



PROJECT RECONNECT

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Liturgical Date: Year B, Advent 4, 24th December 2023

(There is an 'Advent Welcome' on the Music page).

Presenter: Rev Sharon Hollis

Focus Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Message 16 minutes 17 seconds

"The Extraordinary Ordinary"

Discussion Starters

- 1** In what ways do you find the story of Christmas ordinary? Extraordinary?
- 2** How do you look for God in the ordinary?
- 3** How might your church share the good news through ordinary events and activities?
- 4** Who are the people on the edge whom your church might be in ministry with?

Lectionary readings for the day

Isaiah 9:2-7 "The people walking in darkness" (v2) with warrior boots and bloody garments describes earthly life which, out of its great need, is given the Prince of Peace.

Psalm 96 In response to Isaiah's announcement, the assembly sings an ancient hymn of joy for the One who comes to judge with righteousness.

Titus 2:11-14 The grace of God trains us to wait in hope through renunciation of all that keeps us from God.

(Excerpted from Abingdon's Theological Companion to the Lectionary, Year B. Copyright c2014 by Abingdon Press, an imprint of the United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

All Age Message: Maria Williams

"Commitment and Courage"

Length 6 minutes 20 seconds

Precis of AAM

Mary and Joseph had to come to terms with the news they were to become parents. The lowly in society of that time – the shepherds were the first to hear the "Good News". Jesus came to change our minds about God. God remains with us, loves all of creation and works towards the day that Justice and Peace will reign on earth. Faith in God gives us courage to live in frightening, ordinary, difficult and unexpected times.

Resources: Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 96 on page 317-318

Rev Sharon Hollis

I am currently the President of the Uniting Church Assembly. I am passionate about coffee, consensus decision making and the diverse witness to Jesus Christ I see in the Uniting Church. I live in Melbourne on the lands of the Wurundjeri People.