



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

3rd Sunday of Advent

11th 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 ADVENT WREATH

The third candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

As we draw near to you, Lord God,
keep us aware of your presence in all we do.
Come with power to enlighten us by your grace,
that we may live in praise and peace all our days.

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: Hark! a herald voice is calling

*Anon Latin 6th cent., tr Edward Caswall (1814-78) & others
tune: Merton - © The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd,
1999, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'**
- 2. Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.**
- 3. Lo, the Lamb so long expected
comes with pardon now from heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.**
- 4. So when love comes forth in judgment,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.**
- 5. Honour, glory, might and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.**

Scripture sentence

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'

Isaiah 35.3-4

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.

Sustain us, O God,
with the power of your love on our journey
to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Psalm 146

- 1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live I will praise the Lord;
- 2 **While I have any being:
I will sing praises to my God.**
- 3 Put not your trust in princes:
nor in flesh and blood, which cannot save.
- 4 **For when their breath goes from them,
they return again to the earth:
and on that day all their thoughts perish.**
- 5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob:
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
- 6 **The God who made heaven and earth:
the sea, and all that is in them,**
- 7 Who keeps faith for ever:
who deals justice to those that are oppressed.
- 8 **The Lord gives food to the hungry:
and sets the captives free.**
- 9 The Lord gives sight to the blind:
the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down.
- 10 **The Lord loves the righteous:
the Lord cares for the stranger in the land.**

11 He upholds the widow and the fatherless:
as for the way of the wicked,
he turns it upside down.

12 **The Lord shall be king for ever:
your God, O Zion,
shall reign through all generations.
Praise the Lord.**

A reading from the letter of James 5.7–10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Hymn: Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) - tune: Woodlands
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

1. **Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**
2. **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.**
3. **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**
4. **Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Matthew 11.2–11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes?

Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell
you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about
whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”
Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has
arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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: Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Charles Wesley (1707-88) - tune: Stuttgart
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CCL No 632290

- 1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**
- 2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
- 3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*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: Lord, your almighty word
John Marriott (1780-1825) alt. - tune: Moscow
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Lord, your almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**
- 2. Saviour, who came to give
those who in darkness live
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light.**
- 3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**

**4. Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light.**

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 11 th Dec	<u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist <i>(also live-streamed)</i> 11.30am Network Ministry team meeting 8pm AA meeting
Mon 12 th Dec	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 13 th Dec	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM St John's team to cook
Wed 14 th Dec	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 15 th Dec	10.45am BUPA aged care communion 10.30am AA meeting 6pm Kindergarten nativity service 7.30pm AA meeting 7.30pm Parish Council
Fri 16 th Dec	-
Sat 17 th Dec	7am AA meeting 10am Working bee 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship
Sun 18 th Dec	<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist <i>(also live-streamed)</i> 8pm AA meeting

NOTICES

Parish Network Ministry Team meeting TODAY

After the 10am service the Network Ministry Team will meet in the church.

St John's TDRM Team

It is our turn to do the cooking at The Dining Room Mission next Tuesday 13th December and this time we will be cooking Shepherd's Pie. As usual the meat and a few basic ingredients will be provided. If you are able to help with cooking please let me know. The food needs to be delivered hot to the church by 5pm, or I can arrange to collect them earlier if you prefer.

The meal is served to the tables at 5.30pm. Take aways are still being offered, but the number of people choosing to stay and eat is increasing each week. Last Tuesday there were more than 30 people seated, with a number of children as well, and it is great to see the guests sitting and chatting with each other and the volunteers.

In addition to doing the cooking, volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen (from 4.30pm), talk to the guests (from 5pm) and serve the food (from 5.15pm). If you are able to help in any way please let me know.

Cathy

Kindergarten nativity service

On Thursday at 6pm, our Kindergarten will have their annual nativity service, with the retelling of the Christmas story. Parishioners are invited to assist with providing some light child-friendly refreshments for afterwards - kindly speak to Meryl.

Church working bee

Our monthly working bee is on next Saturday, from 10am. Please speak to Helen for further details if you're available to help.

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!

Future dates

Thu 15 Dec	6pm	Kindergarten nativity service
Sat 17 Dec	10am	Working bee
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