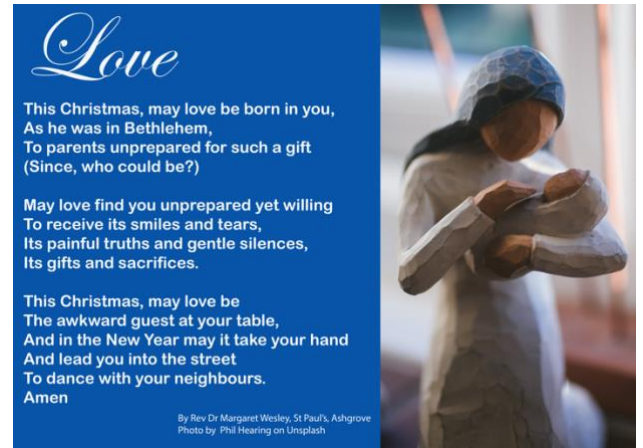


Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Advent 4, 2022



Song: God is Love (TiS 153)

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 Fourth Advent Candle—The Candle of Love

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

We have lit three candles - for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

Fourth 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!*

*Light one candle of love,
One bright candle for love.
He brings love to 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.**

God with us,
borne by Mary's flesh
beyond all convention:
give us the faith of Joseph
to see the Spirit's work
where the world sees only shame;
to listen to the promise
and waken the cry
of life renewed and love reborn;
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 7: 10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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 80: 1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
**you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;**

² Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.

³ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
**show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

⁴ O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

⁶ You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
**show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

¹⁷ Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
**on that son of man
whom you made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

¹⁹ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
**show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

Romans 1: 1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Song: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (TiS 136)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 1 beginning at verse 18.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1: 18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and

said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

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.**

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: You Who were Rich

You who were rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake became so poor,
Thrones for a manger you surrendered
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
You who were rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake became so poor.

You who are God beyond all praising
All for love's sake became a man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising

Heavenwards by your eternal plan.
You who are God beyond all praising
All for loves sake became a man.

You who are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you.
Immanuel, within us dwelling,
Help us love others as you do.

You who are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you.

(Mission Praise 700, Used with permission)

An offering will be collected during this hymn. Preferably, please consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish, 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.

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): A new commandment (TiS 699)

...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 peace, joy and love.**

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

Song: Love came down (TiS 317)

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!



Please note that all Sunday services in January will be at 8:30am.

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**



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.