



St John the Divine
Eucharist service
4th Sunday of Advent
18th 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 fourth candle in the Advent wreath is lit:

Come, O Wisdom of God most high,
O Giver of the Law,
O Flower of Jesse's root,
O Key of David,
O Radiant Dawn,
O King of the Nations,
O Emmanuel.
Give us peace and allow us
to celebrate your presence with joy,
that we may some day share your glory.

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: [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.**

Scripture sentence

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1.23

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.
Gracious God,
you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:
so fill us with your grace,
that with her we may rejoice in your salvation,
and in all things embrace your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 7.10–16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

Psalm 80.1–7, 17–19

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;
- ² **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**
- ³ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry
at your people's prayer?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- ⁶ **You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ **Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man
whom you made so strong for yourself.**
- ¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

A reading from Paul's to the letter to the church Rome 1.1–7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among

all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Hymn: O Child of promise, come!
James Quinn SJ (1919-2010) - tune: Franconia
© Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd, 1969,
CCL No 632290

- 1. O Child of promise, come!
O come, Emmanuel!
Come, Prince of Peace, to David's throne;
come, God, with us to dwell.**
- 2. The Lord's true Servant, come,
in whom is his delight,
on whom his Holy Spirit rests,
the Gentiles' promised light.**
- 3. O come Anointed One,
to show blind eyes your face!
Good tidings to the poor announce;
proclaim God's year of grace!**
- 4. O come, Messiah King,
to reign in endless light,
when heavenly peace at last goes forth
from Sion's holy height.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 1.18–25

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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: *For Mary, mother of our Lord*
John Raphael Peacey (1896-1979) - tune: St Botolph
© Rev'd Mary J Hancock, CCL No 632290

**1. For Mary, mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her child she gazed.**

**2. The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.**

**3. The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.**

**4. She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.**

**5. Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.**

**6. Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
blest in your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.**

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: Long ago, prophets knew
Frederick Pratt Green (b.1903) - tune: Theodoric
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,
CCL No 632290

- 1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
*When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***
- 2. God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
*When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***
- 3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
*When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***
- 4. Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
*Jesus comes, Jesus comes:
we will make him welcome!***

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.

NOTICES

Christmas carols and services

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

Kindergarten nativity service - thanks

Thanks to all who provided & served refreshments for the kindergarten nativity service, and assisted with the service and cleaned up afterwards. And to those who prepared the church space beforehand.

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!

St John's TDRM Team

Well done everyone on another great effort at The Dining Room Mission last Tuesday. Thank you to our wonderful cooks for the delicious Shepherd's Pies and Apple Crumbles; to the cheerful and willing volunteers who helped serve and clean up in the kitchen; and to the people who came along especially to chat with the guests and make them feel welcome.

The TDRM Christmas celebration will take place next Tuesday 20th December and the St John's Music Team will be providing live music and community carol singing, so please come and join in the festivities.

Unlike many other community meals organisations, The Dining Room Mission does NOT close for the holiday period but continues to offer meals, companionship and assistance to people in need every Tuesday of the year.

Our next date is Tuesday 10th January so please put that into your dairies.

Cathy

Community meals over Christmas/New Year

TDRM will continue to provide meals each Tuesday evening from 5.30pm.

The Wednesday evening community meals program run by Winter Shelter and New Community Ringwood are taking a break and will resume on Wednesday 18 January.

January Eucharist services

As we resume some pre-covid traditions, Sunday services for January will be combined as a single 9am service. The Wednesday services are pausing after Christmas Day and will resume on 1 February.

Fr John will be on leave from Thursday 5 to Wednesday 25 January. Rev'd Wendy Pullin will be locum during this time.

Permissions

Service excerpts:

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 18 th Dec	<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist (<i>also live-streamed</i>) 8pm AA meeting
Mon 19 th Dec	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 20 th Dec	1pm AA meeting 5pm Carols with TDRM 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 21 st Dec	10am Eucharist 11am Carols at Park Lane aged care 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 22 nd Dec	10.15am Croydon Grove communion 10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 23 rd Dec	12 noon - 6pm Lai Christian Church
Sat 24 th Dec	<u>Christmas Eve</u> 7am AA meeting 2pm Seniors Eucharist 5.30pm Crib service 11pm 'Midnight Mass'
Sun 25 th Dec	<u>Christmas Day</u> 9am Eucharist

Parish Council notes

At last Thursday's meeting Howard Carter was appointed **treasurer** by the wardens. The Council is still looking for a parishioner who is willing to be the **secretary** - kindly suggest someone to be asked or offer yourself.

Council has agreed to contract Trethowan Architecture Pty Ltd for:

- stage 1: preparation of Existing Condition drawings to allow for the documentation of Permit Application and Tender Documentation;
- stage 2: preparation of documentation of the rectification works to the main building and surrounding landscape/carpark.

This will enable progress to the point of actually initiating the works to replace the church building's stormwater drainage, retaining walls and roof; repair the wall cracks and underpinning; and remove problem trees.