



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 26th July 2020

Welcome to our live-streamed service, found on the FaceBook page for 'St John the Divine Croydon'.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Sentence

Paul wrote: We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1.23-24

Hymn: God beyond earth's finest treasures

(based on Psalm 16)

by Martin Leckebusch (b.1962) - tune: St Helen

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**1. God beyond earth's finest treasures,
you alone shall have my praise;
I will love your cherished people,
I will serve you all my days;
be my ruler,
be my refuge,
God the guardian of my ways.**

**2. You have caused my life to prosper -
countless gifts your love has planned!
Day and night your wisdom prompts me,
shows me all that you command;
God before me,
God beside me,
safe within your care I stand.**

**3. When my earthly days are over,
fresh delights remain in store:
vaster riches, fuller pleasures
than I ever knew before -
life unending,
joy unfading
in your presence evermore.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We have too often failed to respond to Christ's call to live his way of sacrificial love, fearing the cost and being blind to the blessing. As we prepare to offer thanks and praise for that love shown to us, let us call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

May the God of love and power

forgive you and free you from your sins,

heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA AND COLLECT

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, the fount of wisdom,

you have revealed to us in Christ

the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:

grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,

that, in the midst of the things of this world,

we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,

and be ready to renounce all else

for the sake of the precious gift you offer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

In Paul's letter he talks about the crucified Son of God being, in that moment, 'the power of God and the wisdom of God' - a divine wisdom that worldly people cannot relate to. In the Gospel we have further examples of divine wisdom, as presented by Jesus, that are likewise rejected by others - even those who think they know him.

First reading - from the New Testament

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth [1.17-31]

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, sisters and brothers: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 13.44-58

Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded

and said, ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?’ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.’ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God’s people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We start our prayers by bringing before God our newly established Parish Network, and commissioning the team of group coordinators:

Lord, you call and empower people

to serve your church community:

we give thanks

that you have inspired members of our church

to help strengthen connections

through our new Parish Network.

We now commission the team:

Ailsa Wakeley, Beryl Gibson, Cheryl Yon, and Coszette Probert; Helen Duncan, Jenny Harris, Jenny Heath, and Joan Sweet; Lois Vine, Lyn Lynch, Pat Spears, and Rosemary Russell, with myself;

may you inspire, guide, encourage and bless us

as we work together to reach out to every parishioner

so that each may know that they are valued, loved,

and included in our church family.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

And now, let us continue in our prayers for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: *When pain and terror strike by chance*
by Brian Wren (b.1936) - tune: Kingsfold
©1993 Hope Publishing Co., CCL No 632290

- 1. When pain and terror strike by chance
with causes unexplained,
when God seems absent or asleep,
and evil unrestrained,
we crave an all-controlling force
ready to rule and warn,
but find, far-shadowed by a cross,
a child in weakness born.**
- 2. We marvel at God's nakedness
and sense the play of chance
in Herod's anger, Peter's growth,
and Pilate's troubled glance.
Our Saviour's tempted, tested way
never was cut and dried,
but costly, risking life and love,
betrayed and crucified.**
- 3. How deep the Wisdom of our God,
how weak, but truly wise,
to risk, to sacrifice, to die,
and from the grave arise,
to shed the shroud of death and fate,
freeing our hearts for good.
We breathe the ample air of hope
and take our chance with God.**
- 4. Since Wisdom took its chance on earth,
to show God's living way,
we'll trust that fear and force will fail,
and Wisdom win the day.
Then come, dear Christ, and hold us fast
when faith and hope are torn,
and bring us, in your loving arms,
to resurrection morn.**

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks

because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth,
and give us power to proclaim your gospel
to the nations

and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you

for these gifts of your creation,

this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them

may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;

and when he had given you thanks

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,

and again giving you thanks

he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant

shed for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again,

we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,

his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice

for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,

unite us in the body of your Son,

and bring us with all your people

into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, Father,

in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains
which have been gathered together and made one
bread:

so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with
thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed
for you, and be thankful. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father,

we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

Hymn: *God has spoken to his people*

by Willard Francis Jabusch (b.1930) - tune: *Song of Good News*
©1999, The Australian Hymn Book Co. Pty Ltd., CCL No
632290

God has spoken to his people,
hallelujah!
And his words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!
(repeat)

1. **Open your ears, O Christian people,**
open your ears and hear good news.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you,
God has come to you.

God has spoken to his people,
hallelujah!

And his words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!

(repeat)

2. **They who have ears to hear his message,**
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word,
let them hear God's word.

God has spoken to his people,
hallelujah!

And his words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!

(repeat)

3. **Israel comes to greet the Saviour,**
Judah is glad to see his day;
from east and west the peoples travel:
he will show the way,
he will show the way.

God has spoken to his people,
hallelujah!

And his words are words of wisdom,
hallelujah!

(repeat)

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit,
be upon you and those whom you love and pray for,
now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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NOTICES

Our Bishop Paul has written the following to every parish and parishioner in his care:

A CALL TO PRAYER

With the resumption of lockdown, the possibility of even further restrictions, the threatening rise of coronavirus cases in metropolitan Melbourne and the increasing stresses our society is facing, I want to invite you and any parishioner of any and every parish to join in prayer by zoom to either of these:

Tuesday 4 August at 7.30 – 8.15pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83496087490?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83496087490?pwd=RTdOMk5CbndEZVFBeCtSSFpDWG9ldz09)
[pwd=RTdOMk5CbndEZVFBeCtSSFpDWG9ldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83496087490?pwd=RTdOMk5CbndEZVFBeCtSSFpDWG9ldz09)
Meeting ID: 834 9608 7490 Passcode: 782287

Thursday 6 August at 2.00 – 2.45pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86450595603?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86450595603?pwd=UzhQY2hBRUpBd3RlNFNuMTdsVHVQdz09)
[pwd=UzhQY2hBRUpBd3RlNFNuMTdsVHVQdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86450595603?pwd=UzhQY2hBRUpBd3RlNFNuMTdsVHVQdz09)
MeetingID: 864 5059 5603 Passcode: 264289

Anyone can join. Let us call on our gracious God for his mercy.

Two important developments have recently taken place in the life of our parish.

We have established the **Parish Network** to ensure all parishioners are regularly kept in contact. A vital aspect of this is the team of twelve group coordinators to facilitate this communication, and who have been commissioned in this role during the service today.

This has already provided invaluable feedback, and enabled specific pastoral care to be given in a few instances.

This feedback - as well as now having a fully up to date list of contact details for each parishioner - has encouraged us to start distributing a **weekly newsletter**, via email or post, to every household. This has more detailed news than contained here, and includes the readings, sermon, and some prayers. If you are a member of the parish and have not received last week's newsletter (the first issue) - or would like to become a member - please contact me directly, or through the parish office at office@stjohndivine.org.au

Offertory: Thank you to all those who are managing to send their offertories to the Parish Office, or directly into the parish bank account:

- 'St John's - general account' BSB: 033044
Account: 251582

Maintenance work at the church premises is continuing. Last week some additional handrails for the entryway steps were measured up and put together (see photo), and then taken back to the workshop for completion. Next week they will be bolted into place, and make these steps easier and safer to negotiate.

