

# Christmas Eve at St Paul's, Ashgrove



**In the darkness we await the light,  
To welcome Christmas Day,  
To welcome each other,  
And to welcome Christ:  
The Baby in the manger,  
The man who teaches and heals,  
The king who reigns in suffering death  
And in resurrection life.**

We begin with 30 minutes of carol singing.

Carol: No. 2 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 night,**

**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**

*Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so*

**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.**

*Please take a seat for the Readings*

## **A Reading from 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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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 God's holy name:  
**proclaim the good news of God's salvation  
from day to day.**
- 3 Declare God's glory among the nations:  
**and God's wonders among all peoples.**
  
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
**let the whole earth stand in awe.**
- 10 Say among the nations that the Lord is king:  
**God who made the world so firm that it can never be moved  
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 the Lord comes; comes to judge the earth:  
**God will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with truth.**

### **Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

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| <p>1 O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>how still we see you lie!<br/>Above your deep and dreamless<br/>sleep<br/>the silent stars go by;<br/>yet in your dark streets shining<br/>the everlasting light.<br/>The hopes and fears of all the years<br/>are met in you tonight.</p> <p>2 For Christ is born of Mary,<br/>and, gathered all above<br/>while mortals sleep, the angels keep<br/>their watch of wondering love.<br/>O morning stars, together<br/>proclaim the holy birth,<br/>and praises sing to God the King<br/>and peace to all the earth.</p> | <p>3 How silently, how silently,<br/>the wondrous gift is given!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>the blessings of heaven.<br/>No ear may hear Christ's coming,<br/>but in this world of sin,<br/>where meek souls will receive him,<br/>still<br/>the dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,<br/>descend to us, we pray,<br/>cast out our sin and enter in,<br/>be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>the great glad tidings tell;<br/>O come to us, abide with us,<br/>our Lord Immanuel!</p> |
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*Phillips Brooks*

*Please 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**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

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 God favours!”

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

## **Christmas Reflection**

**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.**

In prayer we bring before God our needs and the needs of the whole world.

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 fulfil your purposes in us,  
And in your church throughout the world,  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.**

Confession

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

P: 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.**

**Carol:** 10 O Come all ye Faithful (vs 1,2,3,5,6)

An offering is collected during this song to support the ministry of St Paul's

... for the service of your kingdom. **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.**

...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 to remember all he has done for us:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

...to this world that you have made.

**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.**

*Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free bread is available – please ask. Please do not dip your bread in the wine as that is a health hazard.*

**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.**

*Stand for the blessing*

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

**Carol: 4** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**We would love to see you again:**

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

See our web site ([www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au](http://www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au)) for updates on how to be involved at St Paul's.

Let us know what you think:

*Please leave this service booklet at Church*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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