.  
Make my eyes sparkle again,  
or else I will fall  
into the sleep of death.  
My enemies will say,  
“Now we've won!”  
They will be greatly pleased  
when I am defeated.  
I trust your love,  
and I feel like celebrating  
because you rescued me.  
You have been good to me, LORD,  
and I will sing about you.

## *Time of silent contemplation*

### *We Sing: O Come O Come Emmanuel #1*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to*  
*you, O Israel.*
2. O come, O key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery.  
*Rejoice! rejoice!...*
3. O come, O dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*Rejoice! rejoice!...*

*Together in Song, 265. Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier based on Antiphons from 9th cent.  
or earlier tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt. Public Domain.*

### *Psalm 61:1-4; 62:1-2*

Please listen, God,  
and answer my prayer!  
I feel hopeless,  
and I cry out to you  
from a faraway land.  
Lead me to the mighty rock  
high above me.  
You are a strong tower,  
where I am safe  
from my enemies.

Let me live with you forever  
and find protection  
    under your wings, my God.  
Only God can save me,  
    and I calmly wait for him.  
God alone is the mighty rock  
    that keeps me safe  
and the fortress  
    where I am secure.

### *Time of silent contemplation*

#### *We Sing: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious king,”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings  
unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o’er the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels  
sing.

*Words: Edmund H Sears 1849, Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. Public domain.*

## Psalm 139:7-12

Where could I go to escape  
from your Spirit  
or from your sight?  
If I were to climb up  
to the highest heavens,  
you would be there.  
If I were to dig down  
to the world of the dead  
you would also be there.  
Suppose I had wings  
like the dawning day  
and flew across the ocean.  
Even then your powerful arm  
would guide and protect me.  
Or suppose I said, "I'll hide  
in the dark until night comes  
to cover me over."  
But you see in the dark  
because daylight and dark  
are all the same to you.

*Time of silent contemplation*

Candle lighting

Choir

*On this Still, Silent Night – Laura Farnell  
(Combination of Still, Still, Still and Silent Night)*

## Psalm 23

You, LORD, are my shepherd.  
I will never be in need.  
You let me rest in fields  
of green grass.  
You lead me to streams  
of peaceful water,  
and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name,  
and you lead me  
    along the right paths.  
I may walk through valleys  
as dark as death,  
    but I won't be afraid.  
You are with me,  
and your shepherd's rod  
    makes me feel safe.  
You treat me to a feast,  
    while my enemies watch.  
You honor me as your guest,  
and you fill my cup  
    until it overflows.  
Your kindness and love  
will always be with me  
    each day of my life,  
and I will live forever  
    in your house, LORD.

*Time of silent contemplation*

*We Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #2*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,  
as once an exiled Israel you found,  
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.*
2. O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear  
and lift our spirits by your advent here.  
In all who gather, show us your face,  
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.*

3. O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,  
help us restore a world we've let decline.  
Enlighten us; your way we would know  
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.*
  
4. Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,  
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.  
Bind us as one, a people of grace,  
for at your table each one has a place.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.*

© 2010 Susan Wickham. Used with permission.

#### Matthew 11:28-30

If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.

Prayer

Blessing

*Prepared with help from  
Feasting on the Word – Advent Companion  
Rev Ann Phillips, Woodville Uniting Church – Blue Christmas Service*

*Scripture Readings are from the  
Contemporary English Version*



**BROUGHAM PLACE**  
UNITING CHURCH

"A light on the hill"