

"Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope"

Welcome to Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. John 1.1, 14

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

LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Entrance Hymn:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive its king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing. and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. Jov to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let us our songs employ; while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

TiS 268 Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt. based on Psalm 98

Acclamation

Blessed be Christ, made visible in the flesh, seen by the angels, and proclaimed among the nations.

Blessed be God forever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome

LIGHTING of the CHRISTMAS CANDLE:

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Long ago, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born on this day. He was promised by the holy prophets, and came to save us from anyone who treated us unworthily. May God's loving kindness shine above us who live in the shadow of death to guide us into the way of peace.

The Christmas Candle is lit:

We light the last candle to welcome you into our hearts, that your light and love may shine through us to dispel the darkness of the world.

Let us pray:

Brother Jesus, you came into our world clothed not in the extraordinary, but in the ordinary. You came swaddled in the clothes of our weak mortal humanity to be laid in a manger. From this lowly origin, you grew up to show us the greatness of our humanity when fully alive. Continue to come to us, to live with us, Emmanuel, Lord, God with us, this Christmastide.

Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, we rejoice that you have been revealed to us as a baby in the wonder of the Word made flesh. We rejoice that you, our brother, are with us forever, as a hidden, silent presence, as a love that draws us like a magnet, as a light that shines clearer than our wilful blindness. With the power of your example, may we never betray your trust in us, but have the courage to change our lives so that the hungry may be fed, the poor achieve dignity, the oppressed go free and the stranger be ever welcomed. As you were born in a stable in Bethlehem, be born in us now.

Let your Spirit dwell in us that we might give birth to your promise of new and everlasting life in our world. 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:

God Most High, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence: grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have given us, and how great is the hope to which we are called in the Word made flesh; 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 52: 7 - 10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation. who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people. he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song:

for he has done marvellous things;

His right hand and his holy arm:

they have got him the victory.

The Lord has made known his salvation:

he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness

towards the house of Israel:

and all the ends of the earth

have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:

break into singing and make melody.

Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:

upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.

With trumpets and with horns:

cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

the good earth and those who live upon it.

Let the rivers clap their hands:

and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;

For he comes to judge the earth:

he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

The second reading: Hebrews 1: 1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

'You are my Son;

today I have begotten you'? Or again,

'I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says,

'He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says,

'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,

and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

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 wonderous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear my 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 John, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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:

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

O come let us

Sing, choirs of angels sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heaven above, "Glory to God, in the highest":

O come let us

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:
O come let us

TiS 304 Possibly by John Francis Wade c.1711-86 tr. Frederick Oakley 1802-80

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, 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

Post communion hymn:

Silent night, holy night: all is calm, all is bright round the virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night: shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.' Silent night, holy night: wondrous star, lend your light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King; Christ our Saviour is born, Christ our Saviour is born.

Tis 311. Joseph Mohr 1792-1848

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

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will, 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

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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. In this week's NewsStand:

- A Voice to Parliament is just a first step towards healing The Melbourne Anglican
- Essendon Football Club apologises to Andrew Thorburn over handling of his short stint as CEO – ABC News
- God and guns: the strict religious upbringing of the Wieambilla shooters The Guardian
- 'The great Brethren migration': Church in mass exodus from Windsor The Age
- Frank Houston was a 'serial paedophile' and extent of his crimes may never be known, court hears The Guardian
- The Northern Territory opened its first Islamic school this year. How did it go? SBS News
- Christmas comes early and bittersweet for Eastern Europe's Ukrainian refugees Reuters

- What Language Is This? Coptic Comes to Christmas Christianity Today
- Who is at the manger? Nativity sets around the world show each culture's take on the Christmas story The Conversation
- Neither total exclusion and unqualified acceptance: The meaning of Hanukkah in a multifaith society ABC News
- and more...

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.

Sun 25 St Stephen's Warrandyte (Mark Hanson); Victorian Council of Churches (Dr Graeme Blackman, President, Ian Smith, Executive Officer); St Stephen's Gardenvale (Bp Paul Barker); Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia; The Anglican Church of Melanesia;

Mon 26 Sojourners Church Werribee (Andrew Seedhom, Mark Tibben); Religious Orders serving within the Anglican Church of Australia;

Tues 27 St Thomas' Werribee (vacant incumbency, Nisher Kunoo); St Michael's Grammar School (Terrie Jones, Principal, Kenyon McKie, Chaplain); Locums and all retired clergy; Wed 28 St Matthew's Wheelers Hill (Gerald Crispin); Working Group on Aboriginal Matters (NATSIAC); The Anglican Church of Australia (Primate Abp Geoffrey Smit h, General Secretary Anne Hywood, the General Synod & the Standing Committee); Thurs 29 Holy Trinity Williamstown (Elizabeth Murray); Archdeaconry of Essendon (Vanessa Bennett); The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Asst Bps Denise Ferguson, Timothy Harris, Christopher McLeod; Clergy & People);

Fri 30 Yarraville Anglican Parish (David Fuller); Peninsula Grammar (Stuart Johnston, Principal, Mark Sweeney, Chaplain); The Diocese of Armidale (Bp Rod Chiswell, Clergy & People);

Sat 31 St Andrew's Aberfeldie (Michael Danaher); Anglican Board of Mission (John Deane, Executive Director); The Diocese of Ballarat (Bp Garry Weatherill, Clergy & People).

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 McMahon, 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.

Those at the Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge Those working in Health and Aged Care settings Our local Schools, Colleges, and Universities

> Ourselves - as we are strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer for one another





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 **Phone:** 0418 320 301

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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 pewsheet to Ron McKenzie by

5:00p.m. Thursday evening (<u>r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au</u>.)

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 Fr Anthony's day of rest!

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist

Friday 10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for cuppa and chat.

<u>Commitment to Child Safety:</u> 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