

# Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

## First Sunday after Christmas

26 December 2021



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**HYMN:** Tis 304 O Come all ye faithful v1,3,5,6

P: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.  
P: The Lord be with you.  
And also with you

LA: We acknowledge the custodians of the land where we gather today - the Jagera and Turrbal people. We celebrate their culture, thank them for their care of the land and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging

LA: Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful  
Colossians 3.14-15

LA: [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.

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.

P: God of community

whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood:  
may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked with ours  
that we fail not in loyalty to you,  
but make choices according to your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A reading from the first book of Samuel 2.18-20,26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 148**

- 1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:  
**O praise him in the heights.**
- 2 Praise him, all his angels:  
**O praise him, all his host.**
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon:  
**praise him, all you stars of light.**
- 4 Praise him, you highest heaven:  
**and you waters that are above the heavens.**
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
**for he commanded and they were made.**
- 6 He established them for ever and ever:  
**he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**
- 7 O praise the Lord from the earth:  
**praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;**
- 8 Fire and hail, mist and snow:  
**and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**
- 9 Mountains and all hills:  
**fruit trees and all cedars;**
- 10 Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:  
**creeping things and winged birds;**
- 11 Kings of the earth, and all peoples:  
**princes, and all rulers of the world;**
- 12 Young men and maidens:  
**old folk and children together.**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
**for his name alone is exalted.**

14 His glory is above earth and heaven:  
**and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**

15 Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:  
**of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians 3.12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

**Hymn: TiS 152 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 2 beginning at verse 41  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

NRSV

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

**Sermon**

*Silence*

**LA: 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.**

**LA: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

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Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

LA: 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.**

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

LA: Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

LA: Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, 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.**

P: 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.

P: We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.*

**HYMN: 473 Community of Christ**

*Note that we cannot pass collection bowls around at this time. There is a box at the back of the building to receive your offerings.*

## 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 singing:

**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:

**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.**

*The priest says*

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.**

Bread and wine; the gifts of God  
for the people of God.  
**May we who share these gifts  
be found in Christ  
and Christ in us.**

NZ Prayer Book

*Special Covid-19 Guidelines: Please come forward to receive communion (bread only). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move forward. Queue close to the pew – not in the centre of the isle – in one line. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.*

*While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the communion hymn while remaining seated.*

**Communion Hymn (Not announced): TiS 699: A New Commandment**

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.**

*Announcements*

*Please stand for the blessing:*

Whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

**HYMN: 268 Joy to the World**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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