



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

4th Sunday after Epiphany

30th 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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: God is love, let heav'n adore him
Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt. - tune: Abbot's Leigh
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal Love.**
- 2. God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.**
- 3. God is love, and, though with blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Sentence

Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13.14

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.

Living God,

in Christ you make all things new:

transform the poverty of our nature

by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives

make known your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

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

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah 1.4–10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ But the Lord said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.’

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant.’

May your word live in us,

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 71.1-6

- 1 To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.
- 2 **In your righteousness rescue and deliver me:
incline your ear to me and save me.**
- 3 Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock, and my stronghold.
- 4 **Rescue me, O my God,
from the hand of the wicked:
from the grasp of the pitiless and unjust.**
- 5 For you, Lord, are my hope:
you are my confidence, O God,
from my youth upward.
- 6 **On you have I leaned since my birth:
you are he that brought me
out of my mother's womb,
and my praise is of you continually.**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth
13.1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

Hymn: You are before me, Lord, you are behind
Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson (1923-95) - tune: Sursum Corda
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

1. **You are before me, Lord, you are behind,
and over me you have spread out your hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too high to grasp, too great to understand.**
2. **Then where, Lord, from your presence shall I go,
and from your Spirit where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I ascend to heaven you are there,
and still are with me if in hell I lie;**

3. **and if I take flight into the dawn,
or if I dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
your mighty hand will rest upon me still,
and your right hand will guard me evermore.**
4. **Search me, O God, search me and know my ways;
try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain
and lead me in the everlasting way.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Luke 4.21-30

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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: Come down, O Love divine
*Bianca de Siena (d.1434) tr. Richard Littledale (1833-90) alt. -
tune: Down Ampney - © The Australian Hymn Book Company
Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Come down, O love divine,
seek now this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**
- 2. There let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**
- 3. Let holy charity
my outer garment be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**
- 4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace
till we become the place
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

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: Forth in the peace of Christ we go
James Quinn (b.1919) - tune: Duke Street
© Geoffrey Chapman, 1969, CCL No 632290

- 1. Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.**
- 2. King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
kingship with him his servants gain;
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.**
- 3. Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
this world of time to consecrate,
our world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to re-create.**
- 4. Prophets of Christ, we hear his Word:
he claims our minds, to search his ways,
he claims our lips to speak his truth,
he claims our hearts to sing his praise.**
- 5. We are his Church, he makes us one:
here is one hearth for all to find;
here is one flock, one Shepherd-King;
here is one faith, one heart, one mind.**

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 30 th Jan	<u>4th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9am Eucharist (also live-streamed) 8pm AA meeting
Mon 31 st Jan	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 1 st Feb	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 2 nd Feb	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 3 rd Feb	10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 4 th Feb	-
Sat 5 th Feb	7am AA meeting 12pm Women's AA meeting 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 6 th Feb	<u>5th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (also live-streamed) 8pm AA meeting

NOTICES

Australia Day BBQ

Members of New Community church in Ringwood organised a BBQ on the front lawn as part of the weekly Wednesday evening community meals program here, run by the Winter Shelter team. Over 60 meals were served - either for people attending, or for others that are currently needing home support.

Staff members from Coles also attended to see how their regular food contribution was blessing the local community, and were delighted to participate in this blessing.

St John's in turn is blessed through providing our facilities for this wonderful community outreach - for which we give God thanks.

Usual Sunday services resume 6 Feb

With the traditional 'quieter' month of January coming to an end, the regular 8am and 10am Sunday are resuming. Kindly add your names to the future service rosters in the foyer so that all the roles can be adequately filled.

Parish Office phone

After months of wrestling with Telstra, the parish office phone is no longer sitting in the vicarage. It is now in the parish office where it can be accessed by those with the responsibility for ensuring that the phone is answered or messages are picked up and passed on.

This is an important achievement so that calls to the parish can be responded to when the vicar is on leave.

The phone number is as advertised on our outside notice board:

03 9723 5099

Fr John on leave

I will be on leave for the whole of February. You might encounter me in the carpark at times, because Phillipa and I will be going through the process of radical downsizing, moving to our own home, and finalising preparations for letting the vicarage. If you do encounter me, I'd love it if you said 'G'day', but please no more than that, because I need to have a proper break from parish concerns.

I will be back on 1 March, ready to lead us all through Lent.

Rev'd Wendy Pullin will be the locum vicar in charge during this time, and will be leading all the scheduled services. Please support her, and appreciate the particular gifts she brings.

I will not be producing newsletters while on leave.

Lent 2022

Ash Wednesday services, with imposition of ashes, will be at 10am and 7pm on 2 March.

Plans are being made to enable each parish household to receive a copy of ABM's new Lenten Study for 2022, *Repairing the Breach*, during February.

The Lenten study examines what it means to be people of healing in a broken world. The seven studies in it will take us from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday.

There will be Saturday morning Zoom sessions, and Wednesday evening in-person sessions throughout Lent.

