



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

Christmas Eve

24th December 2020

Welcome to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: www.stjohndivine.org.au

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome

Lighting the Christmas candle in the Advent wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn: O little town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks (1835-93) alt. - tune: Forest Green

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1. **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
2. **O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
the peace to all on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.**
3. **How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts,
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**
4. **O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Sentence

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9.2,6

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son, full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus 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

Let us pray.

Eternal God,

through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still
bring light to illumine our paths:

renew us in faith and hope

that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts

and claim our love;

to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9.2-7

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2.11-14

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn: Behold, a rose is growing

Harriet Reynolds Spaeth (1845-1925) & John Caspar Mattes (1014) alt. - tune: Es Ist Ein Ros

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- 1. Behold, a rose is growing,
of loveliest form and grace,
as prophets sang, foreknowing;
it springs from Jesse's race,
and comes a perfect flower,
in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.**
- 2. Isaiah had foretold it
in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it –
a gentle maiden pure.
Through God's eternal will
this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.**
- 3. This rose, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere.
As human, yet true God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.**
- 4. O Saviour, child of Mary,
you felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory,
you all our weakness know.**

**Lead us at last, we pray,
to the full joys of heaven
and into endless day.**

Gospel reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Luke 2.1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn: Silent night

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820-85)

alt. - tune: Silent Night

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- 1. Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
round the virgin mother and child;
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.**
- 3. Silent night, holy night.
wondrous star, lend your light,
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.**

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

Let us pray 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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: Infant holy, infant lowly

tr. Edith Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933) - tune: Infant Holy
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- 1. Infant holy,
infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing,
little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all;
swift are winging
angels singing,
nowells ringing,
tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**
- 2. Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping,
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory,
heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true;
thus rejoicing,
free from sorrow,
praises voicing,
greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.**

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

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.

In your Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

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.

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.
God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful
to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence to all people. **Amen.**

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: On Christmas night all Christians sing
traditional English carol - tune: Sussex Carol
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- 1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.**
- 2. Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?**
- 3. When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.**
- 4. And so from darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
and so from darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace descend
now and for evermore. Amen.'**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his
grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among 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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