



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

### **Celebrating Creation** *(19th Sunday after Pentecost)*

3rd 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)*

*As we approach the feast day of St Francis on 4th October, it is always good to celebrate God's creation in one way or another. So today's service is an intentional celebration of that, with the hymns, readings, liturgy and prayers chosen accordingly.*

#### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

#### *Sentence*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

*Psalms 24.1*

Hymn: Let all creation dance

*Brian Arthur Wren (b.1936) - tune: Darwall*

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CCL No 632290

1. **Let all creation dance**  
in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance,  
unfolding space and time,  
for nature's art  
in glory grows,  
and newly shows  
God's mind and heart.
2. **God's breath each force unfurls,**  
igniting from a spark  
expanding starry swirls,  
with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun  
seem mindless things,  
each orbit sings:  
'Your will be done.'
3. **Our own amazing earth,**  
with sunlight, cloud and storms  
and life's abundant growth  
in lovely shapes and forms,  
is made for praise,  
a fragile whole,  
and from its soul  
heaven's music plays.
4. **Lift heart and soul and voice:**  
in Christ all praises meet  
and nature shall rejoice  
as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong,  
all life befriend  
and kindly tend  
creation's song.

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

My sisters and brothers,  
as we prepare to honour God in creation  
let us acknowledge that human sin  
disfigures the whole of that creation,  
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.  
We confess to God our sin in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 8.22, 23*

*Silence is kept.*

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity;  
yet we have misused the earth  
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.  
Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

You have brought order out of chaos,  
light in darkness, good out of evil,  
but we have preferred darkness  
in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.  
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.  
God our Father,  
you never cease the work you have begun  
and prosper with your blessing all human labour:  
make us wise and faithful stewards of your gifts,  
that we may serve the common good,  
maintain the fabric of our world  
and seek that justice where all may share  
the good things you pour upon us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Deuteronomy 5.1a, 8.7-18

Moses convened all Israel, and said to them:

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

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

### Psalm 67

- 1 Let God be gracious to us and bless us:  
**and make his face shine upon us,**
- 2 That your ways may be known on earth:  
**your liberating power among all nations.**
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God:  
**let all the peoples praise you.**
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing:  
**for you judge the peoples with integrity,  
and govern the nations upon earth.**
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God:  
**let all the peoples praise you.**
- 6 Then the earth will yield its fruitfulness:  
**and God, our God, will bless us.**
- 7 God shall bless us:  
**and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

A reading from the first letter to Timothy 6.6-10, 17-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped

by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

Hymn: Touch the earth lightly

*Shirley Erena Murray (b.1931) - tune: Social Holiness*  
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,  
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1. **Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**
2. **We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**
3. **Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.**
4. **God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ re-connect us,  
using us gently and making us one.**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St Mark 4.26-29

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

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

Isaiah wrote:

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into  
song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

*Isaiah 55.12*

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

Hymn: Like a mighty river flowing

*Michael Perry (1942-1996) - tune: Quem Pastores Laudavere  
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Like a mighty river flowing,  
like a flower in beauty growing,  
far beyond all human knowing  
is the perfect peace of God.**
- 2. Like the hills serene and even,  
like the coursing clouds of heaven,  
like the heart that's been forgiven  
is the perfect peace of God.**
- 3. Like the summer breezes playing,  
like the tall trees softly swaying,  
like the lips of silent praying  
is the perfect peace of God.**
- 4. Like the morning sun ascended,  
like the scents of evening blended,  
like a friendship never ended  
is the perfect peace of God.**
- 5. Like the azure ocean swelling,  
like the jewel all-excelling,  
far beyond our human telling  
is the perfect peace of God.**

*The altar is prepared.*

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.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
For you have created the heavens and the earth  
and formed us in your own image.  
In the fullness of time you sent forth your Son,  
your eternal word,  
who laid down his life for our salvation  
and rose from the grave,  
the first-fruits of your new creation.  
You send forth your holy and life-giving Spirit  
to give life to our mortal bodies  
and to renew the face of the earth.

Therefore with all the heavenly hosts,  
we give voice to everything that you have made,  
and sing the eternal hymn of praise:

**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.  
God our creator,  
you give seed for us to sow and bread for us to eat:  
as you have blessed the fruit of our labour  
in this eucharist,  
so we ask you to give all your children their daily bread,  
that the world may praise you for your goodness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: The kingdom of God is justice and joy  
*Bryn Rees (1911-1983) - tune: Paderborn*  
© Alexander Scott, CCL No 632290

- 1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy,  
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,  
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**
- 2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,  
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,  
and hope is awakened instead of despair.**
- 3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,  
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,  
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**
- 4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,  
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;  
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,  
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you his children,  
that you may use his gifts to his glory  
and the welfare of all peoples;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,  
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.  
Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Permissions

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## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<u>Celebrating Creation</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i>
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i>
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7pm <i>Kindergarten Committee (zoom)</i>
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<u>Vicar's day off</u>
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<u>20th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>

## NOTICES

### Responding to the lockdown restrictions

Bishop Paul, on behalf of the Archbishop, has joined with other faith leaders in successfully negotiating and pushing back on Covid restrictions where they impact directly on faith communities, and where they might appear to discriminate unfairly.

Sadly, Bishop Paul still receives unkind criticism as though he were the one setting the Victoria State regulations. The reality is that we need to keep all Anglican parishes both as safe as possible to avoid transmitting infection, and also compliant to avoid fines.

While we might not agree with everything our state government is doing, the complexity of our economic and social connections makes the government decision for each aspect appear to be the 'wrong decision' for many people.

The best response is:

- to push back and negotiate respectfully - as Bishop Paul is doing for the whole Diocese;
- to keep praying for our political and community leaders at every level (including Fr John) to be blessed with wisdom, compassion, and fortitude to keep going;
- to keep reaching out to others in our family, friendship, and faith circles, finding ways to bless them with kind words and deeds;
- to keep turning to God with prayers of both thanksgiving for the blessings we receive, and supplication for our own and others' needs: the Psalms are a wonderful source for personal prayer in this regard.

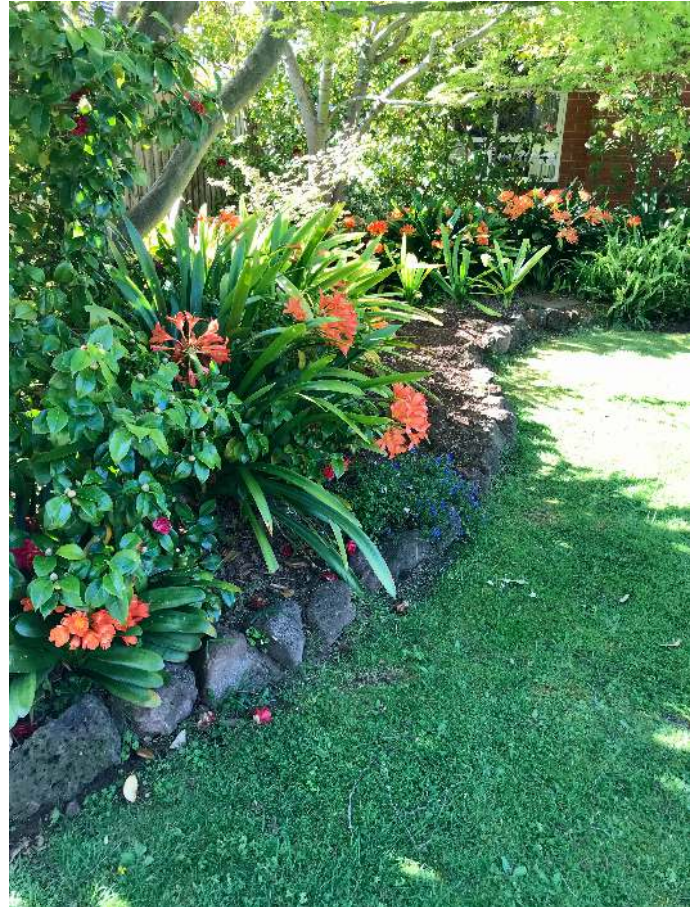


## Roadmap out of lockdown

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

The Diocese is requesting each parish to cater - as best as each parish can - both for those who are fully vaccinated but vulnerable, and for those who are unvaccinated (regardless of the reason).

Fr John and Meryl Fisher, our CovidSafe Officer, are consulting with Diocesan and Deanery advisors to determine the most viable way forwards. Like some other parishes, we are asking parishioners to respond to a simple questionnaire to help with planning appropriate opportunities for ALL to worship.



*Local gardens around Croydon provide the pleasure of spring-time flowers.*

## Annual Meeting timeline

The Parish Council has confirmed the date of the Annual Meeting. The timeline to the meeting is:

- electoral roll is revised between 17 Oct and 13 Nov
- 14 Nov - deadline for reports for annual meeting
- 21 Nov - annual meeting reports distributed
- 25 Nov - deadline for nominations for office bearers (if no postal ballot is required)
- 28 Nov (Advent Sunday) - 11.30am Annual Meeting

We will assess early in November whether we will be able to meet in person or not. This is complicated by the desire to cater for people regardless of their vaccination status, but where only a maximum of 20 is permitted when any unvaccinated people are present.

## **Donations to TDRM (The Dining Room Mission)**

The St John's TDRM team has become a significant part of the mission of our parish and now includes more than 20 parishioners who contribute in many ways including cooking, delivering, serving or by making donations of money or ingredients. It is good for us to be reminded of some important aspects of our support for, and involvement in, this significant part of the mission of our parish.

On the second Tuesday of each month the team from St John's cooks and serves the main meal and dessert for the 70+ guests who attend The Dining Room Mission each week. The main ingredients are provided for the cooks by the parish, and to help cover these costs parishioners are asked to make financial donations to St John's for the TDRM team to use for ingredients. Donations of specific ingredients are also called for and TDRM provides items when they are available. This enables a broader participation than just the team, and enables those who cook to be reimbursed, so that they do not need to bear the financial costs as well.

It is important to ensure that this shared parish mission is transparent and accountable, we therefore encourage parishioners to make financial donations through the St John's general account and encourage our cooks to claim reimbursement for any ingredients they purchase. In this way the contributions and the costs can be measured, and this vital mission will be sustainable into the future.

At the same time it is essential that we prioritise meeting the operating costs of our parish since without a financially viable church we will not be able to continue to this and other vital ministries.

## **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.

