

**A Service to welcome
Christmas
at**

St Paul's Anglican Parish

Ashgrove



Stand as you are able

CAROL: Once in Royal David's City (TiS 312)

The procession stops at the Stable

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

The Advent candles and the Christmas candle are lit.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
a light no darkness can quench.

The shepherds kept watch by night,
and your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and illuminate your church with your glory.

The figure of Christ is brought from the altar to the Stable, and placed in the Crib.

The Crib is dedicated and blessed

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born
of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation;
bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith,
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring;
who is alive and reigns for ever. Amen.

Sentence

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born,
to us a son is given. (Isaiah 9:2,6)

Let us Pray

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Kneel or sit as you are able. A short silence is kept for reflection

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence.

We have sinned: **Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned. **Forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned: **Forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned: **Forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned: **Forgive and heal us.**

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.**

Stand as you are able for The Gloria

**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.**

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Please sit for the readings

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations:
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 **Majesty and glory are before him:
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**
- 7 Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:
render to the Lord glory and might.
- 8 **Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:
bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 10 **Say among the nations that the Lord is king:
he has made the world so firm
that it can never be moved;
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
- 12 **Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the trees of the wood
shout with joy before the Lord;**
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

The reading from the New Testament

Titus 2.11-14

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water^[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This saying is sure.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Carol: The First Nowell (2 verses) TIS 301

All stand for the Gospel Reading

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 2,
beginning at verse 1 **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Luke 2.1-14

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon

The Creed

Let us stand and say together

**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 salvations
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 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.**

Please sit or kneel for prayer.

We bring before God our needs and the needs of the whole world.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Wonderful Counsellor,
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God,
make the whole world know
that the government is on your shoulders.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father,
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Pause for a time of quiet prayer for those things that are in your heart and for your family, friends and departed loved ones.

Almighty Lord,
**Hear our prayer,
and fulfill your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
And his name is called the Prince of Peace.

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

Share words of peace with those around you.

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful TIS 304

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.

In your Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained any 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.

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.'

You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Let us therefore proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.**

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.**

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together
and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

**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.

*All whose faith is in Christ this evening are welcome at the table.
Bread only will be shared, due to Covid restrictions.
If you are not receiving communion you are welcome to come forward
to receive a blessing. Just keep your hands behind your back.*

Go in peace and blessing

Please Stand as you are able.

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful
to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence to all people.

Most loving God,
**you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his well;
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

Carol: Joy to the World TIS 268

Thank you for joining us tonight. 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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