



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

5<sup>th</sup> March 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](http://www.stjohndivine.org.au)*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Welcome*

Hymn: TiS246 Christ is the world's light

*Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000) - tune: Christe Sanctorum  
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632290*

- 1. Christ is the world's light, he and none other;  
born in our darkness, he became our brother.  
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high.**
- 2. Christ is the world's peace, he and none other;  
no one can serve him and despise his brother.  
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?  
Glory to God on high.**
- 3. Christ is the world's life, he and none other;  
sold once for silver, murdered here, our  
brother –  
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high.**
- 4. Give God the glory, God and none other;  
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;  
give God the glory, God in man my brother:  
Glory to God on high.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

#### Sentence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so  
that everyone who believes in him may not perish but  
may have eternal life.

*John 3.16*

Let us pray

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

Hear the commandments which God gave his people  
Israel.

- 1 I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods  
but me.
- 2 You shall not make an idol of anything and worship it.
- 3 You shall not make wrong use of the name of the  
Lord your God.
- 4 Remember the Lord's day and keep it holy.
- 5 Honour your father and mother.
- 6 You shall not commit murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not give false evidence.
- 10 You shall not covet the possessions of others.

**Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our  
hearts by your Holy Spirit.**

**Holy God,  
holy and mighty,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

God of mercy,  
you are full of tenderness and compassion,  
slow to anger, rich in mercy,  
and always ready to forgive:  
grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,  
that in every way we may prove to be your loving  
children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
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 Genesis 12.1–4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and  
your kindred and your father's house to the land that I  
will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will  
bless you, and make your name great, so that you will  
be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the  
one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the  
families of the earth shall be blessed.'  
So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went  
with him.

May your word live in us,

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

#### Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills:  
but where shall I find help?
- <sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord:  
who has made heaven and earth.**
- <sup>3</sup> He will not suffer your foot to stumble:  
and he who watches over you will not sleep.
- <sup>4</sup> **Be sure he who has charge of Israel:  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord himself is your keeper:  
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup> **The sun shall not strike you by day:  
nor shall the moon by night.**

7 The Lord will defend you from all evil:  
it is he who will guard your life.

8 **The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:  
from this time forward for evermore.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome 4.1–5, 13–17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 'Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Hymn: TiS116 Begin, my tongue, some heavenly theme  
*Isaac Watts (1674-1748) alt. - tune: St Magnus*  
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1. **Begin, my tongue, some heavenly theme  
and speak some boundless thing,  
the mighty works or mightier name  
of our eternal king.**
2. **Tell of his wondrous faithfulness,  
and sound his power abroad;  
sing the sweet promise of his grace  
and our fulfilling God.**
3. **His very word of grace is strong  
as that which built the skies;  
the voice that rolls the stars along  
speaks all the promises.**
4. **He said, 'Let wide the heaven be spread,'  
and heaven was stretched abroad;  
'Abram, I'll be your God,' he said,  
and he was Abram's God.**
5. **O might I hear your heavenly tongue  
but whisper, 'You are mine';  
those gentle words should raise my song  
to notes almost divine.**

**6. How would my leaping heart rejoice,  
and think my heaven secure!  
I trust the all-creating voice,  
and faith desires no more.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John 3.1–17

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God. 'Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. 'Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. ' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be? ' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

### *Sermon*

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 forever. Amen.**

#### RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your heavenly Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.  
*Mark 11.25*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Pause to bring to mind times where we have separated ourselves*

*from God,  
from others,  
from creation, and  
from our inner selves.*

Let us now ask for mercy, 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.**

#### RECONCILIATION WITH EACH OTHER

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Offertory hymn: *TiS398 Come down, O Love divine  
Bianca de Siena (d.1434) tr. Richard Littledale (1833-90)  
alt. - tune: Down Ampney  
© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,  
CCL No 632290*

- 1. Come down, O love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**
- 2. There let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path  
illuming.**
- 3. Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with  
loathing.**
- 4. And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

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.  
He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.  
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.  
By his grace we are able  
to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.  
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.**

#### 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.**

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

*Please come forward to receive communion or a  
blessing.*

#### SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.  
God of mercy,  
may we who have shared in this holy meal  
know your forgiveness in our lives,  
bring reconciliation to others,  
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

**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: TiS96 Sing praise to the Lord!  
*Henry Baker Williams (1821-77) alt. - tune: Laudate Dominum*  
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- 1. Sing praise to the Lord! praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, you angels of light;  
all heaven adore him by whom you were made,  
and worship before him in brightness arrayed.**
- 2. Sing praise to the Lord! praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord sing praise for new birth;  
praise him who has brought you his grace from  
above,  
praise him who has taught you to sing of his  
love.**

3. Sing praise to the Lord, all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory tell forth in deep tone,  
and sweet harp, the story of what he has done.

4. Sing praise to the Lord! thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along;  
for love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,  
that you may find in him crucified  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sin forgiven;  
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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## NOTICES

Please welcome Rev'd Stewart Taplin who is our locum priest while Fr John is on sick leave until March 19.

### Parish Council update

- We are pleased to announce that Jenny Harris has been appointed as a Churchwarden, and Elizabeth Sanderson has been elected as a member of the Parish Council  
Difficulties that existed have now been resolved and we are able to move forward with an operational Parish Council. Please pray for the members.
- We are still seeking nominations for a position on the **Incumbency Committee**. According to the regulations the position must be filled by a male. Ideally from within the 8 am congregation.
- **Synod Representatives** - 2 members of the congregation need to be elected by April 22

### No services at St John's next Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Instead, our services will combine with St James & St Peter Anglican Church Kilsyth-Montrose

686 Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth

Service times:  
8am & 10am

Rev'd Wendy Pullin is currently locum at Kilsyth and is to preside at the services.

Please come along and share in this reciprocal visit with our neighbouring parish



### Lent course: *Christ's Costly Gift of Reconciliation*

The recommended Lent course for this year has been prepared by CTBI - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It is sent as a weekly email on Wednesdays, starting on Ash Wednesday. The course can be subscribed to here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2023/> Parishioners are encouraged to undertake this individually or to contact Joan Sweet if you would like to join the Saturday morning study group.

A small number of study booklets have been printed for those of you who do not have the internet or are having trouble accessing the emails. Please speak to Cathy or one of the Wardens if you need one of these.



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.

If you would like to join a group of parishioners

attending the matinee on Saturday April .st at 2pm, please contact the office or see Cathy

Transport will be arranged for those who need it

#### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm AA meeting
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11am Park Lane 10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7am AA meeting 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship – Lenten Study 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> – <b>Combined services with St James &amp; St Peter Anglican Church Kilsyth-Montrose:</b> 8am - Eucharist 10am Eucharist 8pm AA meeting