



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

Fifth Sunday in Lent

3rd 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.stjohn divine.org.au

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn: Now we come, our heavenly Father
Clifford George Taylor (1915-94) - tune: *Regent Square*
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CCL No 632290

1. Now we come, our heavenly Father,
one in glad community,
needing still your guiding mercies,
stronger faith, more fervent plea;
all your blessing
now confessing,
we would praise you trustingly.
2. Through the years your Spirit guided
those who blazed the path we tread,
in the glow of faith they laboured,
by the Bread of Life were fed;
while their yearning
hearts were learning
more of Christ, their living head.
3. Proudly high they held his gospel,
far surpassing human creeds,
striving for his church united
in the things for which he pleads:
torn no longer,
but made stronger,
one church meeting all our needs.
4. Lift we, then, their torch with gladness,
pledging all to this high aim:
your lost world reclaimed from darkness,
yielded to your sovereign claim;
visions firing,
hearts inspiring,
march we onward in your name!

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

Sentence

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their
sheaves.

Psalm 126.6

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.

Christ,
whose feet were caressed
with perfume and a woman's hair,
you humbly took a basin and towel
and washed the feet of your friends:
wash us also in your tenderness,
that, embracing your service freely,
we may accept no other bondage
in your name. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 43.16–21

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.
May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.**
- 3 Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 **Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
and therefore we rejoiced.**
- 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6 **Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.**
- 7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
shall come again in gladness,
bringing their sheaves with them.

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi 3.3–14

For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Hymn: Myrrh-bearing Mary from Magdala came
Rae E Whitney (b.1927) - tune: Bonnie George Campbell
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- 1 **Myrrh-bearing Mary from Magdala came,
seeking her Jesus with spirit aflame;
he had commanded her sickness depart,
she would now thank him for newness of heart.**

- 2 **Myrrh-bearing Mary to Bethany came,
seeking her Jesus who called her by name;
there she anointed his feet and his head
with precious oils that were meant for the dead.**
- 3 **Myrrh-bearing Mary to Calvary came,
seeking her Jesus who hung there in shame;
and as the careless and heedless passed by,
hopeless and helpless she watched her Lord die.**
- 4 **Myrrh-bearing Mary to death's garden came,
seeking her Jesus who'd borne the world's blame;
heartsick, she stood, till she heard the Lord's voice:
'Mary!' he said, 'I am risen; rejoice!'**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John 12.1–8

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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

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: [Jesus calls us here to meet him](#)
John Bell & Graham Maule (b.1962) - tune: Gaelic Air
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1. **Jesus calls us here to meet him**
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.
2. **Jesus calls us to confess him**
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.
3. **Jesus calls us to each other:**
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.
4. **Jesus calls us to his table**
rooted firm in time and space,
where the Church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast of saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

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: *And can it be*
Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. - tune: *Sagina*
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1. **And it can be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain –
for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!**
2. **'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:
who can explore this strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.**
3. **He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free:
for, O my God, it found out me.**

- 4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay**
fast bound in sin and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray –
I woke; my dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
- 5. No condemnation now I dread:**
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

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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NOTICES

2022 Lectionaries

Although we are already well into 2022, lectionaries for this year are available in the foyer at \$15 each.

Palm cross making

Join in with making the crosses for Palm Sunday at 10am on Saturday 9th April, in the Fellowship Room. Palm fronds, instructions and laughter will be provided.

Lunch & Safe Ministry - Thanks

Thanks to those who organised and contributed to the Parish Lunch last Sunday. For those who were able to attend, it was good for us to undertake the Safe Ministry Training Session together.

As a reminder: 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.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 3 rd Apr	<u>5th Sunday in Lent</u>		
8am	Eucharist		
10am	Eucharist (also live-streamed)		
8pm	AA meeting		
Mon 4 th Apr	<u>Vicar's day off</u>		
10.30am	AI Anon meeting		
Tue 5 th Apr	1pm	AA meeting	
	5.30pm	community meal: TDRM	
	7pm	Kindergarten Committee	
Wed 6 th Apr	10am	Eucharist	
	5.30pm	community meal: Winter Shelter	
	7.30pm	Lent course (study #6)	
	7.30pm	NA meeting	
Thu 7 th Apr	10.30am AA meeting		
11am	Tarralla aged care communion		
	7.30pm	AA meeting	
Fri 8 th Apr	-		
Sat 9 th Apr	7am	AA meeting	
	10am	Lent course Zoom (study #7)	
	10am	Palm cross making	
	12pm	Women's AA meeting	
	7pm	Lai Christian Church	
Sun 10 th Apr	<u>Palm/Passion Sunday</u>		
8am	Eucharist		
10am	Eucharist (also live-streamed)		
11.30am	Parish Council		
8pm	AA meeting		

Thanks to parishioners who've completed the online training course from their homes, and also to Cathy for administrating this, and sending in a comprehensive report of our parish's completion status by the 31 March due date.

We will be following up with the few who still need to do the training, and establish a process for new volunteers to undertake it as well.

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:

April	<u>Zoom 10am</u>	<u>sermon</u>	<u>meeting 7.30pm</u>
study #6	Sat 2nd	Sun 3rd	Wed 6th
study #7	Sat 9th	Sun 10th	Wed 13th

Mission Action Plan: 2022-2025

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday

14th April 7.30pm - Jesus washes disciples' feet at the Last Supper

Good Friday

15th April 9.30am - Commemoration of the death of Christ

Holy Saturday

16th April 7.30pm - Vigil & Service of Light
(Part A: anticipating the resurrection - no eucharist)

Easter Day

17th April 9.30am - Renewal of baptismal vows & Eucharist
(Part B: celebrating the resurrection)

Note that it is intended that these services will be live-streamed, all accessed by clicking on the link on the parish website:

www.stjohndivine.org.au

Our parish's next Mission Action Plan (MAP) has been produced by our Mission Action Team, as part of the Diocesan Parish Renewal Program, and adopted by the Parish Council on 20/3/2022.

Parish Vision

Enabling the growth of God's Kingdom in Croydon through intentional discipleship that serves both St John's and the wider community.

Parish Mission

Facilitate making God's Kingdom tangible and relevant to all who come to the parish site.

Parish Values

Belonging through fellowship and service; enacting Jesus' teaching; practising good liturgy.

Strategy Plan

Goal #1: Family-oriented church

Outcome: Help families who are in touch with the church community to be able to belong

Strategies:

- create child-parent space in church (INITIATED ✓)
- install nappy-change facilities
- update website and advertise
- initiate family services

Goal #2: Connect with parents (particularly Kindergarten parents)

Outcome: Help potential contacts become in touch with the church community

Strategies:

- discern and act on appropriate ways of connecting with kindergarten parents
- meeting with parents over coffee
- facilitate parishioners actively engaging with and supporting Kinder community activities

All the actions listed support the mission strategy of proactively connecting broadly with our own kindergarten community.