

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
THE PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF
WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYNS

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—18TH DECEMBER 2022
Eucharist 8.00am & 9.30am. Ante Communion 11.00am

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

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.

Sentence

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be
called Emmanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1.23

The Advent Wreath

*Today is the fourth and final 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'...

Fourth Candle is lit

The fourth is for the Virgin, who mothered God's own son and sang how God's justice was meant for everyone.

'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 302. tune Gabriel's Message

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!
2. 'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
'most highly favoured lady'. Gloria!
4. of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Basque Carol, paraphrased by
Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924
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The Collect is said by the priest

Eternal God,
in the psalms of David,
in the words of the prophets,
in the dream of Joseph
your promise is spoken.
At last, in the womb of the Virgin Mary
your Word takes flesh.

Teach us to welcome Jesus, the promised Emmanuel,
and to preach the good news of his coming,
that every age may know him
as the source of redemption and grace.

Grant 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.**

Please be seated

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah [7. 10-16]

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80. 1-7, 17-19

L = Lectern Side

P = Pulpit side

- L) Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;
- P) Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.

**All Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

- L) O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- P) You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- L) You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**All Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

- P) Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.
- L) And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

**All Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [1. 1-7]

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

*A virgin shall conceive and bear a son
and his name shall be Emmanuel: God with us.*

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [1. 18-25]
GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep,
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Come, Jesus, come, and in your mercy,
hear our prayer

Concluding prayer

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.**

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 COVID Safe "Sign of Peace"

Offertory Hymn AHB 193/TiS 265. tune, Veni Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
2. O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...
3. O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...
4. O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...

5. O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier
based on Antiphons from 9th cent. or earlier
tr. John Mason Neale 1818–66 *alt.*

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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

[1,2,3] **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, 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

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

Concluding Hymn TiS 283. tune, Thodoric

1905 92

Verses

1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Refrain

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes.
who will make him welcome?*

2. God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man, born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Refrain

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid: till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

Refrain



4. Journey ends: where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes:
we will make him welcome.

Frederick Pratt Green 1903-
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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.



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