

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
THE PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF
WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYNS
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11th December 2022 — Eucharist 9.30am & 11.00am

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Sentence

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11.11

Welcome & Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

and also with you.

Blessed are those who will come from east and west, from north and south,
to feast in the kingdom of God.

The Advent Wreath

Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the time when we prepare once again for the coming of Jesus. We light a candle each week to remind us that Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.

**“Everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord will be saved”**

Romans 10:9

Sing: TiS 289

*‘Christmas is coming’ the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring.*

First Candle is lit

The first is for God's promise to put the wrong things right, and bring to earth's darkness the hope of love and light.
‘Christmas is coming’...

Second Candle is lit

The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

*'Christmas is coming'
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.*



Third candle is lit

The third is for the Baptist,
who cried, 'Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus, both this and every day.'

'Christmas is coming'...

John L. Bell 1949-

Confession & Absolution

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love let us
look within, search our hearts and seek God's healing grace.

**God of the loving heart,
we confess before You those places in our hearts
where we have refused you entrance:
people we have refused to love;
habits we never got round to changing;
good things we have left undone;
and ways in which we hurt You, ourselves and others.**

**Come to us in the light of Your Christ.
Shine on those places we have hidden from You.
Show us new ways to live.**

**Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts,
that Christ may find a home in us.**

Be among us now and forever. Amen.

May God who loves you,
have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn TiS 282. tune Woodlands (411)

1. The voice of God goes out to all the world;
his glory speaks across the universe.
The great King's herald cries from star to star:
'With power, with justice, he will walk his way.'
2. The Lord has said, 'Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
a lamp to every nation, light from light':
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.
3. The broken reed he will not trample down,
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.
4. Anointed with the Spirit and with power,
he comes to crown with comfort all the weak,
to show the face of justice to the poor:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.
5. His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.

Luke Connaughton 1917-79

Words by permission McCrimmon Publishing, UK

The Collect is said by the priest

God of glory and compassion,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms,
broken lives are made whole,
and fearful hearts grow strong in faith.

Open our eyes to your presence
and awaken our hearts to sing your praise.
To all who long for your Son's return
grant perseverance and patience,
that we may announce in word and deed
the good news of the kingdom.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah [35. 1-10]

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146. 4–9

Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

Come, Lord, and save us.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
Whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas,
and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

Response

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

Response

The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia!

Response

A Reading from the Letter of James [5. 7-10]

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being
patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You
also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of
the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another,
so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at
the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved,
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [11. 2-11]

GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Sermon will be followed by a time of silence for reflection

Affirmation of Faith (APBA p. 37)

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the Celtic Christian tradition, a circle was a sacred space. It was a replica of the cosmos and symbolized the Celtic belief that time was circular rather than linear. God was the Creator and he inhabited the centre of the cosmos and time. This belief carried over into one of their prayer expressions—the caim prayer.

The special type of protection prayer, the Caim (kaym) Prayer or Circle Prayer developed in the Celtic Church. This was a way to surround oneself with the protection and blessing of the Triune God.

To perform the Caim Prayer, you stand up, point your right index finger at the ground and turn in a clockwise circle. At certain positions you will say prayers.

Use your imagination to see yourself and those you are praying for surrounded by the safety of the Father's care and protection.

Let us pray for all people and for the Church through out the world.

Circle us, Lord

Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark word

Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation

Enable us to be victors over sin and despair

Enable us to become that which you would desire

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle us with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives

Protect them in the decisions that they face

Protect their homes and relationships

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our families with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle this nation with Advent love and hope

Create a desire to listen to the Advent message
Create a willingness to understand and respond
Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child
(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our nation with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation

Where there is sickness and disease bring healing

Where there is hunger and despair bring hope

Where there is torture and oppression bring release

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle this world with the light of your presence

Circle us Lord,

Keep love within, keep hatred out.

Keep joy within, keep fear out.

Keep peace within, keep worry out.

Keep light within, keep darkness out.

**May you stand in the circle with us,
today and always. Amen.**

Please stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn TiS 272. tune, Stuttgart

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley 1707–88
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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks,
all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with angels and archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**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.**

On the night before he died for us,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.” ✠

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had

given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” ✕

In obedience to this command:

**We remember his death on the cross.
We proclaim the resurrection to new life.
We await Christ’s coming in glory.**

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. ✕

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ’s Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons,
that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

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

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us.

**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 AND THE COMMUNION

The Priest breaks the Bread

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Happy are those who share the banquet.

The 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 peace.**

The priest gives the Invitation.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

AFTER COMMUNION

After Communion Hymn—446 AHB

1. Here, Lord, we take the broken bread
and drink the wine, believing
that by your life our souls are fed,
your parting gifts receiving.
2. As you have given, so we would give
ourselves for others' healing;
as you have lived, so we would live
the Father's love revealing.

Charles Venn Pilcher 1879-1961

Father, we give You thanks for the bread of life.
Open our hearts in welcome
to prepare for the coming of our Saviour,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

**As Christmas trees are lighted,
as people rush to shop and send their cards,
as Christmas songs are heard everywhere,
keep us close to You,
that the One whose coming we celebrate,
Jesus Christ,
may be honoured in all we do. Amen.**

Notices

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Concluding Hymn TiS 787. tune, Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light

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The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.