



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

Advent Sunday

27th November 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: *People, look east*

Martin E Leckebusch (b.1962) - tune: Besançon Carol

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- 1. People, look east to see at last
hopes fulfilled from ages past:
now in the promise of the morning,
see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold,
prophets' dreams from days of old.**
- 2. God reaffirms the gracious call:
words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows;
justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
freed to praise and serve the Lord.**
- 3. Now, with the coming of the light,
darkest fears are put to flight;
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,
blown aside by hopes appearing.
Jesus, the light of all our days,
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.**
- 4. Born of our race, a child so small —
hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,
he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again:
see, he comes in pow'r to reign!**

THE ADVENT WREATH

The first candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent,
give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts.

May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy
when he comes.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

May the light and love of Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

Scripture sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2.3a

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, 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 in Jesus Christ has given us

a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,

forgive you your sins,

open your eyes to God's truth,

strengthen you to do God's will

and give you the joy of his kingdom,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRISAGION AND COLLECT

Holy God,

holy and mighty,

holy and immortal,

have mercy on us.

Let us pray.

Faithful God,

whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:

renew us in hope,

that we may be awake and alert

watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,

our Judge and 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 the prophecy of Isaiah 2.1–5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths.’
 For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
 and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
 He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
 and their spears into pruning-hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.
 O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the Lord!

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

Psalm 122

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me:
 ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’
- ² **And now our feet are standing:
 within your gates, O Jerusalem;**
- ³ Jerusalem which is built as a city:
 where the pilgrims gather in unity.
- ⁴ **There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
 as he commanded Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**
- ⁵ There are set thrones of judgement:
 the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ **O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 may those who love you prosper.**
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls:
 and prosperity in your palaces.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions:
 I will pray that peace be with you.**
- ⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
 I will seek for your good.

A reading from Paul’s letter to the church in Rome 13.9–14

The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Hymn: Like a candle in the night
 John Campbell - tune: Kings Of Orient
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1. **Like a candle in the night –
 flick’ring, dancing, far from bright –
 shadows leaping,
 hostile greeting –
 Bethlehem’s fragile light.**
*O light of life and light of love
 let us all your brightness prove.
 Each refining, set us shining –
 all our darkness now remove.*
2. **Dawn of hope in Galilee,
 can your presence set us free?
 Teaching, healing,
 truth revealing,
 help us your light to see!
 O light of life ...**
3. **Noonday dark on Calv’ry’s hill;
 evil forces met to kill –
 life relinquished,
 hope extinguished –
 but you are with us still.
 O light of life ...**
4. **Resurrection morning bright;
 death is beaten in the fight.
 Jesus’ glory
 now our story –
 all of us share his light!
 O light of life ...**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
 St Matthew 24.36–44
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said: ‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

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

Sermon

APOSTLES' CREED

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 for ever. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Offertory hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Bernadette Farrell (b.1957) - tune: Christ Be Our Light

© Bernadette Farrell, 1993, CCL No 632290

- 1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light ...
- 3. Longing for food, many are hungry.**
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light ...
- 4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light ...
- 5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light ...

*The collection and the bread and wine on the altar are
offered to God:*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

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 was looked for by the prophets,
heralded by the Baptist,
announced by an angel,
born of the Virgin Mary,
and revealed at last to women and men of every race.

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.

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.**

Holy 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.

Prayer of humble access:

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting on 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.**

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 for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

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: [There's a light upon the mountains](#)
*Henry Burton (1840-1930) alt. - © The Australian Hymn Book
Company Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290*

- 1. There's a light upon the mountains,
and the day is at the spring
when our eyes shall see the beauty
and the glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting,
and the night-watch seemed so long,
but his triumph day is breaking,
and we hail it with a song.**
- 2. There's a hush of expectation,
and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving
in the fervent breath of prayer:
for the suffering, dying Jesus
is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit
is the travail of his own.**
- 3. He is breaking down the barriers,
he is casting up the way,
he is calling for his angels
to build up the gates of day:
but his angels here are human,
not the shining hosts above;
for the drum-beats of his army
are the heart-beats of our love.**
- 4. Hark, we hear a distant music,
and it comes with fuller swell –
the great triumph song of Jesus,
of our King, Immanuel:
Zion, go you forth to meet him;
and, my soul, be swift to bring
all your finest and your dearest
for the triumph of our King!**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and those whom you love and pray for,
now and always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Permissions

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sun 27 th Nov | <u>Advent Sunday</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 8pm AA meeting |
| Mon 28 th Nov | <u>Vicar's day off</u> 10.30am <i>Al Anon meeting</i> |
| Tue 29 th Nov | 1pm AA meeting 5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i> |
| Wed 30 th Nov | 10am Eucharist 5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i> 7pm Mission Business Plan working group meeting 7.30pm <i>NA meeting</i> |
| Thu 1 st Dec | 11am Tarralla aged care communion 10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting |
| Fri 2 nd Dec | - |
| Sat 3 rd Dec | 7am AA meeting 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship |
| Sun 4 th Dec | <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 11.15am City to City presentation 8pm AA meeting |

NOTICES

City to City presentation

Parish Council has signed St John's up with City to City for their revitalisation program. After next Sunday's 10am service, City to City will make a presentation of their program to the parish. All are invited to attend.

Incoming Parish Council

Ken Hutton & Helen Duncan are continuing as elected churchwardens. Howard Carter, Meryl Fisher & Lyn Lynch are continuing as other members of council. The incoming parish council has one casual vacancy for an elected councillor - which is for the parish council to fill.

The positions of churchwarden and two councillors appointed by the vicar are also casual vacancies. I will consider and consult with any eligible parishioner whose name is put forward to me to fill any of these positions.

Mission donations

During Advent there are usually envelopes available for donations to Anglicare or ABM (Anglican Board of Mission) or the ecumenical Christmas Bowl.

These are all worthy mission agencies to give our charity to, and they will be blessed by the donations any parishioner decides to give to them.

Nevertheless, it is important to recognise the cost of the missional work that our parish already undertakes:

- we give substantial discounts to the community meals and community service groups that hire our facilities each week - and rely on our offertory income to make up any shortfall;
- we invite donations of food, money, and 'sweat' to support The Dining Room Mission; and
- we invite donations of food for our Kindergarten's food pantry.

Many other parishes do not have these opportunities to support charities operating from their premises, and so should prioritise their support of Anglicare, ABM, and so on.

Our parish does have the opportunity to support on-site charities, and should thus prioritise these. The best way to do so is to put our charitable dollar-giving directly into the offertory plate at church services - in addition to the usual weekly commitment to pay for the running costs of our church.

When we do this, we can better enable our church to continue into the future, and thus continue to partner with and support the community meals groups, and the community service groups.

Future dates

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Sun 4 Dec | 11.15am | City to City presentation ALL INVITED |
| Sun 11 Dec | 11.30am | Parish Network Ministry Team meeting |
| Thu 15 Dec | 6pm | Kindergarten nativity service |
| Sat 24 Dec | 2pm 5.30pm 11pm | Seniors Christmas Eucharist Crib service 'Midnight Mass' |
| Sun 25 Dec | 9am | Christmas Eucharist |