



St John the Divine
Eucharist service
Second Sunday in Lent
13th 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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn: Jesus comes with all his grace
Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. - tune: Orientis Partibus
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Jesus comes with all his grace,
comes to save a fallen race,
object of our glorious hope,
Jesus comes to lift us up.**
- 2. Let the living stones cry out,
every child of Abraham shout;
praise we all our lowly king,
give him thanks, rejoice and sing.**
- 3. He has our salvation wrought,
he our captive souls has bought,
he has reconciled to God,
he has washed us in his blood.**
- 4. We are now his lawful right,
walk as children of the light;
we shall soon obtain the grace,
pure in heart, to see his face.**
- 5. We shall gain our calling's prize;
after God we all shall rise,
filled with joy, and love, and peace,
perfected in holiness.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Sentence

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3.20

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.**

Hear the commandments which God gave his people Israel.

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make an idol of anything and worship it.
3. You shall not make wrong use of the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Lord's day and keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and mother.
6. You shall not commit murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false evidence.
10. You shall not covet the possessions of others.

Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

God of our ancestors,
whose chosen servant Abraham
was given faith to obey your call
and go out into the unknown:
endow your Church with such faith
that we may follow you with courage;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

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

Psalm 27

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?:
the Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² **When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
come upon me to devour me:
they shall stumble and fall.**
- ³ If an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid:
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.
- ⁴ **One thing I have asked from the Lord,
which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,**
- ⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord:
and to seek his will in his temple.
- ⁶ **For he will hide me under his shelter
in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,
and set me high upon a rock.**
- ⁷ And now he will lift up my head:
above my enemies round about me.
- ⁸ **And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary
with exultation:
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**
- ⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:
have mercy upon me and answer me.
- ¹⁰ **My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':
your face, Lord, I will seek.**
- ¹¹ Do not hide your face from me:
or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;
- ¹² **For you have been my helper:
do not cast me away or forsake me,
O God of my salvation.**
- ¹³ Though my father and my mother forsake me:
the Lord will take me up.
- ¹⁴ **Teach me your way, O Lord:
and lead me in an even path,
for they lie in wait for me.**
- ¹⁵ Do not give me over to the will of my enemies:
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and those who breathe out violence.
- ¹⁶ **But I believe that I shall surely see
the goodness of the Lord:
in the land of the living.**
- ¹⁷ O wait for the Lord;
stand firm and he will strengthen your heart:
and wait, I say, for the Lord.

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi 3.17–4.1

Sisters and brothers, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my sisters and brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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 13.1–9

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

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

Hymn: When a tragedy confronts us

John Campbell - tune: Ode To Joy

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- 1. When a tragedy confronts us,
bringing death and grief and pain,
Jesus, walk each step beside us
'til your way ahead is plain.
Save us from all hasty judgements;
rescue us from dark despair;
challenge, change, and move us forward;
lead us with your active care!**

2. **Help us value ev'ry minute
that we're spared to live on earth;
help us use each gift and blessing
grace has lent to give us worth.
For the sake of those who suffered,
for the sake of all who died,
help us live with love and justice,
seize each moment they're denied.**
3. **Though we fail to grasp the meaning
of our pain, distress or loss,
you yourself unleash renewal
by your death upon the cross.
God who suffered to redeem us,
God of grace, to you we pray:
help us work through grief and anger,
held and healed by you each day.**

Sermon

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 forever. Amen.**

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have
anything against anyone; so that your heavenly Father
also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11.25

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our
God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Pause to bring to mind times where we have separated
ourselves*

*from God,
from others,
from creation, and
from our inner selves.*

Let us now ask for mercy, 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.**

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: There's a wideness in God's mercy
Frederick William Faber (1814-63) alt. - tune: Cross Of Jesus
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea,
and forgiveness in his justice
sealed for us on Calvary.**
2. **There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.**
3. **For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**4. But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.**

**5. If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the goodness of our Lord.**

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.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

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.

By his grace we are able
to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.

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.**

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 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.**

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: The God of Abraham praise

Thomas Olivers (1725-99) alt. - tune: Leoni

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CCL No 632290

- 1. The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love:
the Lord, the great I AM
by earth and heaven confessed!
We bow and bless the sacred name
for ever blessed.**
- 2. The God of Abraham praise,
whose all-sufficient grace
shall guide us all our happy days
in all our ways.
He calls us each a friend,
he calls himself our God;
and he shall save us to the end
through Jesus' blood.**
- 3. Before the Saviour's face
the ransomed nations bow,
all praising his almighty grace,
for ever new.
He shows his wounds of love,
they kindle to a flame
and sound through all the worlds above
the slaughtered Lamb.**
- 4. The whole triumphant host
gives thanks to God on high:
'Hail, Father, Son and Spirit blest!'
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God and ours!
with heaven our songs we raise:
all might and majesty are yours,
and endless praise.**

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 13 th Mar	<u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 8pm AA meeting
Mon 14 th Mar	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 15 th Mar	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM 7pm Kindergarten Committee (Zoom)
Wed 16 th Mar	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm Lent course (study #3) 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 17 th Mar	10.30am AA meeting 10.45am BUPA Aged Care communion 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 18 th Mar	<u>Vicar's day off</u>
Sat 19 th Mar	7am AA meeting 8am Chirnside Bunnings sausage sizzle - for our kindergarten - continues till 4pm 10am Lent course Zoom (study #4) 12pm Women's AA meeting 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 20 th Mar	<u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 11.45am Parish Council 8pm AA meeting

NOTICES

Parishioners who have recently died

I have been grateful to Rev'd Wendy Pullin for conducting Iris Hollingsworth's funeral and Marie McLaughlin's memorial service while I was on leave, and she kindly did the same for Shirley Lyndon at Le Pine last week.

And now another formerly active parishioner has passed away: Bobbie Blackmore, at Park Lane. Her funeral will be held at St John's, possibly on Tuesday 29 March.

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Resolving the church building situation

Be assured that we are making progress with engineers and contractors in resolving the immediate concerns around using our worship space.

In the mean time, give thanks for the blessing of the Fellowship Room in which we can worship.

Thanks to St John's TDRM team

Thank you so much to Naomi and Jan who cooked for yesterday's meal, and to everyone who turned up to help with cooking the rice, serving the meal and cleaning up afterwards. The meal was absolutely delicious! It was another wonderful effort from our team and we provided about 100 meals for the guests at TDRM. I am sure everyone enjoyed the fun and fellowship we shared with each other as well as with the guests. It is always such a blessing to be involved in this ministry.

Our next cooking date is April 12.

Cathy

Bunnings sausage sizzle - Sat 19 March

Our kindergarten's major fundraiser will be the sausage sizzle at Chirnside Bunnings next Saturday, 19 March, 8am to 4pm.

Parents and parishioners are invited to assist - please provide your certificate of double vaccination to the kinder office during the week, either in person or via email: st.johns.croydon.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Or just come along and buy some sausages in support, and let the sizzling team know who you are. The parents and staff of our kindergarten community always welcome the contact by parishioners.

Lent 2022

If you haven't yet received a copy of this year's Lent Course, *Repairing the Breach*, please contact the Parish Office so that we can get one to you.

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

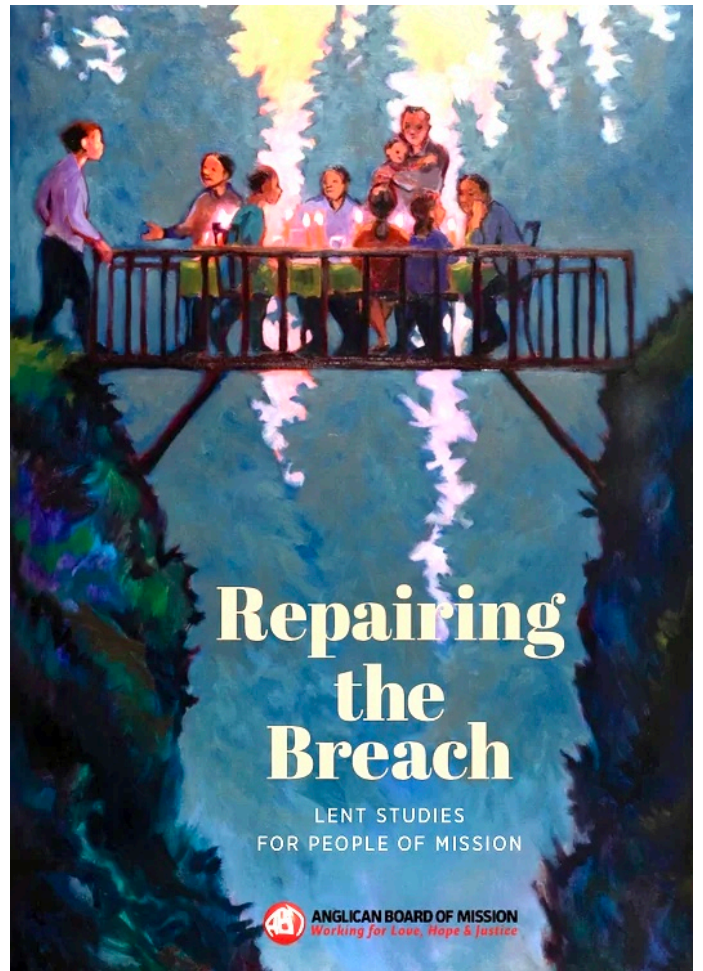
You are invited to participate in either of the weekly study sessions:

- either meeting online via Zoom at 10am on Saturday mornings
- or meeting in person at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings - *currently in our Kindergarten building*

You are welcome to join either session, and even change between them.

The study sessions are as follows:

<u>March</u>	<u>Zoom 10am</u>	<u>sermon</u>	<u>meeting 7.30pm</u>
study #3	Sat 12th	Sun 13th	Wed 16th
study #4	Sat 19th	Sun 20th	Wed 2rd
study #5	Sat 26th	Sun 27th	Wed 30th
<u>April</u>			
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*)