



St John the Divine

Eucharist

4th Sunday after Epiphany

29th January 2023

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.

Welcome and notices

Hymn: TiS160 Father all-loving and ruling in majesty

Patrick Robert Norman Appleford (b.1925) alt.

tune: Was Lebet - © The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999, CCL No 632290

- 1. Father all-loving and ruling in majesty,
judgment is yours, and condemns all our pride;
stir up our rulers and people to penitence,
sorrow for sins that for vengeance have cried.**
- 2. Blessed Lord Jesus, born humbly in poverty,
sharing a stable with beasts at your birth,
stir us to work for your justice and charity,
truly to care for the poor upon earth.**
- 3. Come, Holy Spirit, create in us holiness,
lift up our lives to your standard of right;
stir every will to new ventures of faithfulness,
flood the whole church with your glorious light.**
- 4. Holiest Trinity, perfect in unity,
bind in your love every nation and race:
may we adore you for time and eternity,
Father, Redeemer and Spirit of grace.**

Sentence

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans 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.

Righteous God,
you confound the world's wisdom
by giving your blessing to the lowly and pure in heart:
give us such a hunger and thirst for justice
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that in our words and deeds
the world may see the promise of your kingdom,
which has been revealed in 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 Micah 6.1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

'O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15

- 1 Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle:
or who may dwell upon your holy hill?
- 2 **Whoever leads an uncorrupt life
and does the thing which is right:
who speaks the truth from the heart,
and has not slandered with the tongue;**
- 3 Who has done no evil to a friend:
nor vented abuse against a neighbour;
- 4 **In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:
but who makes much of those that fear the Lord;**
- 5 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour:
and will not go back on that oath;
- 6 **Who has not put money to usury:
nor taken a bribe against the innocent.**
- 7 Whoever does these things:
shall never be overthrown.

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth
1.18–31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the
power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made
foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our
proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews
demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we
proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called,
both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the
wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than
human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than
human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of
you were wise by human standards, not many were
powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose
what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God
chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
God chose what is low and despised in the world, things
that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that
no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the
source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us
wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification
and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the
one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

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

Hymn: TiS448 Blest are the pure in heart
Luke Connaughton (1917-79) alt. - tune: Franconia
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CCL No 632290

1. **Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.**
2. **The Lord, who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell with us in lowliness,
our pattern and our King:**
3. **still to the lowly soul
he will himself impart,
and for his cradle and his throne
chooses the pure in heart.**
4. **Lord, we your presence seek;
this blessing now renew:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple fit for you.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Matthew 5.1–12

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then
he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute
you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on
my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is
great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted
the prophets who were before you.'

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

Sermon

NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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 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

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

cf Isaiah 9.6,7

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

Offertory hymn: TIS607 Make me a channel of your peace - Sebastian Temple (b.1928) - tune: Channel of Peace
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- 1. Make me a channel of your peace.**
**Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**
***O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***
- 2. Make me a channel of your peace.**
**Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**
***O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***
- 3. Make me a channel of your peace.**
**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

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.

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 by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah,
the light of the nations,
and revealed him as the hope
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.
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.**

Merciful 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.**

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.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light
to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth. **Amen.**

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: [TiS568 O for a heart to praise my God](#)
Luke Connaughton (1917-79) alt. - tune: Richmond (TiS425)
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- 1. O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free,
a heart that always feels your blood
so freely shed for me:**
- 2. A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
my great Redeemer's throne,
where only Christ is heard to speak,
where Jesus reigns alone:**
- 3. A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part
from Christ who dwells within:**

4. **A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine,
perfect, and right, and pure, and good –
your life revealed in mine.**

5. **Your nature, gracious Lord, impart:
come quickly from above;
write your new name upon my heart,
your new, best name of love.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
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 29th Jan 4th Sunday after Epiphany
9am Eucharist
10.15am Parish 2023 planning workshop
8pm AA meeting

Mon 30th Jan 10.30am *Al Anon meeting*

Tue 31st Jan 1pm AA meeting
5.30pm *community meal: TDRM*

Wed 1st Feb 10am Eucharist
12 noon AMUA meeting (Mothers Union)
5.30pm *community meal: Winter Shelter*
7.30pm NA meeting

Thu 2nd Feb 10.30am AA meeting
11am Tarralla aged care communion
7.30pm AA meeting

Fri 3rd Feb -

Sat 4th Feb 7am AA meeting
10.30am *Focus on Faith & Friendship*
7pm *Lai Christian Church*

Sun 5th Feb 5th Sunday after Epiphany
8am Eucharist
10am Eucharist
8pm AA meeting

Parish Planning Workshop

TODAY we have a parish morning tea and planning workshop at 10.15am.

The purpose of the workshop is to gather information and ideas in preparation for the commencement of our work with City to City.

The workshop will focus on:

- Providing an overview of the parish
- Naming our current issues
- Identifying what the parish is doing well
- Sharing our hopes for the future

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

NOTICES

Thanks

to Rev'd Wendy Pullin for covering the last 3 weeks.
Wendy will be the locum at Kilsyth for a while.

Rosters for February - April

Sign up sheets for the 8am and 10am services are now ready to be filled - see noticeboard in foyer. Please consider volunteering for one of the many ways in which you can contribute to the Sunday services.

Cleaning Roster for 2023

We are indebted to the cleaning teams who clean our church each week. It would be helpful to have more people on the roster to share the load. Teams of 2 - 3 people are rostered on no more than once every 5 weeks, and the more people we have, the less we all have to do! Please contact Cathy or email the parish office if you can assist.

My Fair Lady

One of our parishioners, Jenny Wakefield, is performing in the well-known musical *My Fair Lady*, being presented at the Alexander Theatre in Clayton.

Five performances will be held over 30 March to 2 April - see <https://www.monash.edu/performing-arts-centres/event/my-fair-lady/>

Meaning of Beatitude

- Beatitude means blessedness, not happiness in the modern sense of the word.
- Happy in the modern sense means:
 - Something subjective, a state of consciousness, a feeling. If you feel happy, you are happy
 - It connotes a temporary state
 - And something dependent on fortune (hap is the Old English word for "fortune" or "chance")

The Beatitudes, from *The Message*,
a translation by Eugene H Peterson

- "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope.
With less of you there is more of God and his rule.*
- "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most
dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the
One most dear to you.*
- "You're blessed when you're content with just who you
are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find
yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be
bought.*
- "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite
for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll
ever eat.*
- "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being
'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.*
- "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your
mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in
the outside world.*
- "You're blessed when you can show people how to
cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when
you discover who you really are, and your place in
God's family.*
- "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes
persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper
into God's kingdom.*
- "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time
people put you down or throw you out or speak lies
about you to discredit me. What it means is that the
truth is too close for comfort and they are
uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens
—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I
do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are
in good company. My prophets and witnesses have
always gotten into this kind of trouble.*

Reflecting particularly on the final beatitude:

Jesus wasn't nice.

**Yes, he was loving and inclusive—but in
the way that gets you rejected by the
religious.**

**Yes, he was generous and truthful—but
in the way that gets you persecuted by
the powerful.**

**Niceness was not his mission. Destroying
oppressive systems was.**

Our turn.

@thehappygivers