



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

4th Sunday of Advent

19th 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: *Virgin-born, we bow before you*
Reginald Heber (1783-1836) - tune: Quem Pastores
© Oxford University Press, CCL No 632290

- 1. Virgin-born, we bow before you:**
blessèd was the womb that bore you;
Mary, Mother meek and mild,
blessèd was she in her Child.
- 2. Blessèd was the breast that fed you;**
blessèd was the hand that led you;
blessèd was the parent's eye
that watched your slumbering infancy.
- 3. Blessèd she by all creation,**
who brought forth the world's salvation,
and blessèd they, for ever blest,
who love you most and serve you best.
- 4. Virgin-born, we bow before you;**
blessèd was the womb that bore you;
Mary, Mother meek and mild,
blessèd was she in her Child.

Scripture sentence

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

THE ADVENT WREATH

The fourth candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

Come, O Wisdom of God most high,
O Giver of the Law,
O Flower of Jesse's root,
O Key of David,
O Radiant Dawn,
O King of the Nations,
O Emmanuel.

Give us peace and allow us
to celebrate your presence with joy,
that we may some day share your glory.

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.

Gracious God, you have visited your people

and redeemed us in your Son:

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,

and move us by your Spirit

to bless your wonderful works.

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 Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me

one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labour has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Psalm 80.1-7

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;
- ² **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**
- ³ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry
at your people's prayer?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- ⁶ **You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will,
O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings
and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the
law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.'
He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

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

Hymn: Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) - tune: Woodlands
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

- 2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.**
- 3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**
- 4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Luke 1.39-45

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and
exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why
has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord
comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your
greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed
is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of
what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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: For Mary, mother of our Lord
John Raphael Peacey (1896-1979) - tune: St Botolph
© Rev'd Mary J Hancock, CCL No 632290

- 1. For Mary, mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her child she gazed.**
- 2. The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.**
- 3. The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.**
- 4. She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.**
- 5. Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.**
- 6. Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
blest in your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.**

*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 in 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: Long ago, prophets knew
Frederick Pratt Green (b.1903) - tune: Theodoric
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?**
- 2. God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?**
- 3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?**
- 4. Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes:
we will make him welcome!**

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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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

TDRM Carols - Tuesday 21 December
4.30pm Community meal carols

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

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 19th Dec 4th Sunday in Advent
8am Eucharist
10am Eucharist (*also live-streamed*)
11.30am Parish Council
8pm AA meeting

Mon 20th Dec 10.30am AI Anon meeting

Tue 21st Dec 1pm AA meeting
5.30pm community meal: TDRM
includes Carol singing from 4.30pm

Wed 22nd Dec 10am Eucharist
5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter
7.30pm NA meeting

Thu 23rd Dec 10.30am AA meeting
10.45am Mingarra communion
7.30pm AA meeting

Fri 24th Dec Christmas Eve
2pm Seniors Eucharist
5.30pm Crib service
7.30pm AI Anon meeting
11pm 'Midnight' Mass

Sat 25th Dec Christmas Day
7am AA meeting
9am Eucharist
12pm Women's AA meeting
7pm Lai Christian Church

Sun 26th Dec 1st Sunday after Christmas
9am Eucharist
8pm AA meeting

NOTICES

Eucharist services in January

Sunday services from Christmas Day till the end of the school holidays will be at 9am only, and will continue 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.

TDRM - thanks, and carol singing

Thank you to everyone who helped with cooking sausages and preparing the meal last Tuesday. It was another wonderful effort and the guests really enjoyed their bangers and mash! The number of people needing meals was once again higher than expected and it is such a privilege to work alongside the other volunteers at TDRM to help people in our community who are struggling and ensure that everyone is looked after and fed.

The Dining Room Mission operates every Tuesday of the year – it does not close for the Christmas or any other reason. We are next rostered on for Tuesday 11th January so please put that date into your diaries.

Please also note that there are often fewer volunteers available over the Christmas holiday period, so if you are free any Tuesday afternoon your help will always be very welcome – just come!

As you know St John's will be providing live Christmas music for the guests at the TDRM Christmas dinner next Tuesday 21st December and I look forward to seeing you there.

Cathy

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. Masks are not mandatory. 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 lessen risk and parishes could mandate masks to be worn. The Vicar with Parish Council make decisions locally but we request the full unity of all people in all services.
- Only fully vaccinated people can have refreshments before or after services. Anyone serving refreshments ought to be masked.
- Shared utensils are allowed, though discouraged. We recommend having tongs for any food self-service.
- Shared prayerbooks, hymnbooks and Bibles in pews are allowed. There is no requirement to clean them or pews between services.
- The common cup is no longer prohibited under health regulations. However, it remains a health risk and health officials have urged us not to share the common cup. We know that for many the lack of a common cup has been difficult. We pass on the recommendation not to use a common cup.