



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**20th Sunday after Pentecost**

10<sup>th</sup> October 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](http://www.stjohndivine.org.au)*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

### Sentence

There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for Jesus' sake, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

*Mark 10.29-30*

Hymn: Amazing grace

*John Newton (1725-1807) alt. - tune: Amazing Grace  
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,  
CCL No 632290*

- 1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.**
- 2. As grace first taught my heart to fear,  
so grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**
- 3. Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**

### 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.*

In a dark and disfigured world  
we have not held out the light of life:  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

In a hungry and despairing world  
we have failed to share our bread:  
Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**

In a cold and loveless world  
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:  
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.  
Merciful God,  
in your Son you call not the righteous  
but sinners to repentance:  
draw us away from the easy road  
that leads to destruction,  
and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant,  
that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will,  
we may know the joy  
of being a disciple of Jesus our Saviour;  
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 prophecy of Amos 5.6-7, 10-15  
Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like  
fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.  
Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.  
Therefore, because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.  
For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.  
Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 4.12–16

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Hymn: Bright as fire in darkness  
*Stanbrook Abbey - tune: Erlestoke*  
© Stanbrook Abbey, 1974, CCL No 632290

- Bright as fire in darkness,  
sharper than a sword,  
lives throughout the ages  
God's eternal Word.**
- Christ, your eyes of mercy  
see our sins revealed;  
speak the word that saves us,  
that we may be healed.**
- Father, Son and Spirit,  
Trinity of might,  
compassed by your glory,  
give the world your light.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark 10.17–31

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." '

He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

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

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
since as members of one body you are called to peace.

*cf Colossians 3.15*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Hymn: Jesus, we have heard your Spirit  
*Martin Leckebusch (b.1962) - tune: Odiham*  
© Kevin Mayhew, 2001, CCL No 632290

1. **Jesus, we have heard your Spirit  
saying we belong to you,  
showing us our need for mercy,  
focusing our hopes anew;  
you have won our hearts' devotion,  
now we feel your guiding hand:  
where you lead us, we will follow  
on the paths your love has planned.**
2. **As a chosen, pilgrim people  
we are learning day by day  
what it means to be disciples,  
to believe and to obey.  
Word and table show your purpose;  
hearts and lives we gladly bring—  
where you lead us, we will follow,  
suff'ring Saviour, risen King.**
3. **How we learn that ev'ry nation  
should exalt your matchless name,  
yet so often this world's systems  
contradict your legal claim.  
If we stand for truth and justice  
we, like you, may suffer loss;  
where you lead us, we will follow—  
give us grace to bear our cross.**
4. **So we journey on together,  
keen to make our calling sure:  
through our joys, our fears, our crises,  
may our faith be made mature.  
Jesus, hope of hearts and nations,  
sov'reign Lord of time and space,  
where you lead us, we will follow  
till we see you face to face.**

*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 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.**

#### 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: Great God, your Spirit, like the wind

*Alan Gaunt (b.1935) - tune: Jerusalem*

© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,  
CCL No 632290

- 1. Great God, your Spirit, like the wind –  
unseen but shaking things we see –  
will never leave us undisturbed,  
fulfil our dreams, or set us free,  
until we turn from faithless fear  
and prove the promise of your grace,  
in justice, peace and daily bread,  
with joy for all the human race.**
- 2. Lord, shake us with the force of love,  
to rouse us from our dreadful sleep;  
remove our hearts of stone, and give  
new hearts of flesh, to break and weep  
for all your children in distress  
and dying for the wealth we keep.  
Help us prevent, while we have time,  
the blighted harvest greed must reap.**
- 3. And then, in your compassion, give  
your Spirit like the gentle rain,  
creating fertile ground from which  
your peace and justice spring like grain;  
until your love is satisfied,  
with all creation freed from pain,  
and all your children live to praise  
your will fulfilled, your presence plain.**

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.**

#### Permissions

Service excerpts:

- *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995 The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation
- *Common Worship* © 2006 The Archbishops' Council

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

CCLI Streaming Licence No. 129545

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<u>20th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i> (St John's team cooking) 7.30pm Vestry (zoom) 8pm TDRM AGM (zoom)
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i> 7pm Synod 7.30pm Mission Action Team (zoom)
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7pm <i>Kindergarten Committee (zoom)</i> 7pm Synod
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 7pm Synod
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9.30am Synod
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<u>21st Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>

### NOTICES

#### St John's TDRM Team

It is our turn to cook for The Dining Room Mission again this coming Tuesday, 12th October. It seems to have come around very quickly this time! A local funeral company has now undertaken to provide the desserts each week, which is wonderful. Therefore we are only required to provide the main meal.

We will be cooking Chow Mein with rice again – since it was such a success last time! The foil trays and basic ingredients will be available for you and we will deliver them to your door.

If you prefer to buy the ingredients etc. yourselves that is wonderful, but please give me your receipts so that we can have an accurate picture of the contributions and costs of this ministry. If you do not wish to seek reimbursement please let me know and I will count the cost of your basic ingredients as a donation.

If you are able to assist with serving the meal please come to the church at 4.30pm. **Please note that TDRM now requires people to have had at least one COVID vaccination if they are assisting on the night**, and it is likely that by next week you will need to be fully vaccinated. I will keep you updated.

We will aim to have the meals served and ready for distribution by 5.10pm to allow time for people to sit and eat together outside, so **please bring your food to the church HOT by 4.30pm, or let me know and we can arrange to collect it.**

Please let me know ASAP if you are available to help with the cooking and/or the serving this coming Tuesday.

*Kind regards, Cathy*

### Roadmap out of lockdown

To help with planning to cater both for those who are fully vaccinated but vulnerable, and for those who are unvaccinated (regardless of the reason), we are asking parishioners to respond to a simple questionnaire to help with planning appropriate opportunities for ALL to worship. This is being sent out with this service sheet.

### 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 by sending cheques to 5 Toorak Ave, Croydon 3136 or directly into the parish account:

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

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

## **Flourishing through trial is our glorious heritage as the church**

*by Ken Morgan (Head of Parish Mission & Resourcing)*

"Tired." When I ask a parish priest or lay worker how they're doing, that's the word I hear almost universally.

Ministry by Zoom and streaming platform, where what's on offer can be tuned in and turned off with a mouse-click, is a tiring business. It's especially tiring trying to reach and make disciples of young people who've been turned into 'zombies' by their schools' online learning programs.

A year and a half into the pandemic, instinct would tell us to do just enough to hold the fort, conserve energy, and survive until we hit that magic 80% vaccination threshold, when we can get back to our familiar rhythms.

But what will eventually emerge post-pandemic is a little hard to predict.

Perhaps Covid-19 will put paid to the daily commute, or the concept of a central business district, or the phenomenon that is the shopping mall. Or perhaps they will all come roaring back stronger than ever.

The extent to which we will recover our familiar parish rhythms remains to be seen. Perhaps the forced adaptation to electronic forms will bring a more permanent shift to the ways and means of being church. Or perhaps people will flock to in-person gatherings, craving connection.

Whenever society is significantly disrupted, predictions as to the longer-term impacts abound. As society is a complex web of interacting systems, with millions of elements varying affecting others, knowing with certainty the eventual outcome of a major disruption is all but impossible.

But here is what we do know. Two thousand years since its inception, some very big ideas about the church have remained constant:

- We are people of God, followers of Jesus, the community embodying God's love.
- We exist to continue the mission of Jesus in the world.
- We serve the unchurched, announce the gospel of Jesus, form disciples to maturity and develop leaders.
- Prayer, the scriptures, and the sacraments are the distinctives of our life.

Through the centuries, churches that have earnestly and consistently sought to pursue these ideals have flourished.

However, how the church has pursued these ideals has always been an adaptive challenge.

Since New Testament times the church has been at the forefront of not just adapting to the environment, but innovating to shape surrounding culture. Hospitals and universal education are legacies of the church's mission. In various ages the church has taken leadership in the arts, in agriculture and in the eager deployment of new technologies. Australia's first feature film was produced by the Salvation Army.

The church's survival and flourishing - through the rise and fall of empires, through seismic shifts in thought and social structure, through multiple determined efforts to stamp it out - has been in part due to its ability to continually adapt and renew itself, reshaping its forms while retaining its essence.

In these uncertain times, and despite our fatigue, the leadership challenge is to convey hope, emphasising what will remain constant, and expressing confidence that we the church have a literally glorious heritage of adaptation and flourishing through the vicissitudes of history.

*published in the October 2021 issue of the TMA*



Saturday 9 October

Dear Parishioners

I hope this finds you as well as possible during lockdown 6. We are all looking forward to being able to worship together in our sacred space at St John the Divine again.

In light of the government roadmap released recently, we need to make plans about how best to comply with both Government laws and our Bishop's request that we cater for all.

To do this as well as possible, it would help if you gave us feedback, as per the questionnaire below. Please return the completed survey as soon as possible ([office@stjohndivine.org.au](mailto:office@stjohndivine.org.au) / 5 Toorak Ave Croydon 3136), with your name - so that we can be aware of who has not completed the survey. Your replies will be confidential to Fr John and our CovidSafe Officer, Meryl Fisher.

Assuming that we might be able to resume in-person services from Sunday 7 November, with everyone still required to wear masks:

- Q1. Will you be fully vaccinated? YES / NO / DON'T WISH TO ANSWER  
*(You are not obliged to state your vaccination status)*
- Q2a. If you answer YES for Q1, are you prepared to worship with unvaccinated people? YES / NO  
*(Those who consider their health to be vulnerable are entitled to say No)*
- Q2b. If you answer NO for Q1, are you expecting to remain unvaccinated? YES / NO  
*(Your reasons for not being vaccinated will not be questioned)*

We are thinking of using our usual service pattern, but with the mandatory conditions:

- Sunday 8am for those not vaccinated & vaccination status unknown to us maximum 20  
*(vaccinated people can choose to attend)*
- Sunday 10am for fully vaccinated people only
- Wednesday 10am for those not vaccinated & vaccination status unknown to us maximum 20  
*(vaccinated people can choose to attend)*

- Q3. Will this arrangement enable you to attend weekly, if you so choose? YES / NO

If you answer NO for Q3, please say what might work for you. Or use this space to make any helpful comments.

---

---

---

- Q4. Do you need to talk with Fr John about any concerns that this survey raises for you? YES / NO

- Q5. Do you watch our Sunday live-streamed services, on our Facebook page, linked every week from the parish website? YES / NO

Thank you for filling out this important survey. We will let you know the results before the end of October.

God bless  
Fr John