



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

1st Sunday after Christmas

26th December 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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: God rest you merry, gentlefolk

*Traditional English alt. - tune: God Rest You Merry
public domain, CCL No 632290*

- 1. God rest you merry, gentlefolk,
let nothing you dismay!
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!***
- 2. At Bethlehem in Judah
this blessed babe was born,
and laid within a manger,
upon this blessed morn;
at which his mother Mary
did nothing take in scorn:
*O tidings ...***
- 3. From God, our heavenly Father,
a blessed angel came;
the shepherds saw the glory
and heard the voice proclaim
that Christ was born in Bethlehem
and Jesus is his name:
*O tidings ...***
- 4. 'Fear not,' then said the angel,
'let nothing cause you fright;
to you is born a Saviour
of virtue, power and might,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might:
*O tidings ...***
- 5. The shepherds at these tidings
rejoiced in heart and mind,
and on the darkened hillside
they left their flocks behind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this holy child to find:
*O tidings ...***

**6. And when to Bethlehem they came
where Christ the infant lay;
they found him in a manger
where oxen fed on hay,
and there beside her newborn child
his mother knelt to pray:
*O tidings ...***

**7. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all people in this place!
with Christian love and fellowship
each other now embrace,
and let this Christmas festival
all bitterness displace:
*O tidings ...***

Sentence

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful.

Colossians 3.14-15

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse 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.

God of community,
whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood:
may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked
with ours
that we fail not in loyalty to you,
but make choices according to your will;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the first book of Samuel 2.18–20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

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

Psalm 148

- ¹ Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:
O praise him in the heights.
- ² **Praise him, all his angels:
O praise him, all his host.**
- ³ Praise him, sun and moon:
praise him, all you stars of light.
- ⁴ **Praise him, you highest heaven:
and you waters that are above the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for he commanded and they were made.
- ⁶ **He established them for ever and ever:
he made an ordinance
which shall not pass away.**
- ⁷ O praise the Lord from the earth:
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ **Fire and hail, mist and snow:
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**
- ⁹ Mountains and all hills:
fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:
creeping things and winged birds;**
- ¹¹ Kings of the earth, and all peoples:
princes, and all rulers of the world;
- ¹² **Young men and maidens:
old folk and children together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for his name alone is exalted.
- ¹⁴ **His glory is above earth and heaven:
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**
- ¹⁵ Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him.
Praise the Lord.

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Colossae 3.12–17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each

other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke 2.41–52

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

Hymn: The worshippers from Nazareth
John Campbell - tune: Forest Green (O little town of Bethlehem)
© Kevin Mayhew, 2016, CCL No 632290

- 1. The worshippers from Nazareth
had left the temple mound;
returning home a day's long march,
no Jesus could be found.
With worry great they searched and searched –
fraught parents filled with fear.
At last in temple courts they stopped,
surprised their son to hear:
'Did you not know it must be so,
that in God's house I'd stay –
could you not see God's first to me,
both now and ev'ry day?'**

2. Young Jesus had been thinking out the way to live each day.
He'd seen that God is only God if first in ev'ry way:
respect for parents, and for friends,
is only truly giv'n
when God's respected most of all,
in life, not just in heav'n.
3. The child among the teachers sat,
among the nation's best;
he questioned and he listened there,
with truth his only quest.
He had no fear to face the facts –
he argued hour by hour.
His faith was not destroyed by this,
but from it drew more pow'r.
4. We, too, must try to understand
what should come first in life:
that placing God above all else
helps guard us through all strife.
We'll also have to risk our faith
and hear what others say,
and face the questions from within,
'til we can surely say:
'Did you not know it must be so,
that in God's house I'd stay –
could you not see God's first to me,
both now and ev'ry day?'

NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

- We believe in one God,**
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
- For us and for our salvation**
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
- For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**
he suffered death and was buried.
- On the third day he rose again**
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,**
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son

is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him,
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 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

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
to all in whom he delights.

Luke 2.14

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

Offertory hymn: New light has dawned
Paul Wigmore (b.1935) - tune: Sursum Corda (TiS87)
© Paul Wigmore/Jubilate Hymns, 2000, CCL No 632290

1. **New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,**
a holy light no earthly light outshines;
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,
the light that evil dreads and love defines.
2. **The light of glory shines to angels' song,**
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;
a servant of the Lord, who waited long,
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.

3. **And priestly men sit listening to a boy,
they see the dawning light within his face.
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips
employ!
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.**
4. **O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.**

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.

In your Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful
to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence to all people.

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: Good King Wenceslas
John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.
tune: Tempus Adest Floridum
public domain, CCL No 632290

- 1. Good King Wenceslas looked out,
on the Feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about,
deep and crisp and even;
brightly shone the moon that night,
tho' the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gath'ring winter fuel.**
- 2. "Hither, page, and stand by me,
if thou know'st it, telling,
yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain;
right against the forest fence,
by Saint Agnes' fountain."**
- 3. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
bring me pine logs hither:
thou and I will see him dine,
when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together;
through the rude wind's wild lament
and the bitter weather.**
- 4. "Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger;
fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, good my page.
Tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
freeze thy blood less coldly."**
- 5. In his master's steps he trod,
where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
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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NOTICES

Covid restrictions update

- Vaccination status checks for services are no longer required. All services are open for all people. There is no limit on attendance. **QR code check-in remains compulsory.**
- We recognise some people may be anxious about being in services with people of unknown vaccination status. However, the health officials indicate the risk of open services is acceptable and we want to urge the unity of God's people in all services.
- Masks are mandatory again for all people aged 8 and over indoors for any meeting or event - from **24 December**. The only exception is for the one person leading/singing/preaching at one time.

Winter Shelter community meals break

The Wednesday community meals program is taking a break until 19 January. TDRM continues as usual every Tuesday.

Eucharist services in January

Sunday services from Christmas Day till the end of the school holidays will be at 9am only, and will continued to be live-streamed.

As an exception this year, the Wednesday 10am services *will continue* during the whole of this period.

We will make a decision regarding Sunday 30 January closer to the time.