



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**Advent Sunday**

28<sup>th</sup> November 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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Welcome and notices*

Hymn: **Hark! a herald voice is calling**

*Anon Latin 6th cent., tr Edward Caswall (1814-78) & others -  
tune: Merton - © The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd,  
1999, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Hark! A herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,  
'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
waken, children of the day!'**
- 2. Wakened by the solemn warning  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling  
shines upon the morning skies.**
- 3. Lo, the Lamb so long expected  
comes with pardon now from heav'n;  
let us meet him with repentance,  
pray that we may be forgiv'n.**
- 4. So when love comes forth in judgment,  
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,  
faithful may he find his servants  
watching till the dawn appear.**
- 5. Honour, glory, might and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.**

### THE ADVENT WREATH

*The first candle in the Advent wreath is lit:*

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent,  
give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts.  
May the Lord find us watching  
and waiting in joy when he comes.

*All* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

*A reflection is read.*

May the light and love of Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

*Scripture sentence*

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.

*Luke 21.28*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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 in Jesus Christ has given us

a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,

forgive you your sins,

open your eyes to God's truth,

strengthen you to do God's will

and give you the joy of his kingdom,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### TRISAGION AND COLLECT

**Holy God,**

**holy and mighty,**

**holy and immortal,**

**have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God,

you have taught us that the night is far spent

and the day is at hand:

keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,

and make us strong in faith,

so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,

we may go out joyfully to greet him;

and, with all your saints, may worship you for ever;

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 prophecy of Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will

fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the

house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will

cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he

shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In

those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in

safety. And this is the name by which it will be called:

'The Lord is our righteousness.'

May your word live in us,

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Psalm 25.1-10

- 1 In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:  
in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **Let none who wait for you be put to shame:  
but let those that break faith  
be confounded and gain nothing.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord:  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:  
for you are the God of my salvation.**
- 5 In you have I hoped all the day long:  
because of your goodness, O Lord.
- 6 **Call to mind your compassion  
and your loving-kindness:  
for they are from of old.**
- 7 Remember not the sins of my youth,  
nor my transgressions:  
but according to your mercy think on me.
- 8 **Good and upright is the Lord:  
therefore will he direct sinners in the way.**
- 9 The meek he will guide in the path of justice:  
and teach the humble his ways.
- 10 **All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:  
for those who keep his covenant  
and his commandments.**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in  
Thessalonika 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all  
the joy that we feel before our God because of you?  
Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see  
you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your  
faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord  
Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you  
increase and abound in love for one another and for all,  
just as we abound in love for you. And may he so  
strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be  
blameless before our God and Father at the coming of  
our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Hymn: 'Wake, awake, for night is flying'

*Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)*  
alt. - tune: *Wachet Auf* - © The Australian Hymn Book Company  
Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290

1. **'Wake, awake, for night is flying,'  
the watchmen on the heights are crying,  
'Awake, Jerusalem, arise!'  
Midnight hears the welcome voices,  
and at the rousing cry rejoices:  
'Where are you, all you virgins wise?  
The bridegroom comes, awake!  
Your lighted lamps then take.  
Hallelujah!  
With joy prepare to meet him there;  
the royal wedding feast is near.'**

2. **Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and in her heart new joy is springing;  
she wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
For her Lord now comes all-glorious,  
and strong in grace, in truth victorious;  
her star has risen, her light has come.  
Now come, O precious crown,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.  
Hail, hosanna!  
O lead us all into the hall  
where you provide your joyful meal.**
3. **Now let all the heavens adore you,  
and saints and angels sing before you  
with harp and cymbal's joyful tone.  
Gates of pearl in heaven are shining;  
there, with the angel-choir combining,  
we gather round your radiant throne.  
No eye has seen that sight,  
no ear heard such delight.  
What rejoicing!  
Yet there will we eternally  
with songs acclaim your majesty.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St Luke 21.25-38

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the  
sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress  
among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and  
the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of  
what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the  
heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of  
Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now  
when these things begin to take place, stand up and  
raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing  
near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all  
the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for  
yourselves and know that summer is already near. So  
also, when you see these things taking place, you know  
that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this  
generation will not pass away until all things have taken  
place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words  
will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down  
with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this  
life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a  
trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the  
whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may  
have the strength to escape all these things that will take  
place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he  
would go out and spend the night on the Mount of  
Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up  
early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

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

*Sermon*

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who taught us 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 GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Offertory hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) - tune: Christ Be Our Light*  
© Bernadette Farrell, 1993, CCL No 632290

**1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
**Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

**3. Longing for food, many are hungry.**  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

**5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

*The collection and the bread and wine on the altar are  
offered to God:*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

## 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 was looked for by the prophets,  
heralded by the Baptist,  
announced by an angel,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
and revealed at last to women and men of every race.

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.**

Holy 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.**

## 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.**

*Prayer of humble access:*

**We do not presume  
to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting on our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather  
up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

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.  
God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming.

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: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*  
*tr. John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866) alt. - tune: Veni Emmanuel*  
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd., CCL No 632290

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
who mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God draws near:  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
- 2. O come, true Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all to mind and eye:  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to grow.  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
- 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might  
who long ago on Sinai's height  
gave all your tribes the ancient law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe:  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

4. **O come, true Branch of Jesse, free  
your children from this tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
to rise victorious from the grave:  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
5. **O come, strong Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
upon our journey give relief,  
and close the path to pain and grief.  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
6. **O come, bright Daystar, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
dispel the long night's lingering gloom  
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
7. **King of the Nations, come, embrace  
and unify the human race;  
command our sad division cease  
and be for us the Prince of Peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
and make you ready to meet him  
when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and those whom you love and pray for,  
now and always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

#### Permissions

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#### NOTICES

##### Church services

All services are only for people with proof of being fully vaccinated. The exception is for Saturday 5pm in the All Saints & All Souls Chapel (downstairs) where vaccination status is not requested, but masks must be worn.

##### Leadership study course

A 4-session Bible study course is currently underway until 15 December, meeting in the downstairs chapel on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Everyone can benefit from it, even if you don't wish to train as a Bible Study or Lent course leader. All are welcome - just turn up, even if only for one session.

#### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<u>Advent Sunday</u> 10am Eucharist ( <i>fully vaxxed only</i> ) (also live-streamed) 11.30am Annual Meeting 12.30pm Parish lunch 8pm AA meeting
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.30am <i>AI Anon meeting</i>
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i>
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10am Eucharist ( <i>fully vaxxed only</i> ) 5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i> 7.30pm NA meeting 7.30pm Leadership study course (in All Saints & All Souls chapel)
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.30am AA meeting 11am BlueCross Tarralla communion 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 7.30pm <i>AI Anon meeting</i>
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7am AA meeting 5pm Eucharist ( <i>no vax status req'd</i> ) (in All Saints & All Souls chapel) 7pm <i>Lai Christian Church</i>
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>2nd Sunday in Advent</u> 8am Eucharist ( <i>fully vaxxed only</i> ) 10am Eucharist ( <i>fully vaxxed only</i> ) (also live-streamed) 8pm AA meeting

St. John's the Divine Church invites  
all the  
St. John's Kindergarten Community  
to the annual

## Christmas Carols on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm

Location: St. John's the Divine Church  
5 Toorak Ave Croydon

Father John, Dantum, Bunjil and Waa groups will be presenting the Christmas Nativity play and Christmas inspired songs for you. The church community will be providing light refreshments (Covid social distancing directives will apply). We may even get a visit from the red coated bearded one!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all!!!

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