



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
24th December 2023**



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



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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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: A & M 34. tune Picardy.

1. Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear;
and the faithful few were sighing,
'surely, Lord, the day is near;
the Desire of all the nations —
it is time He should appear.'
2. Then the Spirit of the Highest
on a virgin meek came down,
and He burdened her with blessing,
and He pained her with renown;
for she bare the Lord's Anointed,
for His cross and for His crown.
3. Earth for Him had groaned and travailed
since the ages first began;
for in Him was hid the secret
that through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

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 4 – Mary

Jesus said, ‘Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.’

I am the servant of the Lord.

Let it be to me according to his word.

The fourth 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.

Mary’s gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother’s womb.
Who could guess the final story?
- cross and glory;
empty tomb!

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The Collect is said or sung

Here in our midst, O God of mystery,
you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages.
For you we wait, for you we listen.

Upon hearing your voice
may we, like Mary, embrace your will
and become a dwelling fit for your Word.

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.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the second book of Samuel [7. 1-11, 16]

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

please stand

The Song of Mary (Magnificat)

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
For you, Lord,
have looked with favour on your lowly servant:
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
You, the Almighty, have done great things for me:
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you:
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Luke 1.46-55

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [16. 25-27]

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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

please stand

Gradual Hymn: AHB 222/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).

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [1. 26-38]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

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

Please stand

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

As Mary waits for the birth of her child, so we wait, O God,
for the time of your coming, for you call us, too,
to bring the Saviour to the world.

We pray for your world, for the poor and the hungry, the captive and the weak and all who wait to hear your good news of peace. May the seeds of your Spirit in us bring forth justice, so that all may share together in the wealth of your creation.

Jesus, son of woman, **be born in us.**

We pray for your church, for all who wait expectantly for your coming, to hear the good news that salvation is at hand. May the seeds of your Spirit in us bring forth faithfulness, so that we may show your saving grace to people everywhere.

Jesus, son of woman, **be born in us.**

We pray for our community, for the forgotten and marginalised and for all who wait to hear your message of goodwill. May the seeds of your Spirit in us bring forth love, so that we may bring acceptance and reconciliation to those with whom we live and work.

Jesus, son of woman, **be born in us.**

We pray for all in need, for the sick and the sorrowing and for all who wait to hear the good news of solace and healing, May the seeds of your Spirit in us bring forth compassion, so that we may bring care and comfort to those who suffer.

Jesus, son of woman, **be born in us.**

We give you thanks for your faithful people, for all whose lives have borne the fruit of your Spirit, especially for Mary of Nazareth, those of this parish and all whom we hold dear. May we with Mary and all the saints, rejoice in God our Saviour, for we too have found favour with God, our God who delights to dwell with us.

Jesus, son of woman, **be born in us.**

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

Dear friends, while you are waiting for the day of God,
strive to be found at peace by him.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn: AHB 451/TiS 526. tune, Living Lord.

1. Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.
2. Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.
3. Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's son;
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.
4. Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,

into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Patrick Robert Norman Appleford 1925 –2018

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
Mary, Michael, Paul, George, 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 437.
tune Glenfinlas or Pastor Pastorum*

1. 'Come to me', says Jesus, 'all who are distressed;
take my yoke upon you, I will give you rest.
2. I am meek and humble, find, with me, release
from false airs and graces; come, and be at peace.'
3. Hear the call of Jesus, come, be deeply blessed;
his the invitation, you the honoured guest.
4. Here, where bread is broken, here, where wine is poured,
thankfully receive him, find your faith restored.
5. Pardon, feed and heal us, humble, courteous Lord,
gracious host, for ever honoured and adored.

Alan Gaunt (b 1935)

AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation.

**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: TiS 283. tune, Theodoric

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.

*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-
Words by permission Stainer & Bell, London

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.

CCLI 637328. 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 Prayers of the People are from Let Us Pray © 1999 Janet Nelson.

Common Worship (Church of England): Thanksgiving Prayer F & After Communion prayer.

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