

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Advent 2, 2022

Song: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (TiS 275)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
Whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—The Candle of Peace

Second candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree and we sing:

Light one candle of hope,
One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope for every heart.
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle of peace,
One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace for every heart.
He comes! He comes!

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.

**Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

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.**

God of the keen blade,
Which cuts the roots of arrogant power
You raise voices of promise
In the dry lands of our desire;
Children of faith from the stones of earth.
Make us ready to receive the Spirit and the fire of love,
Wild and fierce and free;
Through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

(Shakespeare, S, *Prayers for an
Inclusive Church*, 2009)

**God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**God who made our home,
And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection,
A future and a hope,
To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Isaiah 11: 1-10

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord .

- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord .
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

The Psalm is said responsively. The LA reads the words in the plain text. The congregation responds with the words in bold text.

Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-21

- ¹ Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,
- ² That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.
- ³ Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
- ⁴ May he give justice to the poor among the people:
**and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures:
**and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.**
- ⁶ May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁸ Let his name live for ever:
and endure as long as the sun.
- ¹⁹ Let all peoples use his name in blessing:
and all nations call him blessed.
- ²⁰ Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel:
who alone does great wonders.

²¹ Blessed be his glorious name for ever:
and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen, Amen.

Romans 15: 4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name’;

¹⁰ and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

¹¹ and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him’;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (TiS 303)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 3 beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3: 1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.”’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His

winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

Sermon - www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/

Silence

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

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

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us then open our hearts and confess 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.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who return 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.

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.

Song: May the Mind of Christ My Saviour (TiS 609)

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. Alternatively, please consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

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.

[response]

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.**

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

*Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask).
If you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing (keep your hands
behind your back).*

With the high incidence of Covid and influenza in the community we ask you to:

- *Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m as you move forward*
- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

(Not announced): You are my hiding place (TiS 754)

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

**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:

...Take your encouragement from Christ,
that your joy may be complete.

**We will share in the Spirit;
We will find consolation in love.**

Practice a ministry of humility and compassion
For God is at work in you, empowering you

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.
We will go forth in hope and in peace.**

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

Song: From Heaven You Came (TiS 256)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!



Christmas Bowl is an ecumenical appeal run through Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. It gives hope and forges a loving connection between Christian communities in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering! You can **donate online** using this unique donation page- mycb.link/134847 or use the envelopes provided at the back of the church.

ABM 2022 Advent and Christmas Appeal - this Christmas Appeal through Anglicans in Development invites you to support projects which will positively impact individuals and communities in Australia and around the world. You can donate online www.abmission.org/ or by using the envelopes available at the back of the church!



Upcoming events

Sun 11 Dec **Blue Christmas**, 5.30pm - a quiet, reflective service, allowing you to acknowledge sadness and grief as you enter into a season where there can be pressure to be happy.

Sat 24 Dec **Family Christmas Eve Service** – 6pm, carols, storytime and a gift for every child
Midnight Service - 10.30pm, carols 30mins before a Christmas eucharist

Sun 25 Dec **Christmas Day Service**, 8.30am combined service.

To make a donation towards the **Archbishop's farewell gift** please use the following details for St Paul's and we will pass this on to the Diocese.

Anglican Parish of Ithaca-Ashgrove

BSB: 704901

Acc No: 00004420

Reference: **Arch Gift**



Playgroup has been in recess this year and we would love to start again as intergenerational play in 2023 if we find two more people to join the team. This is a practical, fun outreach to local families, offering connection and support to parents and carers with young children and giving kids stimulating play opportunities with other children as well as older adults. Friday mornings for 2hrs, during school terms. To learn more contact Rev Margaret or the office.

Bible Study and Morning Prayer - runs weekly on Wednesday mornings with Morning Prayer at 9am and Bible Study at 9.45am

For your prayers

The Archbishop Election Committee as they prepare for their task of looking for and discerning who will be our next Archbishop.

Stafford Parish, Revd Sue, The Ward Family, Barb, Margaret S, Nick and Jack, Maureen, Elizabeth, Melvie Rose, Sam, Kate, Liam, John, Anni, Revd Jack, Daphne, Genevieve, Revd Margaret's niece, Annie, Nick, The Paul Family and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. And for Joy, Romola and Noela who are at home or in a nursing home.