



St John the Divine
Eucharist service
3rd Sunday of Advent
12th 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: *People, look east to see at last*
Martin Leckebusch (b.1962) - tune: Besançon Carol
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- 1. People, look east to see at last
hopes fulfilled from ages past:
now in the promise of the morning,
see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold,
prophets' dreams from days of old.**
- 2. God reaffirms the gracious call:
words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows;
justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
freed to praise and serve the Lord.**
- 3. Now, with the coming of the light,
darkest fears are put to flight,
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,
blown aside by hope's appearing.
Jesus, the Light of all our days,
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.**
- 4. Born of our race, a child so small –
hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,
he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again:
see, he comes in power to reign!**

Scripture sentence

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.

Zephaniah 3.16–17

THE ADVENT WREATH

The third candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

As we draw near to you, Lord God,
keep us aware of your presence in all we do.
Come with power to enlighten us by your grace,
that we may live in praise and peace all our days.

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.

Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for 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 Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.
May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

A Song of Isaiah

'Behold, God is my salvation:
I will trust and will not be afraid;

**'For the Lord God is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.'**

With joy you will draw water:
from the wells of salvation.

**On that day you will say:
'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;**

'Make known his deeds among the nations:
proclaim that his name is exalted.

**'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously:
let this be known in all the world.**

'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion:
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

Isaiah 12.2-6

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Hymn: O bless the God of Israel

*Luke 1.68-79, Michael Arnold Perry (1942-96) - tune: Merle's
Tune - © Oxford University Press, 2000, CCL No 632290*

- 1. O bless the God of Israel
who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us,
with love for all to see.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of rescue and release:
God shall fulfil his promise
and bring our people peace.**
- 2. He comes! the Child of David,
the Son whom God has given;
he comes to live among us
and raise us up to heaven:
before him goes his servant –
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the herald of the Day.**
- 3. Where once were fear and darkness
the sun begins to rise –
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace:
O bless our God and Saviour
with songs that never cease.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Luke 3.7-18

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Sermon

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.**

COMMISSIONING

St Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome says, 'For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.' (*Romans 12: 4-8*)

People of God, Christ invites each of us to faithful discipleship and service. We are all called to different ministries as we seek to live God's love. As we commission these people today, will you, with them, and as baptised disciples of Christ, renew your commitment to the loving service of God, of one another and of all people?

With the help of God, we will.

These people have been called to the work of Churchwardens and Parish Councillors in this Parish. Will you, as the people of God here in this place, support and pray for them in this ministry?

With the help of God, we will.

N, do you believe that God has called you to this ministry?

We do.

Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, seek to perform it prayerfully and in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration with those who lead ministry in this place?

With the help of God, we will.

Will you seek to develop the faith, gifts and skills God has given you as you share in Christ's mission and ministry?

With the help of God, we will.

As Incumbent, I commission you as Churchwardens and Parish Councillors in this Parish, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God grant you grace, wisdom and joy as you live out this calling. **Amen.**

**Living God, draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us
to live your love with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

liturgy from Diocese of St Albans, 2013

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: Let us rejoice: God's gift to us is peace!

Martin Leckebusch (b.1962) - tune: Engelberg

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- 1. Let us rejoice: God's gift to us is peace!
Here is the calm which bids our strivings cease,
for God's acceptance brings a true release:
alleluia!**
- 2. We can be strong, for now we stand by grace,
held in his loving, fatherly embrace;
his care remains, whatever trials we face:
alleluia!**
- 3. We trust in God, and shall not be dismayed,
nor find our hopes of glory are betrayed,
for all his splendour we shall see displayed:
alleluia!**
- 4. And come what may, we never need despair —
God is at work through all the griefs we bear,
that in the end his likeness we may share:
alleluia!**
- 5. Deep in our hearts the love of God is found;
his precious gifts of life and joy abound —
so let our finest songs of praise resound:
alleluia!**

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.

**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: There's a light upon the mountains
*Henry Burton (1840-1930) alt. - © The Australian Hymn Book
Company Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290*

**1. There's a light upon the mountains,
and the day is at the spring
when our eyes shall see the beauty
and the glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting,
and the night-watch seemed so long,
but his triumph day is breaking,
and we hail it with a song.**

2. **There's a hush of expectation,
and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving
in the fervent breath of prayer:
for the suffering, dying Jesus
is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit
is the travail of his own.**
3. **He is breaking down the barriers,
he is casting up the way,
he is calling for his angels
to build up the gates of day:
but his angels here are human,
not the shining hosts above;
for the drum-beats of his army
are the heart-beats of our love.**
4. **Hark, we hear a distant music,
and it comes with fuller swell –
the great triumph song of Jesus,
of our King, Immanuel:
Zion, go you forth to meet him;
and, my soul, be swift to bring
all your finest and your dearest
for the triumph of our King!**

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

TDRM - St John's turn again

Our team will be cooking for The Dining Room Mission once again this coming Tuesday, 14th December. We will be providing the main meal and this time we will be serving sausages and gravy with mashed potato and vegetables.

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

Also, just a reminder that we will be providing live Christmas music for the guests at the TDRM Christmas dinner on Tuesday 21st December, so please come along for some carol singing, fun and fellowship.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

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
Mon 13 th Dec	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 14 th Dec	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM (St John's team to cook)
Wed 15 th Dec	10am Eucharist (<i>fully vaxxed only</i>) 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting 7.30pm Leadership study course (in All Saints & All Souls chapel)
Thu 16 th Dec	10.30am AA meeting 10.45am BUPA aged care communion 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 17 th Dec	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 7.30pm AI Anon meeting
Sat 18 th Dec	7am AA meeting 12pm Women's AA meeting 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 19 th Dec	<u>4th 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

Gardening bee thanks

Thanks to all who helped with this on Saturday.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

TDRM Carols - Tuesday 21 December

4.30pm Community meal carols
(*time to be confirmed*)

Christmas Eve - Friday 24 December

2pm Seniors Eucharist
5.30pm Crib service
11pm 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day - Saturday 25 December

9am Family Eucharist

First Sunday of Christmas - Sunday 26 December

9am Eucharist

All the Christmas services will be for the fully vaccinated only. Requests for unvaccinated people to be offered the opportunity to worship here must be made directly to Fr John.