

Holy Communion

at St Paul's, Ashgrove

Advent 3, 2022



Song: Joyful, joyful we adore You (TiS 152)

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 Third Advent Candle—The Candle of Joy

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord **Thanks be to God**

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Joy.

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Third candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree

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

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

*Light one candle of joy,
One bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation
In Bethlehem's baby boy!*

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.

**Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

**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.**

God of the burning sand
and thirsty ground:
you call John into the wilderness
to announce a new creation
far from places of royal power;
make us ready for your intensity,
the judgement that opens our senses
to the poverty of our world
and calls to life
what lingers in death;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

**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 35: 1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus

² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the Lord ,
 the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands,
 and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 'Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you.'
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people;
 no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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.

The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
 Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed.
 The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.
 God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.
 The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

James 5: 7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Song: Let there be Love (SPHB 21)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 11 beginning at verse 2.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11: 2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'
⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see:
⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'
⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."
¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (TiS 265)

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): As the Deer pants for the water (TiS 703)

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:

May you know the peace
Of loving hands reached out across
All borders, ideologies,
Races, creeds and genders:
Hands that bring
Healing to age-old conflicts
And the demolition of ancient walls.
May you hear its gentle voice say,
“You are enough.
You are loved.
All will be well.”

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

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: Joy to The World (TiS 268)

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

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**



**Intergenerational
Playgroups**

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 – is now in recess until 2023.

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 with Revd Kathy and Revd Jack as Locums, 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.