



Dont feel like celebrating this year?  
Let's get together to acknowledge the anxieties and disappointments  
of 2022 and find hope for a new year.

# Blue Christmas

## at St Paul's, Ashgrove

5:30pm, Dec 11, 2022

Everyone is welcome.

**Choir and Organ:** *Panis Angelicus*. Franck

### Welcome

### A Reading from Luke 1:46-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for you have looked with favour on the lowly state of your servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is your name;  
<sup>50</sup> indeed, your mercy is for those who fear you  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm;  
you have scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> You have brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> you have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> you have come to the aid of your child Israel,  
in remembrance of your mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise you made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

## **A reading from Matthew 11:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

## **Homily**

## **Time to Reflect**

How are you feeling about the year that is ending? What have you lost and what do you fear? Write these things in a few words on the card you have been given. If you need another card just raise your hand. When you are ready, attach your card to your flower, bring it forward and plant it. Please do your best to give others their space as you move around the church.

You are also welcome to light a candle, asking God to bring light to a dark place. If you would like a blessing, and perhaps to be anointed with oil for healing, Rev Margaret will be available. Take all the time you need. The musicians will play until everyone is ready.

**Choir and Organ:** *Be Still, For the Presence of the Lord*

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we remember at Christmas time that you became a little child for our sake, to share our life in its laughter and its tears.

To you we pray

**Comfort us and hold us, O Lord**

You grew in wisdom and grace, and learned obedience through suffering.  
To you we pray

**Comfort us and hold us, O Lord**

You learned a trade from your father, Joseph, and knew the financial insecurity of life as a worker. For those among us who are seeking work and struggling financially:

To you we pray

**Comfort us and hold us, O Lord**

You comforted those who mourned the loss of children, family and friends.

To you we pray

**Comfort us and hold us, O Lord**

You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all.

To you we pray

**Comfort us and hold us, O Lord**

You promised to raise those who trust in you, just as you were raised by your Father.

To you we pray

**Comfort us and hold us, O Lord**

Help us, Lord Jesus, to trust in your love, to know your comfort and joy, and to be strengthened in the hope you give us. Restore our suffering world to health, to unity and to joy.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God our comforter,

You are a refuge and a strength for us,

Close to us in times of distress.

Help us to hear your call to faith

So that our fear is dispelled

Our loneliness eased

And our hope reawakened.

May your Holy Spirit lift us above our natural sorrow,

To the peace and light of your constant love;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray together:

**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.**

**Solo:** O Holy Night

**Choir and Organ:** The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Stay as long as you like, then leave when you are ready.

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

Christmas Eve	6pm and 10:30pm
Christmas Day	8:30am
Sundays until end of January and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month	8:30am
Other Sundays from Feb	7:30am and 9am