



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

2nd Sunday of Advent

4th December 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.

The second candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze
to follow in the steps of John the Baptist.
May we bring light and love to all we meet,
that the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome.

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.**

Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed

*James Montgomery (1771-1854) alt. - tune: Crüger
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290*

1. **Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to let the captive free,
and take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**
2. **He comes with help and mercy
to those who suffer wrong,
to raise the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying
were precious in his sight.**
3. **He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**
4. **Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

Scripture sentence

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Mark 1.15

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, therefore 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.

God of all peoples,
whose servant John came baptising
and calling for repentance:
help us to hear his voice of judgement,
that we may also rejoice in his word of promise,
and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day
when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace;
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 the prophecy of Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to
the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his
dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm 72.1-7, 18-21

- 1 Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,
- 2 **That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.**
- 3 Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
- 4 **May he give justice to the poor among the people:
and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
- 5 May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.
- 6 **May he come down like rain
upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.**
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace,
till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 **Let his name live for ever:
and endure as long as the sun.**
- 19 Let all peoples use his name in blessing:
and all nations call him blessed.
- 20 **Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel:
who alone does great wonders.**

21 Blessed be his glorious name for ever:
and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen, Amen.

Luke 1.68-79

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome 15.4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';

and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him';

and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Hymn: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Charles Coffin (1676-1749) tr. John Chandler (1806-76) alt.

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) - tune: Winchester New

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1. **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh:
awake and listen for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**
2. **Let every heart be cleansed from sin,
make straight the way for God within,
and so prepare to be the home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
3. **For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**
4. **To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,
and make the fallen sinner stand;
shine out, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**5. To you, O Christ, all praises be,
whose advent sets your people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore!**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Matthew 3.1–12

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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: The kingdom of God is justice and joy
Bryn Rees (1911-1983) - tune: Hanover
© Alexander Scott, CCL No 632290

- 1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**
- 2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.**
- 3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**
- 4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

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: O come, O come, Emmanuel

tr. John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866) alt. - tune: Veni Emmanuel
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd., CCL No 632290

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
who mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God draws near:
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
2. **O come, O come, great Lord of might
who long ago on Sinai's height
gave all your tribes the ancient law,
in cloud and majesty and awe:
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
3. **O come, true Branch of Jesse, free
your children from this tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
to rise victorious from the grave:
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
4. **O come, strong Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
upon our journey give relief,
and close the path to pain and grief.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**
5. **O come, bright Daystar, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

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.

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Mon 5 th Dec | <u>Vicar's day off</u> 10.30am <i>Al Anon meeting</i> |
| Tue 6 th Dec | 1pm AA meeting 5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i> 7pm <i>Kindergarten AGM</i> |
| Wed 7 th Dec | 10am Eucharist 5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i> 7.30pm <i>NA meeting</i> |
| Thu 8 th Dec | 11am Park Lane communion 10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting |
| Fri 9 th Dec | - |
| Sat 10 th Dec | 7am AA meeting 10.30am <i>Focus on Faith & Friendship</i> |
| Sun 11 th Dec | <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 11.30am <i>Network Ministry team meeting</i> 8pm AA meeting |

NOTICES

City to City presentation - TODAY

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.

Christmas Carols - Tuesday 20 December

Over the last few years a new tradition for carol-singing has developed at St John's. On the last Tuesday before Christmas there is a wonderful opportunity to sing carols with and for the TDRM guests, with our musicians providing some great accompaniment. All parishioners are invited to join in, and SING!

Parish Council casual vacancies

There are currently 1 warden & 3 councillor positions needing to be filled. Kindly offer yourself, or another parishioner, for consideration. Currently the council can only meet when every member is available, to achieve the quorum of 6. Without another councillor, we are struggling to arrange our first meeting.

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

through providing substantial discounts to the community meals and community service groups that hire our facilities each week - and we rely on our offertory income to make up any shortfall.

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 |
| Tue 20 Dec | 5pm | TDRM carols - all parishioners are invited to sing! |
| Sat 24 Dec | 2pm 5.30pm 11pm | Seniors Christmas Eucharist Crib service 'Midnight Mass' |
| Sun 25 Dec | 9am | Christmas Eucharist |