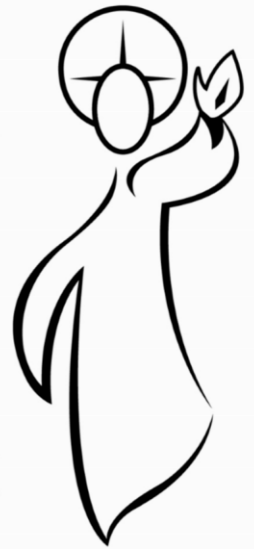

ANGLICAN CHURCH
of the ASCENSION



24th December 2022
MIDNIGHT MASS

EAST BURWOOD

“Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope”

Welcome to Church

MIDNIGHT MASS

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great
light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9.2, 6

**Father Anthony & Kym, the Wardens and the
Parish Council join in wishing you
a happy, holy and safe Christmas.**

LITURGY FOR THE MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Before each service we enter a time of silence as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Let us proceed in peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Entrance Hymn:

Once in royal David's
city stood lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall
with the poor, despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

Blessing of the Crib:

God of Mary and Joseph, God of shepherds and animals, + bless this crib and bless us all as we gaze on the barn birth in this manger scene. May these figures tell us the story of how angels and humans found the Baby born in humility to give us an insight into the state into which so many of your people across the world are still being born today. Fill this church and our homes with a sense of gratitude for bringing heaven to earth for us this Christmastide. **Amen.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high
when his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

TIS 312 Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95 *alt.*

LIGHTING of the CHRISTMAS CANDLE:

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

Tonight is a celebration of the birth of our Saviour. During Advent we have lit candles in anticipation of the coming of Christ.

We thank and praise our Holy God for sending this most wonderful gift. We pray that by living in him, we may know the peace and joy of his abiding presence now and forevermore.

We light the last candle to celebrate the newborn Christ, God amongst us, born as one of us, the Light who gives light to all.

The Christmas Candle is lit:

**We light the last candle for ourselves, and we open our hearts
to the presence of God dwelling in us.**

Let us pray:

Giver of Hope, as the old world journeyed to the God made human, you have come to us tonight. Let us open our hearts and our hands to you, as you come to us as king with the haunting cry of a new-born child.

Your kingdom is not like any state, but threatens all existing forms of establishment, crossing all borders and boundaries.

The old order will be swept away as your new way comes.

Tonight, you come as a Christmas present that cannot be priced.

We know that if God had not given you to us, he would still be a distant stranger and not a baby in a manger.

God of Wonder, you have made this holy night to shine with the brightness of the True Light you sent with your Son Jesus, born to be our Redeemer, God living amongst us.

May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness but will have the true light of life.

Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Welcome

Opening Prayer:

Lord, on this most holy of nights,
direct our thoughts to your coming among us.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth.

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power to free our praise,
inspire our prayer and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyries:

**Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.**

Invitation to Confession:

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

**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.**

Absolution

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.

The Gloria:

**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.**

The Prayer of the Day:

Good and gracious God,
who gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Saviour of all, lying in a manger:
on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host
that we may sing your glory on high.
Give us a place among the shepherds
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song:

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations:

and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:

he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:

it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Majesty and glory are before him:

beauty and power are in his sanctuary.

Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:

render to the Lord glory and might.

Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:

bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:

let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Say among the nations that the Lord is king:

he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved;

and he shall judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:

let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:

then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:

he shall judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with his truth.

The second reading: Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Gradual hymn:

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.**

**For Christ was born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels
keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke, chapter 2, beginning at verse 1

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all

who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels
their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.**

TiS 316 Phillips Brooks 1835-93 *alt.*

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us stand together and 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 Church and for the world.

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

At the conclusion

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Preparation

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes
in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

Prayer of Approach:

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
And his name is called The Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory hymn:

It came upon a midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
from heav’n’s all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled:
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lonely plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and humankind at war, hears not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, all ye of strife,
and hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
take heart, for comfort, love, and hope
come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

EH 26. E. H. Sears 1810-76

Prayer over the gifts:

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 Great Thanksgiving:

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
Mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
And lived as one of us.

In your word made flesh
You have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
To give knowledge of your glory
In the face of Jesus Christ.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered a one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
And all the company of heaven,
We proclaim your great and glorious name,
For ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

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

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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.**

The breaking of the bread:

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.

Agnus Dei:

**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.**

Invitation to communion:

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

The Communion

*We welcome all who are communicant members of any Christian
Church to share communion. This is the Lord's table and all are
welcome to share the feast here.*

Post communion hymn:

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

TiS 318 vv. 1-2 Anon ?1885
v.3, Anno. ?1892

Prayer after Communion:

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful
to your word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence to all people.

**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.**

The Blessing

May God the Creator, who has loved the eternal Word from before the foundation of the world, now shed that love upon you without measure. **Amen.**

May Christ our Redeemer, who by his incarnation, united heaven and earth, now make you one with each other and with him. **Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became Mother of the Word, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ within your life. **Amen**

And the + blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn:

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!**

**Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!**

TiS 303. Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others

Dismissal:

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

WELCOME TO CHURCH. . . We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today, please take Communion, whatever your denomination and come and worship with us again. If you are visiting, please make yourself known to Fr. Anthony or to one of our welcomers following the service and do stay for a cuppa and chat!

The flowers today have been donated by the family of Leo & Ethyl Lloyd in their memory and arranged by Jan Mansfield.

The Wednesday 10:00am service is in recess, recommencing on 11th January 2023

Friday Cuppa & Chat is also in recess, recommencing on 6th January 2023

Incense will be used at the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord 9:30am service, 1st January 2023.

It's a time for giving: At this time of year when we give to others, why not give a little time to the church as we head towards 2023! Robin Jellis would love to hear from anyone who can help on the Flower Roster, and Ros Smith would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with 9:30am Morning Tea Roster!

News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*. The NewsStand is now live on TMA's website, using the link <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand>.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday:

Jeremiah 31.15-20

Psalm: 124

1 John 1.5-2.2

Matthew 2.13-18

Next Sunday: EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR: THE CHURCH

We pray that God will raise up able and dedicated ministers for vacant parishes in our Diocese.

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Reconciliation and justice for our First Nations People. Those impacted by the state of the economy and recent natural disasters.

THE WORLD

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff. A compassionate outcome for all Asylum Seekers. Productive and harmonious relationships among Pacific neighbours. A peaceful outcome in Eastern Europe. Those affected by climate change - wisdom and leadership to prevent further environmental damage.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Please hold in your daily prayers any individual parish members who may be on your heart, and for an awareness of God's presence in the events of the week.

Those in special need of prayer: *Helen Daniels, Estelle Carman, Jean & Alan Close, Shirley and Alan Wagner, Glenys Howell, Barbara Stark, Gwen McMahan, Carole Smith, Pauline Le Riche, Lyle Mansfield, Stanley & Rose Joseph, Marie Cleaver (Judithe's friend), Geoffrey (Josh's father), David and Glen Wood, Fanny (Aggie's sister), Joy (Jan Wheeler's sister), Dave Ritchie, Gerald (Pat Eadon's brother), Pauline Tudball, Don Lambourne, and others known to us.*



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land,
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.
We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*

Vicar: Fr. Anthony Frost

Phone: 0409 012 543

OFFICE MANAGER: Ron McKenzie

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PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

FACEBOOK Please visit and  www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheets to Ron McKenzie by 5:00p.m. Thursday evening (r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Sunday	8:00am Eucharist
	9:30am Eucharist
	'Godzone' children's program during 9.30 am service (during school term)
Tuesday	<i>Fr Anthony's day of rest!</i>
Wednesday	10:00am Eucharist
Friday	10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for cuppa and chat.

Commitment to Child Safety: At the Church of the Ascension we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to Child abuse or abuse of vulnerable people.

This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.

Read the full **Commitment to Child Safety** document on our website: www.ascensionchurch.org.au