



St John the Divine
Eucharist service
2nd Sunday of Easter
24th April 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

Donald E Fishel (b.1950) - tune: Alleluia, Alleluia

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***Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.***

- 1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
he is the king of creation.
*Alleluia, alleluia ...***
- 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.
*Alleluia, alleluia ...***
- 3. We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live for ever.
*Alleluia, alleluia ...***
- 4. God has proclaimed his gracious gift:
new life for all! Alleluia!
*Alleluia, alleluia ...***
- 5. Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.
*Alleluia, alleluia ...***

Sentence

Jesus said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

John 20.27

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,
for whom no door is closed,
no heart is locked:
draw us beyond our doubts,
till we see your Christ
and touch his wounds where they bleed in others.
This we ask through Christ our Saviour,
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 Acts 5.27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

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

Psalm 118.14-29

- ¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ **The sounds of joy and deliverance:
are in the tents of the righteous.**
- ¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:
the right hand of the Lord raises up.
- ¹⁷ **I shall not die but live:
and proclaim the works of the Lord.**
- ¹⁸ The Lord has disciplined me hard:
but he has not given me over to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open me the gates of righteousness:
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

- 20 This is the gate of the Lord:
the righteous shall enter it.
- 21 **I will praise you, for you answered me:
and have become my salvation.**
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected:
has become the head of the corner.
- 23 **This is the Lord's doing:
and it is marvellous in our eyes.**
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 **O Lord, save us, we pray:
O Lord, send us prosperity.**
- 26 Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord:
from the house of the Lord we bless you.
- 27 **The Lord is God, and he has given us light:
guide the festal throng
up to the horns of the altar.**
- 28 You are my God and I will praise you:
you are my God, I will exalt you.
- 29 **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
and his mercy endures for ever.**

A reading from Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was
and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are
before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful
witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the
kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his
blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his
God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever
and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who
is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Hymn: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
anon - tune: *Holy Holy Holy Is The Lord*
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1. **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty;
who was, and is, and is to come;
holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**
2. **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord ...**
3. **Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord ...**
4. **Glory, glory, glory to the Lord ...**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St John 20.19-31

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the
week, and the doors of the house where the disciples
had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came
and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
After he said this, he showed them his hands and his
side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said
this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the
Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are
retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came. So the other
disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said
to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,
and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in
his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and
Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut,
Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be
with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here
and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my
side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him,
'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you
believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those
who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his
disciples, which are not written in this book. But these
are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is
the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing
you may have life in his name.

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 our Passover Lamb has been offered for us,
therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a
sincere and a true heart.

**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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia.

Offertory hymn: Now the green blade rises
John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) alt.
tune: Noël Nouvelet - © The Australian Hymn Book Company
Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290

- 1. Now the green blade rises
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain:
love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.***
- 2. In the grave they laid him,
Love whom hate had slain,
thinking that he never
would wake again,
laid in the earth,
like grain that sleeps unseen.
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.***
- 3. Up he sprang at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he who for the three days
in the grave had lain,
raised from the dead
my living Lord is seen:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.***
- 4. When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us
back to live again –
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.***

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.
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.

And now we give you thanks
that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.
By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.
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.

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all creation.

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: Jesus is risen, alleluia!

*Bernard Kyamanywa (b.1930) tr. John Bell (b.1949) - tune:
Mfurahini Haleluya - © WGRG, 1996, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Jesus is risen, alleluia!
Worship and praise him, alleluia!
Now our Redeemer bursts from the grave:
lost to the tomb, Christ rises to save.
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen, alleluia!**
- 2. Buried for three days, destined for death,
now he returns to breathe with our breath.
Blest are the ears alert to his voice,
blest are the hearts which for him rejoice.
Come let us worship ...**

3. **'Don't be afraid!' the angel has said,
'Why seek the living here with the dead?
Look, where he lay, his body is gone,
risen and vibrant, warm with the sun.'
Come let us worship ...**
4. **'Go tell the others, Christ is alive.'
Love is eternal, faith and hope thrive.
What God intended, Jesus fulfilled;
what God conceives can never be killed.
Come let us worship ...**
5. **Let heaven echo, let the earth sing:
Jesus is saviour of everything.
All those who trust him, Christ will receive;
therefore rejoice, obey and believe!
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen, alleluia!**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
who raised us to newness of life
through the waters of baptism,
and has brought us out of slavery
into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith
and bring you to your eternal inheritance;
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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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NOTICES

Fr John on leave

I know that I took leave over February, which enabled Phillippa and myself to move to our own home and properly vacate the vicarage. However, it was significantly disrupted and did not serve as a good break from parish work.

So I am taking 4 weeks from the backlog built up over the last few years, to attend to those things we couldn't do in February.

Once again Rev'd Wendy Pullin will be covering for me, for which I am profoundly grateful. I will be back for Sunday 29 May.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 24 th Apr	<u>2nd Sunday of Easter</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (also live-streamed) 11.30am Parish Council 8pm AA meeting
Mon 25 th Apr	ANZAC Day 10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 26 th Apr	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 27 th Apr	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 28 th Apr	10.30am AA meeting 10.45am Croydon Grove communion 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 29 th Apr	Fr John on leave ->
Sat 30 th Apr	7am AA meeting 12pm Women's AA meeting 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 1 st May	<u>3rd Sunday of Easter</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (also live-streamed) 8pm AA meeting

CovidSafe Officer finally redundant!

Meryl has done a great job being the parish's CovidSafe officer, ensuring that we have been compliant with all the Victoria State requirements, as passed on to us by the diocesan registry. We thank Meryl for helping to guide us in this.

From the 145th & final notice:

Anyone can attend church services, activities and premises regardless of vaccine status. Food and drink are also available to anyone and those serving are not required to wear masks. QR code check in no longer applies for any activity in church. Unvaccinated people can now work in and on church premises.

In practice, churches and church activities are free of restrictions though we continue to echo the health advice to maintain good hygiene and care, use sanitiser, and not to attend if you have any symptoms.

St John's Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten Director, Chelley Parratt, has been invited to take up a position at an NDIS company that supports young children with additional needs in their community and in the home environment. As this is an area she is passionate about, she has accepted the offer, and will soon be moving to that role. We give thanks for the great job Chelley has done over the last 18 months through the challenges of Covid, and ensuring our Kindergarten is up to standard with regulatory compliancy.

We are now advertising for a new Director/4 year old Teacher. Please pray for the right person, especially as there is currently a shortage of experienced Kindergarten staff.

The staff members of our Kindergarten are employed by the Committee of Management, which consists of:
Chair - Fr John, Deputy Chair - Anne Campbell, Secretary - Mel Shea (also admin support at Kindergarten), and parents. There are two additional positions on the Committee reserved for parishioners. Currently members of our Mission Action Team have been taking turns to participate in Committee meetings.

This shows that the appointment of the Director and other staff is overseen by the parish. This is important in recognising that the parish has a direct input into how the church and kindergarten communities connect with each other.

The parish's new Mission Action Plan is particularly focused on growing and developing this relationship. In this we take Jesus as our model for mission. Jesus did not sit around in a synagogue on the Sabbath and wait for people to come to him: rather, he went to where people were and connected with them in their daily lives. And so we have opportunities to do the same with our own kindergarten community:

- Sat 14 May working bee at our kindergarten, in the morning
- Tue 17 May Kindergarten committee meeting at 7pm, via Zoom
- Sat 21 May Open Day (for prospective 2023 families) with proposed cake stall in car park, in the morning

Parishioners are invited to follow Jesus' model, and help strengthen the relationship with our own kindergarten by sharing in the working bee and Open Day cake stall.