



**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA**

**The Parochial District of  
Wangaratta West and  
The Warbys**



**Second Sunday of Advent  
10th December 2023**

**Holy Eucharist, 9.30 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.**



Postal Address: 42A Appin Street, Wangaratta, Vic 3677.

Vicarage: 5721 6692. Mob. 0427 584 624

Parish Email: [wangwestac@bigpond.com](mailto:wangwestac@bigpond.com)

*St. Michael's, Wangaratta. St Paul's, Glenrowan. St George's, Taminick.*

Direct Debit: Parish of Wangaratta West & Warbys

A/c No. 126778711. BSB 633 108

Today is the first of the two Advent Sundays cantered on the ministry of John the Baptist as the Forerunner of the Messiah. We hear Mark's account of the beginning of John's ministry and message. John is described as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the one who embodied the role foreseen by Isaiah as the messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Christ. He used the traditional Jewish ceremony of renewal and repentance—Baptism—but promises that the One who is coming will immerse people in the Spirit of God.



**Our first reading** is the passage from Isaiah quoted by Mark concerning John the Baptist. This comes from the time of the end of the Jewish people's exile in Babylon and was an exhortation to them to return to the land of promise now that they had been freed by the Persian king, Cyrus. This second exodus is filled with the promise of God's love and care for the people.

**The second reading**, from Peter's second letter, looks toward the end of time. The writer is concerned with how we live in this time in anticipation for the time to come when the Day of the Lord will be revealed.

We live in the time in between Christ's first Advent and his second coming, and we gather in the Eucharist as people immersed by Baptism into God's Spirit. We are called not only to celebrate God's presence as our Shepherd but also to be messengers who, like John, announce the coming of God's kingdom. We do this by proclaiming the Word, by celebration of God's sacramental presence, and by lives of peace and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.  
Copyright © 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.*

The resources used in this order of service are: A Prayer Book for Australia.  
Confession from The Methodist Worship Book (GB) 1999.  
Prayers of the People from Traces of Glory © David Adam 1999.  
Common Worship (Church of England): Thanksgiving Prayer F & After Communion prayer.  
Permission granted by The Ordinary for use in the parish in Advent 2023.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn AHB 197/TIS 269. tune Bristol ?*

1. Hark the glad sound!  
the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne  
and every voice a song.
2. On him the Spirit largely poured  
exerts its sacred fire;  
wisdom and might and zeal and love  
his holy breast inspire.
3. He comes the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
4. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
5. His silver trumpets publish loud  
the jubilee of the Lord,  
our debts are all remitted now,  
our heritage restored.
6. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven's exalted arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge 1702-51

### *The Greeting*

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

**And also with you.**

*The Acclamation*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:

**He has come to his people and set them free.**

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

**born of the house of his servant David.**

In the tender compassion of our God:

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death:

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Let us pray

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**you draw and welcome us,**

**emptied of pride and hungry for your grace,**

**to this your kingdom's feast.**

**Nowhere can we find the food**

**for which our souls cry out,**

**but here, Lord, at your table.**

**Invigorate and nourish us, good Lord,**

**that in and through this bread and wine**

**your love may meet us**

**and your life complete us**

**in the power and glory of your kingdom. Amen.**

*The Priest says*

The Lord is coming!

Prepare his way:

**The Lord is coming!**

**We are making ready.**

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

*A moment or two of quiet thought*

*The Confession*

**Holy and forgiving God,**

**we have sinned against you and each other**

**in thought and word and deed.**

**We have turned from your life-giving word,**

**and ignored the message of those you sent.**

**We are unprepared for the coming of your Son.  
Have mercy upon us and forgive us,  
that strengthened by your love  
we may serve you more faithfully;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and declares God's forgiveness*

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### THE ADVENT CANDLES

#### **Advent 2 – the prophets**

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The second candle is lit and this response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness on that Day.

Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear;  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message - challenged, shaken -  
hearts awaken: God is near!

Mark Earey  
Copyright © 2002 Mark Earey

*The Collect is said or sung*

With tender comfort and transforming power  
you come into our midst,  
O God of mercy and might.

Make ready a way in the wilderness,  
clear a straight path in our hearts,  
and form us into a repentant people,  
that the advent of your Son  
may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.

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 prophecy of Isaiah [40. 1-11]**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her  
term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the  
Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the  
field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'  
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
    he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Psalm is said: Left side, Right side. All together

**Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-13**

O Lord, you were gracious to your land:  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your people:  
**and covered all their sin.**

*I will hear what the Lord God will speak:  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.*

Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:  
**and his glory shall dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth are met together:  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other;**

Truth shall flourish out of the earth:  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The Lord will also give us all that is good:  
**and our land shall yield its plenty.**

*For righteousness shall go before him:  
and tread the path before his feet.*

### A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter [3. 8-15a]

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

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

*please stand*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark [1. 1-8]  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” ’,



John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

*Sermon*

*A period of silence for reflection may follow the Sermon*

*Affirmation of Faith*

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:

**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:

**for with his blood, he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

*cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17, 20*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

Lord, you come to us in power, to send us out in your Name.  
Strengthen us to proclaim the Good News without fear.  
May we be able to say; 'Here is your God',  
and show forth your glory in our land.  
We pray for preachers of the word and ministers of the  
sacraments. We pray for spiritual leaders and writers,  
for all who seek to witness to your love.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

We pray for all who influence the minds of your people:  
for the press and for broadcasters, for those who through the  
spoken or written word affect the way we live.  
We pray for teachers and leaders of young people,  
for all who make decisions about our future  
or set us standards to follow,  
for all who influence our minds and our hearts.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

Lord, in our homes let us be wise in our use of words,  
that we may dwell in love and peace with each other.  
We pray for the gift of good communication.  
We remember all who have stopped speaking to each other.  
We pray for areas where words are used to hurt,  
for homes where there is abuse,  
and places where there is violence and cruelty.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

Lord, you restore, you forgive, you bring peace.  
We pray for broken peoples, for the broken-hearted,  
and the broken-spirited.  
We pray for the guilt-ridden, for the disturbed,  
for those who are unable to communicate with others,  
that they may know your peace and your love.  
We remember friends and loved ones with whom we have lost  
contact through illness.

We pray for all who are ill at this time, especially . . . . .

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

As we wait for your coming in glory,  
we pray for all who have passed into the fullness of your kingdom,  
especially remembering . . . . . whose Year's Mind is this week,  
We give you thanks for the saints in glory,  
remembering this week Lucy and John of the Cross;

for our benefactors who have gone before us.  
We pray for all our loved ones departed from us.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

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.**

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father,  
and the 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:** *The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus)*. tune Blaenwern.

1. Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who has come to set us free.  
He has raised for us a Saviour  
sprung from royal David's tree.  
Through his prophets God had spoken  
of the hope the Christ would bring;  
of his faithfulness and mercy  
let each generation sing.
2. Long ago God made a promise  
he would set his people free,  
that in all our life and worship  
we might know true liberty,  
to be holy, to be righteous  
in his sight throughout our days;  
now this child will be a herald  
making ready all God's ways.
3. Let all people know salvation  
through forgiveness of their sin,  
as our God in his compassion  
bids a shining dawn begin.  
So may all who dwell in darkness  
see the shadows disappear

while he guides our feet in pathways  
where his peace is ever near.

Anne Harrison (b. 1954)  
based on Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus, The Song of Zechariah)

*At the Offertory the following may be said*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your delight.  
Though we chose the path of rebellion  
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.  
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore praising you and saying/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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me. ✠

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

In the same way,  
after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. ✠

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection,  
his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight. ✠

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with  
Michael, Paul, George, Mary and all your saints at the table in your  
kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
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 Priest breaks the Bread*

We who are many are one body in Christ,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

*The following is said or sung by all*

**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 priest gives the Invitation.*

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.

*Communion Reflection Hymn: A&M 441. tune Song 46.*

1. Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord,  
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
2. Saved by that body and that holy blood,  
with souls refreshed, we render thanks to God.
3. Salvation's giver, Christ, the only Son,  
by his dear cross and blood the victory won.
4. Offered was he for greatest and for least,  
himself the victim, and himself the priest.
5. Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,  
and take the pledges of salvation here.

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

AFTER COMMUNION

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

*Notices may be given at this point.*

Concluding Hymn: *Longing for Light*

1. 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.*

2. 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!*  
*Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*
3. 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! . . .*
4. 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! . . . .*
5. 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! .. .*

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

### *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*

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