

# Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Epiphany, 2023

**Song:** As With Gladness Men Of Old (TiS 314)

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

**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.**

Lord God of the nations,  
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour:  
may the brightness of your incarnate Word  
pierce the night that covers the earth,  
signal the dawn of justice and peace,  
and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **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 60: 1-6**

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord .

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

#### **Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your judgement, O God:  
and your righteousness to the son of a king,

**<sup>2</sup> That he may judge your people rightly:  
and the poor of the land with equity.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:  
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

**<sup>4</sup> May he give justice to the poor among the people:  
and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures:  
and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.

**<sup>6</sup> May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:  
and as showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time shall righteousness flourish:  
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

**<sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup> All kings shall fall down before him:  
and all nations do him service.

**<sup>12</sup> He will deliver the needy when they cry:  
and the poor that have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup> He will pity the helpless and the needy:  
and save the lives of the poor.

**<sup>14</sup> He will redeem them from oppression and violence:  
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

### **Ephesians 3: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

**Song:** Christ, Be our Light (Song Book 23)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 2 beginning at verse 1.  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Matthew 2: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

<sup>2</sup> asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its

rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

<sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

<sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

<sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Sermon - [www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/](http://www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/)

1. How has this star(word) guided me over the past year?
2. In what ways has it challenged my habits of thinking and acting?
3. What gifts did this star(word) give me that I will take into the new year?

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

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing 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 turn to him 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:** The Summons (Song Book 26)

*While we will now be passing around the collection bowls again you may like to also consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and 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 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 the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

...in songs of never-ending praise:

**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.***

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament in remembrance that Christ died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*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.*

*Song (not announced): Jesus, Name Above All Names (Song Book, 8)*

Father of all  
we give you thanks and praise  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped:  
so we and all your people will be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

Announcements

*Please stand for the blessing*

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

**Song:** Shine, Jesus, Shine (TiS 675)

# ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

## Upcoming events

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Sun 15 Jan      | <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> (after morning tea)   |
| Sat 11 Feb, 6pm | <b>Cryptic Conversations</b> (relaunch of St Paul's Wine & Cheese nights) with Patrick Oliver |
| Sat 18 Feb      | <b>Men's Breakfast</b>  |
| Sun 19 Feb      | <b>AGM</b>  |

**Bible Study and Morning Prayer** – is now in recess until February 2023.

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.

## 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.