



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

### 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.**

Hymn: Praise with joy the world's Creator

*John Bell (b.1949) & Graham Maule (b.1958)*

*tune: Praise, My Soul - © The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
force of greatness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.**
- 2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**
- 3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –  
foolishness none dare deride.**
- 4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe, when  
shown Christ's vibrant unity.**

### Sentence

Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah: 'The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.'

*Luke 4.18*

Let us pray.

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

Life-giving God,  
who sent your Son Jesus to proclaim your kingdom  
and to teach with authority:  
anoint us with your Spirit,  
that we too may bring good news to the poor,  
bind up the broken-hearted,  
and proclaim liberty to the captive;  
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 Nehemiah 8.1–3, 5–6, 8–10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both women and men and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.'

For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

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

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God:  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;
- 2 **One day tells it to another:  
and night to night communicates knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech or language:  
nor are their voices heard;
- 4 **Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:  
and their words to the ends of the earth.**
- 5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:  
which comes out as a bridegroom  
from his chamber,  
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
- 6 **Its rising is at one end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to their farthest bound:  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:  
the command of the Lord is true,  
and makes wise the simple.
- 8 **The precepts of the Lord are right,  
and rejoice the heart:  
the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:  
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging,  
and righteous every one.
- 10 **More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold:  
sweeter also than honey,  
than the honey that drips from the comb.**
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:  
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **Who can know their own unwitting sins?:  
O cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
lest they get the mastery over me:  
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
- 14 **May the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth  
12.12–31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all

baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

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

Hymn: Holy Spirit, go before us  
*Elizabeth J Smith (b.1956) - tune: Maria's Tune*  
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,  
CCL No 632290

1. **Holy Spirit, go before us,  
every mind and heart prepare  
for good news of life in Jesus,  
for the joyful hope we share.  
Gently lead the lost to safety,  
gently teach them Wisdom's way,  
till they come to seek you gladly,  
till we find the words to say.**
2. **Holy Spirit, come and help us,  
give us words to speak of Christ.  
Teach us how to tell all people:  
deepest darkness can be light!  
Help us tell how faithful God is,  
and how Jesus sets us free;  
Take our words, and make them gospel,  
So that many may believe.**
3. **Holy Spirit, stay to show us  
how to serve as Christ served us.  
May our words of love be grounded  
in love's actions, first and last.**

**Your good news is news of justice,  
and the strong befriend the weak  
in your service, till compassion  
builds the peace the nations seek.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St Luke 4.14–21

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

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

*Sermon*

#### 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 Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.  
The old has passed away: beyond, everything has  
become new.

*2 Corinthians 5.17*

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

Offertory 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. **O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
that name to us is love.**

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.

You anointed him as Messiah,  
the light of the nations,  
and revealed him as the hope  
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

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.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.  
God of the nations,  
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.  
Guide us by your presence,  
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in  
darkness,  
and establish your justice in the earth. **Amen.**

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: Christ's is the world in which we move

John Bell (b.1949) & Graham Maule (b.1958)

tune: Dream Angus - © The Australian Hymn Book Company  
Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290

- 1. Christ's is the world in which we move;**  
**Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love;**  
**Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,**  
**And Christ is the one who meets us here.**  
**To the lost Christ shows his face,**  
**to the unloved he gives his embrace,**  
**to those who cry in pain or disgrace,**  
**Christ makes, with his friends, a touching**  
**place.**
- 2. Feel for the people we most avoid**  
**strange or bereaved or never employed.**  
**Feel for the women and feel for the men**  
**who fear that their living is all in vain.**  
**To the lost ...**
- 3. Feel for the parents who've lost their child,**  
**feel for the women whom men have defiled,**  
**feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,**  
**and feel for the weary who find no rest.**  
**To the lost ...**
- 4. Feel for the lives by life confused,**  
**riddled with doubt, in loving abused;**  
**feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,**  
**which longs to be pure but fears to begin.**  
**To the lost ...**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,  
that your lives may be a light to the world;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and those whom you love and pray for,  
now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan | <u>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u><br>9am Eucharist ( <i>also live-streamed</i> )<br>8pm AA meeting             |
| Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 10.30am AI Anon meeting   |
| Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 1pm AA meeting<br>5.30pm community meal: TDRM   |
| Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 10am Eucharist<br>5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter<br>Australia Day BBQ - see flyer<br>7.30pm NA meeting |
| Thu 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 10.30am AA meeting<br>10.15am Mingarra communion - TBC<br>7.30pm AA meeting                                   |
| Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan | <u>Vicar's day off</u>  |
| Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 7am AA meeting<br>12pm Women's AA meeting<br>7pm Lai Christian Church   |
| Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan | <u>4th Sunday after Epiphany</u><br>9am Eucharist ( <i>also live-streamed</i> )<br>8pm AA meeting             |

NOTICES

Next Sunday, 30 January, there will still only be one  
service, at 9am.

From 6 February, we will resume both 8am & 10am  
Sunday services.

### Community meals - Wednesday evenings

We are familiar with the Tuesday evening meal program, run by the independent organisation The Dining Room Mission (TDRM) at St John's over many years. We have a team of over 20 St John's parishioners who currently cook and assist TDRM once a month.

The Wednesday community meal program has been running for not quite as long, but still for a good few years now. Up until last year it was run by two other church communities - Urban Life, and New Community Ringwood - who have found our facilities to be invaluable to those faith communities in enacting the Kingdom of God in this way.

After needing to move away from St John's for 12 months (April 2020 to April 2021), the Wednesday community meal hosts underwent a slight change. New Community Ringwood are continuing on alternate Wednesdays, and the Urban Life slot has been taken over by the *Winter Shelter* program. *Winter Shelter* is a Maroondah area program supported by many local churches to provide places to sleep for homeless men during winter. While this has also been limited by the covid regulations during 2020 & 2021, the program has continued - still under the name of *Winter Shelter* - by offering community meals.

I'm not sure how intentional St John's partnership has been with the Wednesday community meals program in the past - but it is certainly intentional now. We provide our facilities to both TDRM and *Winter Shelter* at the going commercial hire rate, with 100% discount.

This means that part of our offertory given at each service, for which we pray '*Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom*', is used to cover utilities used and to make good the inevitable wear and tear resulting from people using our facilities to provide for the needy.

When we see scuff marks that need cleaning, chairs perhaps stacked untidily, and empty toilet paper rolls that

need replacing, these are not things to worry about. Rather, these are good signs that our church facilities are being used to give food and friendship to the hungry, the lonely, and the homeless. These are signs that not only are these guests being blessed in receiving, but also that volunteers from other church communities are being blessed in being able to use St John's facilities to respond to God's love, and share that with others.

What a privilege and blessing it is for us to be supporting these community meals programs intentionally. And what a blessing to be able to promote the Australia Day BBQ taking place on the lawn next Wednesday (see flyer.) Thanks be to God!

## Join us for an **Australia Day BBQ**

Here at St Johns on the lower lawn (Wicklow Ave Side)

**5:30 – 6:30pm Wed 26<sup>th</sup> January,**

**with social distanced seating outside, stay to share our BBQ.**

If you can't stay, please BYO plate/container to take your meal home.

Wear something Aussie to celebrate

See you next week,

New Community / Winter Shelter Team

Australia  
Day

