

Merry Christmas at St Paul's, Ashgrove



**Glory to God in the Highest!
Peace on Earth!
Good will to all!**

Carol: TIS 312 Once in Royal David's City

Advent Candle Lighting

...as it was to his disciples so long ago.

**Come to us, Lord Jesus,
be born in us this day,
in our hearts, our minds, our lives.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
and lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

Jeanyne Slettom Processandfaith.org

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever

The Lord be with you

And also with you

**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.**

A reading from Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

Psalm 97

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
**the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**
- 11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus (3.4-7)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

Carol: TiS 316 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 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.

A Christmas Reflection

The Creed

Let us stand with followers of Jesus throughout time and with the many who gather in his name throughout the world this night, and declare the faith we share:

**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.**

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Please sit or kneel as you are comfortable.

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.
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.*

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.**

CONFESSION

Gracious Lord: **Forgive and heal us.**

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

Carol: TIS 304 **O Come All Ye Faithful (vs1,2,3,5,7)**

During this carol a collection will be taken up.

Response: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...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.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...Do this in remembrance of me. '

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord

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

Communion Carol (Not announced): TiS 311 Silent Night (v1)

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.**

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

Carol: TiS 303 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

We would love to see you again:

Sundays until end of January
and 3rd Sunday every month 8:30am
Other Sundays from Feb 7:30am and 9am

See our web site (www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au) for updates on how to be involved at St Pauls.

Let us know what you think:

Please leave this service booklet at Church

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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