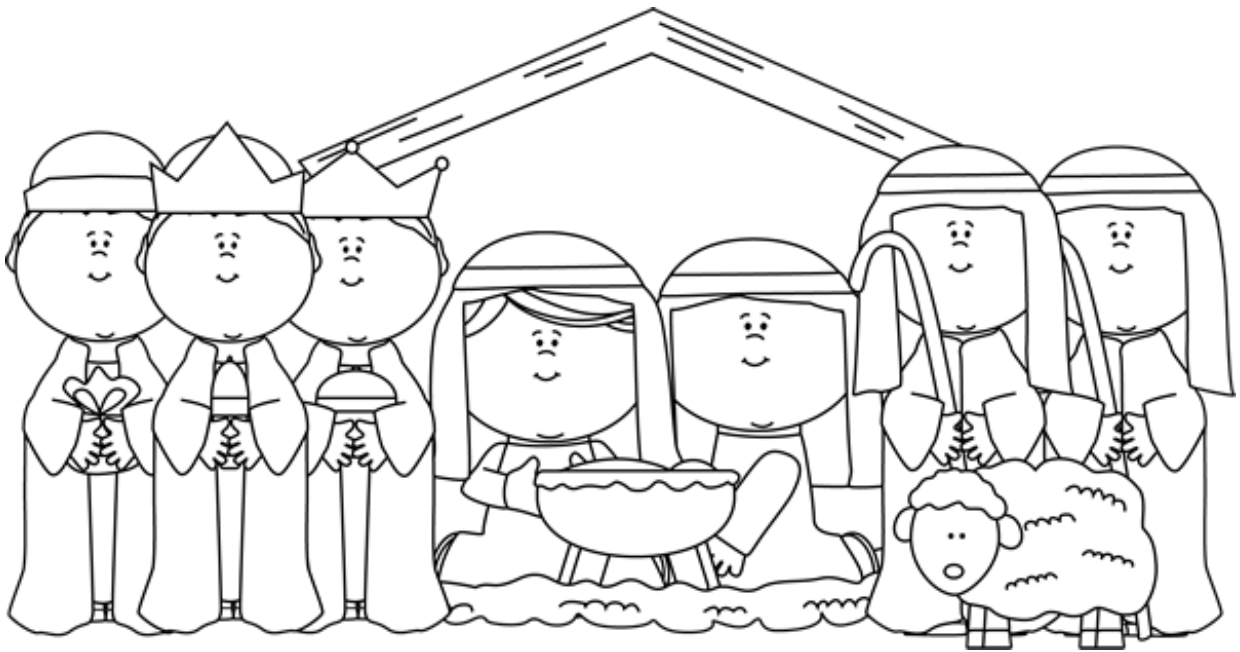


WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS
AT ST PAUL'S ASHGROVE!



**A TIME OF WORSHIP, STORY-TELLING
AND CAROL SINGING FOR FAMILIES**

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for a bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

**2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

Welcome and lighting of the Christmas Candle

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Advent has been a time of waiting,
a time of dreaming,
a time of hope,
a time of promise.

Our time of preparation is nearly over.
Today is Christmas Eve and tomorrow
we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The advent wreath.

As we lit the advent candles each week, the candles glowed and the light shone more brightly. On this day we remember that the light of the world has come.

Light the Christ candle.

Today we light the candle that represents Jesus.
The Christ candle is in the middle of the advent wreath.
Jesus is the centre of our lives.
The light of Christ shines for all to see.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth in Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
Amen

The Christmas Story

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

**Silent night Holy night
All is calm all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

Reflection

Let us pray

Jesus, whose mother was Mary
we pray for families throughout the world.
Give us strength and courage to show our families
how much we love them in word and action.
Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in a manger
we pray for the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers.
Give the people of this land courage and generosity
to share what we have been given
and help us to ensure that everyone has a safe place in the world.
Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:
we give thanks for the beauty of creation,
Thank you for the flowers in spring and the stars at night.
Help us to take care of the world
and appreciate your gift of life and beauty.
Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings:
we pray for the people of the world.
Help us to live in love and friendship with each other.
Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, who comes to us:
we pray for those who are struggling.
We remember the names of those people
in the silence of our hearts.
Give to all, strength and peace in their times of need.
Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

And in the words that Jesus taught us, we 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.**

And now let us turn to God and ask his forgiveness

God of Grace

**We confess that we have sinned
in what we have thought, and said, and done.
Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen**

God forgives you

Forgive others

Forgive yourself

Approach your God in peace. *(NZ Prayer Book)*

The Greeting of Peace

Unto us a child is born,
and his name is called the Prince of peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

CAROL

**1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing,**

**2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

1674-1748 alt. Based on Psalm 98

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

Loving God,

we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for,

so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

We thank you that when we turned away from you,

you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us,

and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you

and set us free to love and serve one another.

We thank you that on the cross

Jesus took away our sin,

all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear,

from all that destroys love and trust.

And so with everyone who believes in you,

with all the saints and angels,

we rejoice and praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you

for these gifts of bread and wine;

may we who receive them,

as Jesus said,

share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread

and gave you thanks.

He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup

and gave you thanks.

He shared the cup with them and said,

'This is my blood poured out

so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together

to feed on Christ

and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God

Everyone whose faith is in Christ is welcome to join us in receiving the sacrament.

Please use hand sanitiser on your way to receive communion.

we are currently only able to share the bread due to Covid restrictions.

If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the bread, please hold your hands behind your back.

Most gracious God, source of all blessing,
we give you thanks for inviting us
to share this meal as your family;
by your grace, strengthen us to be a blessing to one another
and a blessing to all the world.

The Blessing

May you know the peace, the love,
the joy and the hope of Christmas
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
*Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
*Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

Thank you for joining us this afternoon. We would love to see you again!

Our usual meeting times are:

7.30am

9.00am

Until the end of January we will have ONE combined service at 8.30am.

www.stpaulsahgrove.org.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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