



St John the Divine
Eucharist service
5th Sunday of Easter
2nd May 2021

WELCOME!

Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine, and to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: www.stjohndivine.org.au

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome and notices

Hymn: God is love, let heav'n adore him

Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt. - tune: Abbot's Leigh

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CCL No 632290

- 1. God is love, let heav'n adore him;**
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal Love.
- 2. God is love, and gently enfolding**
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.
- 3. God is love, and, though with blindness**
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sentence

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. *1 John 4.10-11*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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,
form the minds of your faithful people,
that we may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the many changes of this world,
our hearts may there be fixed where true joys
are to be found;
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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8.26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they

came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Psalm 22.26-32

²⁶ From you springs my praise in the great congregation:
I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

²⁷ **The meek shall eat of the sacrifice
and be satisfied:
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him—
may their hearts rejoice for ever!**

²⁸ Let all the ends of the earth remember
and turn to the Lord:
and let all the families of the nations worship
before him.

²⁹ **For the kingdom is the Lord's:
and he shall be ruler over the nations.**

³⁰ How can those who sleep in the earth
do him homage:
or those that descend to the dust bow down
before him?

³¹ **But he has saved my life for himself:
and my posterity shall serve him.**

³² This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:
and his righteousness declared to a people
yet unborn, that he has done it.

A reading from John's first letter 4.7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;

for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their sisters or brothers, are liars; for those who do not love a sister or brother whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their sisters and brothers also.

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

Hymn: I am the light whose brightness shines

Robert Willis (b.1947) - tune: Richmond

© Robert Willis, 2008, CCL No 632290

- 1. I am the Light whose brightness shines
on every pilgrim's way,
and brings to evil's darkest place
the glorious light of day.**
- 2. I am the Bread, God's gift from heaven,
sent down to satisfy
that hunger which cries out for food;
who eats shall never die.**
- 3. I am the Vine whose branches grow
united in one root;
who dwell in me, and I in them,
shall live and bear much fruit.**
- 4. I am the Resurrection life,
the power of God whereby
whoever truly trusts in me
shall live and never die.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St John 15.1-8

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

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

Address

Hymn: Called by the love of Christ
John Campbell - tune: Noel
© Kevin Mayhew, 2016, CCL No 632290

- 1. Called by the love of Christ to be
life's flavour hid from sight;
yet challenged by that self-same love
to shine like beacons bright,
Lord, when our neighbours' lives are grim,
decaying, dark as night,
empow'r us, in the name of love,
to live as salt and light!**
- 2. Called by the love of Christ to bear
his kingdom-bringing fruit;
yet only when we're grafted firm
to his life-giving root,
Lord, when, exhausted, each becomes
a withered, dying shoot,
re-graft, restore us by your love
to grow and bear your fruit!**
- 3. Called by the love of Christ to hold
God's treasure, rich and rare;
yet in ourselves but rough clay pots,
just common kitchenware,
Lord, show your love by using us
as vessels of your care,
that cracked and chipped and used and worn
we'll prove that you are there!**
- 4. Called by the love of Christ to be
one body with one will;
yet each of worth, ourselves, distinct,
unique in gift and skill,
Lord, may our differences supply
the vigour of the whole;
in diverse ways all work one work,
together reach your goal.**

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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us,
therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a
sincere and a true heart.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.**

**Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who
turn to him in faith:

pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia.

Offertory hymn: Christ is alive
Pamela Stotter (b.1944) - tune: Vulpius
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
we celebrate our risen Lord,
praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 2. He is the vine set in the earth,
sharing our life, from birth to death,
that we might share in God's own life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 3. He is the bread that comes from God,
broken to feed us in our need,
given to bring eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 4. Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
we celebrate our risen Lord,
praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

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
that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

**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 gifts of God for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all creation.

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: Sent forth by God's blessing

*Omer Westendorf (b.1916) alt. - tune: The Ash Grove
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- 1. Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.
The supper is ended: may now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching,
our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.
His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.**
- 2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living
the tasks of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours
all those of each race.**

**One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.
Then may all the living,
with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ
and his name that we bear.**

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you what is pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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NOTICES

Stewardship Program

During the Easter season, until 16 May (7th Sunday of Easter) we are conducting a Stewardship Program. We will celebrate our patronal festival on Sunday 16 May - one combined 10am service.

This program is an opportunity to review how we offer our 'time, talents and treasure' to the Lord through our church community. We will celebrate the blessings of the past and present, and look at what God is calling us to be and do - now and going forwards.

Patronal Festival Lunch: 16 May

Book your tickets for our catered lunch on Sunday 16 May - see flyer 

Due to Covid restrictions seats are limited.

Parish Newsletter

This is published most weeks, and emailed to all who wish to receive it. Printed copies are also posted to those who prefer it.

If you would like to be on the distribution list, kindly provide your email or postal address to the Parish Office:

office@stjohndivine.org.au

or

6 Toorak Ave, Croydon 3136

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Mon 3 rd May	10.30am	AI Anon meeting
Tue 4 th May	1pm	AA meeting
	5.30pm	community meal: TDRM
	6pm	Finance committee
	7pm	Kindergarten Committee
Wed 5 th May	10am	Eucharist
	5.30pm	community meal: Winter Shelter
	7.30pm	NA meeting
Thu 6 th May	10am	Tarralla aged care pastoral visit
	10.30am	AA meeting
	7.30pm	AA meeting
Fri 7 th May		<u>Vicar's day off</u>
	7.30pm	AI Anon meeting
Sat 8 th May	7am	AA meeting
	11am	Focus on Faith & Friendship group
	7pm	Lai Christian Church service
Sun 9 th May		<u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>
	8am	Eucharist
	10am	Sung Eucharist
	8pm	AA meeting

Patronal Festival

of Saint John the Divine



Celebratory Lunch

Sunday 16th May

Cost \$20 per head

BYO Drinks

Please enter your name or names on the list provided and you will be allocated a ticket

Jenny Heath will collect payment and issue tickets.

Numbers are limited by Covid restrictions.