



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

2nd Sunday of Advent

5th 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.

Welcome and notices

Hymn: Come, O long-expected Jesus

Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. - tune: Cross of Jesus

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

- 1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
Christ in whom our rest shall be.**
- 2. Israel's strength and consolation,
born salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
- 3. Born your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4. By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.**

Scripture sentence

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78-79

THE ADVENT WREATH

The second candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze
to follow in the steps of John the Baptist.
May we bring light and love to all we meet,
that the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome.

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.**

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.'

Let us open our hearts and prepare for the Lord's 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.

God of our salvation,

you straighten the winding ways of our hearts

and smooth the paths made rough by sin:

keep our hearts watchful in holiness,

and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,

whose Day draws near,

your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Malachi 3.1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be

pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

**To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him,
all the days of our life.**

And you, child,
shall be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1.68-79

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi
1.1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with
the bishops and deacons:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly
praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day
until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began
a good work among you will bring it to completion by the
day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way
about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for
all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my
imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the
gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you
with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my
prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with
knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what
is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and
blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise
of God.

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

Hymn: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Charles Coffin (1676-1749) tr. John Chandler (1806-76)
alt. Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) - tune: Winchester New
© Word and Music/Jubilate Hymns Ltd, CCL No 632290

- 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh:
awake and listen for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**
- 2. Let every heart be cleansed from sin,
make straight the way for God within,
and so prepare to be the home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
- 3. For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**
- 4. To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,
and make the fallen sinner stand;
shine out, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**
- 5. To you, O Christ, all praises be,
whose advent sets your people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore!**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Luke 3.1-6

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod
was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the
region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of
Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of
Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region
around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of
the words of the prophet Isaiah,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

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.

Hymn: The voice of God goes out to all the world
Luke Connaughton (1917-79) - tune: Woodlands
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. The voice of God goes out to all the world;
his glory speaks across the universe.
the great King's herald cries from star to star:
'With power, with justice, he will walk his way.'**
- 2. The Lord has said, 'Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
a lamp to every nation, light from light':
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**

- 3. The broken reed he will not trample down,
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
- 4. Anointed with the Spirit and with power,
he comes to crown with comfort all the weak,
to show the face of justice to the poor:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
- 5. His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**

*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: *Hail to the Lord's anointed*
James Montgomery (1771-1854) alt. - tune: Crüger
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
he comes to break oppression,
to let the captive free,
and take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**
- 2. He comes with help and mercy
to those who suffer wrong,
to raise the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying
were precious in his sight.**
- 3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**
- 4. To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
that name to us is love.**

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

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 5 th Dec	<u>2nd Sunday in Advent</u> 8am Eucharist (<i>fully vaxxed only</i>) 10am Eucharist (<i>fully vaxxed only</i>) (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 8pm AA meeting
Mon 6 th Dec	10.30am AI Anon meeting 6pm Kinder Carols - see flyer
Tue 7 th Dec	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 8 th Dec	10am Eucharist (<i>fully vaxxed only</i>) 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7pm Kindergarten AGM - via Zoom 7.30pm NA meeting 7.30pm Leadership study course (<i>in All Saints & All Souls chapel</i>)
Thu 9 th Dec	10.30am AA meeting 11am Park Lane communion 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 10 th Dec	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 7.30pm AI Anon meeting
Sat 11 th Dec	7am AA meeting 5pm Eucharist (<i>no vax status req'd</i>) (<i>in All Saints & All Souls chapel</i>) 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 12 th Dec	<u>3rd Sunday in Advent</u> 8am Eucharist (<i>fully vaxxed only</i>) 10am Eucharist (<i>fully vaxxed only</i>) (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 11.30am Parish Council 8pm AA meeting

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.

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

Christmas Carols on Monday 6th 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!!!

SparkleBox © Copyright 2007, SparkleBox Teacher Resources (www.sparklebox.co.uk)

Thanks

Thanks to all who arranged and assisted with the Parish Lunch last Sunday, after the Annual Meeting. It was good to celebrate being able to enjoy food and fellowship together again, after so many months of not being able to.

It was also good to celebrate our faith community life together after a challenging year. The annual reports show a healthy engagement with some of the various issues which are besetting us - and for that, and other blessings, we give thanks, and glory to God.

New Parish Council

The new Parish Council is still being formed - nevertheless the results of the nominations and elections are as follows (in alphabetical order):

Church wardens

Helen Duncan
Ken Hutton
Craig Russell

Councillors

Howard Carter
Meryl Fisher
Lyn Lynch
Jan Webster

Incumbency committee: Helen Duncan, Craig Russell

There is much to do in the transition from the old to the new. A useful analogy is to think of each year's wardens and councillors as runners in relay teams, each responsible for successfully handing on their baton to the next runner.

This will be the focus of our first Council meeting, now after the 10am service on Sunday 12 December.