



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

18th Sunday after Pentecost

26th September 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

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Sentence

Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

Mark 9.50

Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
William Williams (1717-91) - tune: Cwm Rhondda
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**
- 2. Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**
- 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

My sisters and brothers,
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ
in word and sacrament,
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
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,
your Son has taught us
that those who give a cup of water in his name
will not lose their reward:
open our eyes to see those who are in need, and
teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards,
so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you
in your children,
we may labour for the treasure that endures;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the letter of James 5.12-20

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My sisters and brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you

should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

Hymn: O let the Son of God enfold you

John Wimber (1934-97) - tune: Spirit Song

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- 1. O, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;
let him fill your heart
and satisfy your soul;
O, let him have the things that hold you
and his Spirit, like a dove,
will descend upon your life
and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill our lives;
Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill our lives.**
- 2. O come and sing this song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy;
lift your hands in sweet surrender
to his name;
O, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into
life in Jesus' name.
Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill our lives;
Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill our lives.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Mark 9.38-50

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

John said to Jesus, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to Gehenna, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into Gehenna, where

their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

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

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord our God, 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: Lord Jesus, we belong to you

John Wilfred Kleinig (b.1942) - tune: Cooke Plains

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- 1. Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
you live in us, we live in you;
we live and work for you -
because we bear your name.**
- 2. Help us receive each other, Lord,
for you receive the least of us
and come to us in them -
because we bear your name.**
- 3. Bless those who give us any gift
because they know that we are yours;
reward them with your grace -
because we bear your name.**
- 4. Let us acknowledge those as friends
who use your name to right a wrong,
but have not joined us yet -
because we bear your name.**

**5. Let nothing that we do or say
offend the weak so that they fall
and lose their faith in you –
because we bear your name.**

**6. Keep us from missing out on life;
give hands that help, and single sight,
and feet that walk your way –
because we bear your name.**

**7. You are the salt that cleanses us,
so clean us out, and make us fit
for common life with you –
because we bear your name.**

The altar is prepared.

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven.

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 thanks and praise, glory and honour,
be yours at all times, in every place,
holy and loving Father, true and living God.
We praise you that through your eternal Word
you brought the universe into being
and made us in your own image.
You have given us this earth to care for and delight in,
and with its bounty you preserve our life.
We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race
with the promises of a gracious covenant
and called us to serve you in love and peace.

Above all, we give you thanks for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
born as one of us, he lived our common life
and offered his life to you
in perfect obedience and trust.

By his death he delivered us from sin,
brought us new life,
and reconciled us to you and to one another.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
with apostles, and prophets,
with holy women and men of every age,
we proclaim your great and glorious name:

**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.

Holy God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,

and be made one with him and with each other
in peace and love.

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.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,
renew us by your Spirit
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you 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 & 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.**

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you for ever.

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: Lift up your hearts!

*Henry Montagu Butler (1833-1918) alt. - tune: Woodlands
© Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 2008, CCL No 632290*

- 'Lift up your hearts!' We lift them, Lord, to thee;
here at thy feet none other may we see:
'lift up your hearts!' E'en so, with one accord,
we lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.**
- Above the swamps of subterfuge and shame,
the deeds, the thoughts, that honour may not
name,
the halting tongue that dares not tell the whole,
O Lord of truth, lift every Christian soul.**
- Lift every gift that thou thyself hast given:
low lies the best till lifted up to heaven;
low lie the bounding heart, the teeming brain,
till, sent from God, they mount to God again.**
- Then, as the trumpet-call in after years,
'Lift up your hearts!' rings pealing in our ears,
still shall those hearts respond with full accord,
'We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!'**

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of
God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
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 peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 27 th Sep	<u>18th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>
Mon 28 th Sep	7.30pm Parish Council <i>via zoom</i>
Tue 29 th Sep	5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i> 7.30pm Vestry <i>via zoom</i>
Wed 30 th Sep	5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i>
Thu 1 st Oct	-
Fri 2 nd Oct	<u>Vicar's day off</u>
Sat 3 rd Oct	-
Sun 4 th Oct	<u>19th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>

NOTICES

Offertory

Many are struggling with reduced financial circumstances. Sadly, this also impacts our own church finances. Keeping our faith community going, and enabling us to offer hospitality and support to the many community service groups using our facilities, is dependent on your generosity.

So you are invited to consider making a regular offering of money - or of increasing this if you're already doing so. These can be made through the offertory plate at each service, or directly into the parish bank account:

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

Thanks to all who are ensuring that their financial offerings are getting to us.

Prayer of Encirclement

*Circle me Lord
Keep protection near
And danger afar
Circle me Lord
Keep hope within
Keep doubt without*

*Circle me Lord
Keep light near
And darkness afar
Circle me Lord
Keep peace within
Keep evil out*

DIOCESAN COVID-19 UPDATE

22 September 2021

Roadmap general

From November 5, church ministry is going to be extra demanding and difficult. The situation of two tiers of restrictions, along with the 4sqm rule, will add burdens for the provision of services. A two-tiered system is not ideal, and we are assured it is a temporary measure, though it may last some months. However, we are glad that everyone has opportunity to attend a service and our churches can be open to all.

A distinction will be made between congregations who are all fully vaccinated, including clergy and others leading, and congregations where the vaccination status is unknown or unvaccinated. Where someone whose status is either unvaccinated or unknown attends, the lower attendance limits apply for all. Thus, vaccinated people are welcome to a service including unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown. Concurrent services are not allowed. Separate services can be held at different times and days. We are told that the Service Victoria App will be modified to record the vaccination status of a person for QR check-in purposes.

Parish Councils, with the Vicar, will need to make decisions on what services to offer and when, with effect from the 70% date (October 26) in regional Victoria and the 80% date (November 5) for greater Melbourne. We expect parishes to resume services from those respective dates, and we request that each parish offers at least one service for vaccinated people and one for anyone including the unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown, with the lower number limits, so that everyone has an opportunity to attend worship weekly. We do not want to exclude the medically vulnerable who may be reticent to gather with the unvaccinated. We do not want to exclude the unvaccinated either.

We do not expect parishes to resume services outdoors, though they may.

Clergy

Clergy who are medically vulnerable or who are unvaccinated will not be able to exercise full ministry. We ask those clergy to speak with their bishop as soon as possible, and their Vicar if they are not a Vicar. Those who are Vicars ought to speak also with their churchwardens. We again urge all clergy to be vaccinated. We will need to discuss how best to provide ministry for all in the times ahead.

Note: Fr John is fully vaccinated

The following details are foreshadowed but subject to change. Further details will be issued by the health and government officials in due course.

Roadmap – greater Melbourne

Stage 1: When 70% of the population over 16 years old have been fully vaccinated (approx. 26 October)

Outdoors services can be held, 4sqm rule and QR check-in apply, with a maximum of 50 people if all are fully vaccinated or a maximum of 20 people if unvaccinated or vaccination status is unknown.

Funerals can occur indoors with up to 50 people fully vaccinated or a maximum of 20 people if unvaccinated or vaccination status is unknown. In addition are those necessary to conduct the service.

Weddings can occur outdoors only. The maximum if all are fully vaccinated is 50. The maximum if unvaccinated or vaccination status is unknown is 10. In addition are the couple, celebrant and two witnesses.

Stage 2: When 80% of the population over 16 years old have been fully vaccinated (approx. 5 November)

Up to 150 people indoors, 4 sqm rule, or 500 people outdoors, 2sqm rule, fully vaccinated, can attend a service, or a maximum of 20 people indoors or outdoors if unvaccinated or vaccination status is unknown. We expect that 25 people fully vaccinated can attend a building under 100sqm.

Funerals can occur with the same restrictions as normal services, plus those required to conduct the service.

Weddings can occur with the same restrictions as normal services for those fully vaccinated. If the status is unvaccinated or unknown, the maximum is 10 people plus the couple, celebrant and two witnesses.

For all areas

Children

Children under 16 can attend either a vaccinated only service or an unknown status service. (This will later be reduced to children under 12 once those who are 12-16 years old are 80% fully vaccinated.)

Groups

Indoor sporting groups can resume with restrictions from Stage 2. Other groups, church groups and hirers, can resume indoors from Stage 2 with restrictions on vaccination status. Op shops can open with restrictions from Stage 2, and customers and staff do not need to be vaccinated. Home groups of up to 10 visitors could meet from stage 2, regardless of vaccination status.

Consequences for St John the Divine:

We're currently expecting to resume services from Sunday 7 November - though this might be delayed.

One proposal for managing the requirement to provide Sunday services for both vaccinated and unvaccinated is to resume our usual schedule, with the following conditions:

- *Sun 8am - for unvaccinated & vaccination status unknown (vaccinated people can choose to attend)*
- *Sun 10am - for vaccinated people*
- *Wed 10am - for unvaccinated & vaccination status unknown (vaccinated people can choose to attend)*

This proposal is subject to alteration. Nevertheless, it provides an indication of what is possible.

We must consider scheduling our Annual Meeting as late as possible to try to ensure that enough people can attend in person if possible, i.e. maybe only Sunday 28 November. This is also subject to confirmation.