



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

8th Sunday after Pentecost

31st July 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: We have a vision

Jean Holloway (b.1939) - tune: Woodlands

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- 1. We have a vision of the church to share – one to include God's people ev'rywhere; open to all, and no one turned away, all those who enter here will wish to stay.**
- 2. Here we embrace all people, young and old, welcoming those who come into our fold; holding the weak, encouraging the strong, each person valued, feeling they belong.**
- 3. Gone is the fear of prejudice and hate – we seek to cherish, not humiliate; here we can own the failures that we know, firm in the faith that we can change and grow.**
- 4. Humbly, we celebrate the good we do; testing the old and trying out the new; using our talents, drawing on our skill, inspired by dreams and visions to fulfil.**
- 5. Building upon the past that we hold dear, knowing tomorrow's task is still unclear; each step we take will help us on our way, one step will be sufficient for today.**
- 6. Fired with the Spirit, filled with life and light, ours is a Church to challenge and excite; mission sustained by love and faith and prayer, extends God's love to people ev'rywhere.**

Sentence

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3.1

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, Judge of us all,
you have placed in our hands
the wealth we call our own:
through your Spirit give us wisdom,
that our possessions may not be a curse,
but a means of blessing in our lives.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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 the prophecy of Hosea 11.1–11

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and offering incense to idols.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.
They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
The sword rages in their cities,
it consumes their oracle-priests,
and devours because of their schemes.
My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.
How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?
 How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
 My heart recoils within me;
 my compassion grows warm and tender.
 I will not execute my fierce anger;
 I will not again destroy Ephraim;
 for I am God and no mortal,
 the Holy One in your midst,
 and I will not come in wrath.
 They shall go after the Lord,
 who roars like a lion;
 when he roars,
 his children shall come trembling from the west.
 They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
 and like doves from the land of Assyria;
 and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

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

Psalm 107.1–9, 43

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
 for his loving mercy is for ever.
- 2 **Let the Lord's redeemed say so:
 whom he has redeemed
 from the hand of the enemy,**
- 3 And gathered in from every land,
 from the east and from the west:
 from the north and from the south.
- 4 **Some went astray in the wilderness
 and in the desert:
 and found no path to an inhabited city;**
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty:
 and their heart fainted within them.
- 6 **Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:
 and he took them out of their trouble.**
- 7 He led them by the right path:
 till they came to an inhabited city.
- 8 **Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:
 and for the wonders that he does
 for the children of Adam;**
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty:
 and fills the hungry with good things.
- 43 **Whoever is wise, let them observe these things:
 and consider the loving-kindness of the Lord.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Colossae
 3.1–11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the

ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

Hymn: God of grace and God of glory
Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) alt. - tune: Regent Square
 © The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
 CCL No 632290

1. **God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
 now fulfil your Church's story,
 bring the bud to glorious flower.
 Grant us wisdom,
 grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.**
2. **See the hosts of evil round us
 scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
 Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 free our hearts to work and praise.
 Grant us wisdom,
 grant us courage,
 for the living of these days.**
3. **Cure your children's warring madness;
 bend our pride to your control;
 shame our wanton selfish gladness,
 rich in things and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom,
 grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**
4. **Save us from weak resignation
 to the evils we deplore;
 let the gift of your salvation
 be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom,
 grant us courage,
 serving you whom we adore.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
 St Luke 12.13–21

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods

laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

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

Sermon

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

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory hymn: Jesus, we have heard your Spirit

Martin E Leckebusch (b.1962) - tune: Nettleton

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**1. Jesus, we have heard your Spirit
saying we belong to you,
showing us our need for mercy,
focusing our hopes anew;
you have won our hearts' devotion,
now we feel your guiding hand:
where you lead us we will follow
on the paths your love has planned.**

**2. As a chosen, pilgrim people
we are learning day by day
what it means to be disciples,
to believe and to obey.
Word and table show your purpose;
hearts and lives we gladly bring —
where you lead us, we will follow,
suff'ring Saviour, risen King.**

**3. How we learn that ev'ry nation
should exalt your matchless name,
yet so often this world's systems
contradict your regal claim.
If we stand for truth and justice
we, like you, may suffer loss;
where you lead us, we will follow -
give us grace to bear our cross.**

**4. So we journey on together,
keen to make our calling sure:
through our joy's, our fears, our crises,
may our faith be made mature.
Jesus, hope of hearts and nations,
sov'reign Lord of time and space,
where you lead us, we will follow
till we see you face to face.**

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.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son
and life-giving Spirit,
you are the one true God
from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing
a universe of beauty and splendour,
bringing light from darkness
and order from chaos.

You formed us, female and male, in your image,
and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.

You called us by name and searched us out,
making a covenant of mercy,
giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you,

joining with your faithful people
of every time and place,
singing the eternal song:

**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.**

When the fullness of time was come,
 you sent your Son to be born of Mary.
 Bright image of your glory,
 he learnt obedience to you in all things,
 even to death on a cross,
 breaking the power of evil,
 freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.
 You raised him from death,
 exalting him to glory,
 and the new day dawned.
 On the night he was betrayed
 your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends,
 his companions on the way.
 While at table he took bread,
 blessed, and broke it,
 and giving it to them, said:
 'Take, eat; this is my body.'
 He took a cup of wine,
 and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
 'This is my blood of the covenant,
 which is poured out for many.
 Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
 we remember his life of obedience to you,
 his suffering and death,
 his resurrection and exaltation,
 and his promise to be with us for ever.

With this bread and this cup
 we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration
 that all who eat and drink at this table
 may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood
 to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people,
 may we proclaim the everlasting gospel
 of Jesus Christ our Lord,
 through whom, with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

**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.

Father of all
 we give you thanks and praise
 that when we were still far off
 you met us in your Son and brought us home.
 Dying and living, he declared your love,
 gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
 May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
 we who drink his cup bring life to others;
 we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
 so we and all your children shall be free,
 and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

Hymn: From near and far

Jean Holloway (b.1939) - tune: Kingsfold
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1. **From near and far, from East and West,
 we gather in this place
 to celebrate the one true Lord
 of ev'ry tongue and race.
 With open minds and willing hearts,
 we come prepared to share,
 rejoicing in the fellowship
 of laughter, song and prayer.**
2. **Entrusted with community
 through which the church can speak,
 we tell the world of Christ, whose reign
 empow'rs the poor and weak.
 The church on earth, divided, flawed,
 is yet a living sign
 of how the broken, touched by grace,
 discloses the divine.**
3. **Prepared to listen and forgive,
 together we will grow
 in unity that comes of God
 from whom all blessings flow.
 When we must leave this fellowship
 and go forth in his name,
 we pray that Christ will send us out
 with hearts of love aflame.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 31 st July	<u>8th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (also live-streamed) 8pm AA meeting
Mon 1 st Aug	Vicar away on retreat till Friday 10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 2 nd Aug	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 3 rd Aug	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 4 th Aug	10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 5 th Aug	-
Sat 6 th Aug	7am AA meeting 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 7 th Aug	<u>9th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (also live-streamed) 8pm AA meeting

NOTICES

Fr John on retreat

I will be on a spiritual retreat at Santa Casa, Queenscliff, Monday to Friday this week. Rev'd Barry Fernley will take the Wednesday 10am Eucharist.

Future events

Some of the details are still to be confirmed

Sunday 14 August - Festival of Mary, Mother of our Lord

- 9am Parish breakfast (continental)

Sunday 4 September - visit by Bishop Paul

- Parish Eucharist at 10am only, followed by light lunch

Saturday 10 September - Kindergarten Trivia Night

- Our kindergarten's main fundraiser & social event. We hope to have one or two teams of parishioners participating.

Saturday 8 October - Blessing of Pets

- We're exploring with our kindergarten how to arrange this to work for the kinder families as well.

Reminder about masks

In line with strong health advice our Parish Council strongly encourages everyone to wear masks - if not for yourself, then at least out of consideration for others. As previously, during services those at the lectern will not need to wear a mask, however the priest will wear one while presiding at the altar.

St John the Divine - Mission Action Plan: 2022-2025

Produced by St John's Mission Action Team, as part of the Diocesan Parish Renewal Program, and adopted by the Parish Council 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
- 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 strategies listed support the mission strategy of proactively connecting broadly with our own kindergarten community.

July sermon series: Mission Action Plan

During July the sermons focus on our overall Mission Action Plan. Our focus today is on what our parish is planning to offer in terms of our mission pathway to enact the 2nd Mark of Mission: Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new believers. We are looking at the big picture of our Mission Action Plan, using the Schematic from Pathways: Local Mission for All Kinds of Churches, by Ken Morgan (2017) - see www.pathways4mission.com

The table has been modified to show our parish's planned activities rather than the example activities that Ken Morgan lists in his book.

Stage	<i>Description of people at this stage & what they need</i>	<i>Aim of activity at this stage</i>	<i>Planned activities for our parish (the stepping stones we plan to put in place to enable parents of young children to move from not knowing God to being disciples of Jesus)</i>
#1 Potential Contact	People we don't know & who know no one in the church. They need someone to make contact with them.	Let people know we have something to offer. Encourage people to make initial contact with us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
#2 In Touch	People who know at least one person in the church. They need an attractive group in which to belong.	Encourage people we know to become regular participants in a program or group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create child-parent space in church - install nappy-change facilities - update website and advertise - initiate family services - further discernment is needed
#3 Belonging	Know several people and are a regular part of a church group. They need an opportunity to find out more about Christian faith and a reason to consider commitment.	Cultivate relationships between believers and people who participate in a program or group. Share spiritual life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify & establish appropriate group activities for parents/ children, eg Mainly Music or Mainly Play
#4 Embracing The Gospel	Interested in knowing about Jesus. They need to hear the gospel and establish a relationship with God.	Create an environment where people can explore the gospel in a meaningful way. Ensure there are opportunities for people to make a response to the claims of Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - run regular courses, such as the Alpha Course
#5 Following Jesus	In a process of learning, obeying & growing in faith. They need teaching, encouragement & accountability to support Christian life.	Teach, encourage & share accountability with people as they shape their life to be followers of Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish cell groups/life groups
#6 Serving In Ministry	Have identified gifts, skills & ministry, & are serving others in Jesus' name. They need opportunities & training to develop gifts.	Encourage & equip all people to exercise their gifts & talents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - serving in the activities listed under stages #1 to #5
#7 Leading Ministry	Take up a leadership role. They need leadership mentoring.	Train & encourage people to be leaders in the church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leadership training

The activities for each stage are like stepping stones across a river, helping people move from the side of not knowing God to the side of being disciples of Jesus and fully participating members of our church community.