



St John the Divine

Baptism in Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday in Lent

27th March 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

Hymn: Come as you are

Deirdre Browne (b.1936) - tune: Come As You Are
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CCL No 632290

1. **'Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?**
2. **'No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.**
3. **'I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?**
4. **'Come as you are: that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.'**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us.

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.
When he had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We have come together today to obey that command. Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible, and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit.

In baptism, the promises of God are visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

Children are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their child for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their child in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time these children should make their own responses to God, and be prepared for

confirmation.

So we welcome you, *name*, with your sponsors and families.

We give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

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.**

God of compassion,
you are slow to anger, and full of mercy,
welcoming sinners
who return to you with penitent hearts:
receive in your loving embrace
all who come home to you,
and seat them at your bountiful table,
that, with all your children,
they may feast with delight on all that satisfies
the hungry heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour,
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 Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth 5.16–21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke 15.11–32

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a

distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

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

Hymn: Father sets children free
John Campbell - tune: Personent Hodie
 © Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 2016, CCL No 632290

1. **Father sets children free,
 lets them choose who to be,
 one son leaves – agony –
 (still receives his portion,
 such is dad's devotion).
 God lets go, go, go,
 just to show, show, show,
 we can be truly free
 only in God's fam'ly.**
2. **Son sets out, spending fast,
 friends and cash will not last,
 selfish joys soon are past,
 now alone, he suffers –
 life has hit the buffers.**

**Life's a pain, pain, pain,
 lived in vain, vain, vain,
 'til we face and embrace
 freedom in God's fam'ly!**

3. **Father sees, homeward bound,
 sheepish son, all unwound,
 what was lost, now is found!
 Father springs to meet him,
 lovingly to greet him.
 Free at last, last, last,
 from the past, past, past,
 find your wealth – your true self –
 join the Father's fam'ly!**
4. **Second son, in a huff,
 downs his tools – had enough –
 faithful, yet treated rough –
 even though he laboured;
 seems the waster's favoured!
 We may live, live, live,
 just to give, give, give,
 yet we're bound, 'til we've found
 freedom to be fam'ly!**
5. **Father's love is the key,
 setting both lost sons free,
 also serves you and me –
 God's love shown in Jesus
 is the thing that frees us.
 Jesus gave, gave, gave,
 us to save, save, save,
 showed us how, living now,
 we could be God's fam'ly.**

Sermon

THE PRESENTATION

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing *name* for baptism?

Sponsors **I will.**

Are you willing to answer on behalf of *name*?

Sponsors **I am.**

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage *name* in the life and faith of the Christian community?

Sponsors **I will, with God's help.**

THE DECISION

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

Sponsors **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

Sponsors **I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

Sponsors **I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

Sponsors **I renounce all that is evil.**

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom.

Sponsors **Amen.**

Let all of us affirm, together with *name's* sponsors, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in all the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

As *name's* sponsors, will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

Sponsors **I will, with God's help.**

You have heard these our sisters and brothers respond to Christ. Will you support them in this calling?

All **We will.**

Let us pray.

Grant, merciful God, that *name* may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in *them*. May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in *them*. **Amen.**

Give to their sponsors and their families the desire to share with them what you have revealed in your holy gospel. **Amen.**

May they know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. **Amen.**

May they proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world and to each other in the household of faith. Hasten that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit. Through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

And now we give you thanks that you have called *name* to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

Name, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

AFTER BAPTISM

Name, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever. Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Name, God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

RECONCILIATION WITH EACH OTHER

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory hymn: *Father welcomes all his children*
Robin Mann (b. 1949) - tune: Kristin - © The Australian Hymn
Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290

**Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.**

- 1. Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these;
life and love I have to give,
mercy for your sin.
Father welcomes ...**
- 2. In the water, in the word
in his promise, be assured:
those who are baptized and believe
shall be born again.
Father welcomes ...**

**3. Let us daily die to sin,
let us daily rise with him,
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
live in the peace of God.
Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.**

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.

With all our hearts we praise you, faithful God.
In the beginning,
you called light to shine in darkness,
you made living things to grow and flourish
and you created human beings in your image.

You chose us in love,
guided us by your presence
and blessed us with your holy law.

Yet we chose our own sinful ways.

We broke your commandments,
persecuted your prophets,
forgot your wisdom
and, time after time,
refused to answer your call.

So you spoke an eternal word
in a human voice in Jesus of Nazareth,
son of Mary, Son of God.

He called and people followed,
leaving every other loyalty.

He set us free to praise your holy name.

But hatred and violence shouted Jesus down.
Betrayed and abandoned and nailed to a cross,
he laid down his life for the world he loved,
and broke the chains of evil and death.

Then you turned our sorrow into joy.

On the third day you raised him up
to lead your people into life.

So we praise you, holy God,
with angels and archangels
and all your faithful people::

**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.

On the night before he died,
Jesus gathered with his friends
to share a meal and wash their feet,
teaching one more lesson of love.

He took bread
and blessed you
and broke it.

He gave it to them and said:

“Take this and eat it.

This is my body.”

He took a cup of wine
and blessed you
and gave it to them.

He said: “Take this and drink it.

This is my blood,

sealing God’s promise to forgive your sins.

Whenever you do this,
do it in memory of me.”

As we share these holy gifts,
we remember the Lord Jesus.

For the love you taught us,
the sacrifice you made for us
and the hope you give us,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory.

And now, faithful God,
send us your Spirit
to feed us with the body and the blood
of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Make us one body in Christ.

Send us as your messengers in the world
and fill us with energy, courage and love.

Now to you, most holy God,
through Christ your Son and in the Spirit’s power,
we bring our worship and our songs of 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.

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
God of mercy,
may we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

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: Sent forth by God's blessing

Omer Westendorf (b.1916) alt. - tune: The Ash Grove
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,**
the people of God from his table take leave.
The supper is ended: may now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.
His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.
- 2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living**
the tasks of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours all those of each
race.
One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.
Then may all the living, with praise and
thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you 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 27th Mar 4th Sunday in Lent
8am Eucharist
10am Eucharist & baptism
(also live-streamed)
11.30am **Parish lunch & Safe Ministry training** - for all church workers (parish volunteers)
8pm AA meeting
- Mon 28th Mar Vicar's day off
10.30am AI Anon meeting
- Tue 29th Mar 10.30am Bobbie Blackmore's funeral
1pm AA meeting
5.30pm community meal: TDRM
- Wed 30th Mar 10am Eucharist
5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter
7.30pm Lent course (study #5)
7.30pm NA meeting
- Thu 31st Mar 10.30am AA meeting
7.30pm AA meeting
- Fri 1st Apr -
- Sat 2nd Apr 7am AA meeting
10am Lent course Zoom (study #6)
12pm Women's AA meeting
7pm Lai Christian Church
- Sun 3rd Apr 5th Sunday in Lent
8am Eucharist
10am Eucharist (also live-streamed)
8pm AA meeting

NOTICES

Parish Lunch & Safe Ministry Training Session – TODAY

The Safe Ministry courses offer basic training in the concepts of safe ministry and ALL church workers, including volunteers, are required to undertake the Level 1 training. This is a key element for keeping our churches safe.

The due date for the completion of Level 1 is March 31, so we we're holding a group session following the 10am service today where we can complete it together over a shared lunch.

Please note, if you are a volunteer and are not able to attend this session, then you will need to complete it by yourself. The training must be done online. Please contact the parish office to obtain the link and Cathy can assist you.

EVERYONE is invited to attend the lunch and training session. It is a wonderful opportunity to consider how we as a parish can work together to ensure that all people are included and cared for, with special regard to age, gender, culture, and ability.

If you have any questions please ask one of the following people:

Churchwardens: Helen Duncan, Ken Hutton, Craig Russell

Child Safe Officer: Roger Heath

Resolving the church building situation

The contractor has progressed with the subfloor work in the church building to the point where we can once again use our worship space. Give thanks to the wardens for moving this forwards, and give glory to God.

Lent 2022

This year's Lent Course, *Repairing the Breach*, examines what it means to be people of healing in a broken world. The seven studies in it take us to Palm Sunday.

You are invited to participate in either of the weekly study sessions:

- either meeting online via Zoom at 10am on Saturday mornings
- or meeting in person at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings in the downstairs chapel.

You are welcome to join either session.

The remaining study sessions are as follows:

March Zoom 10am sermon meeting 7.30pm

study #5 Sat 26th **Sun 27th** Wed 30th

April

study #6 Sat 2nd **Sun 3rd** Wed 6th

study #7 Sat 9th **Sun 10th** Wed 13th

The words of Isaiah that Jesus quotes as his manifesto at the beginning of his ministry (*Luke 4.18-19*), are used in this Lent course as the point of engagement with the readings for each Sunday:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, (*Ash Wednesday*) because he has anointed me (*Lent 1*)

to bring good news to the poor. (*Lent 2*)

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives (*Lent 3*)

and recovery of sight to the blind, (*Lent 4*)

to let the oppressed go free, (*Lent 5*)

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' (*Palm/Passion Sunday*)

