

The Second Eucharist of Christmass 2023

8.00am Christmas Day

St. George's, Taminick.



Adoration of the Shepherds,

also known as Anzac Christmas, St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Oil on canvas, 1921, Violet Teague, (1872-1951)

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

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Welcome and The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

At a manger in Bethlehem, with Mary, full of grace:

Glory to God in the highest!

In awe of the angels, with shepherds on a hillside:

Glory to God in the highest!

By the light of the star, with wise travellers at journey's end:

Glory to God in the highest!

On the refugee road into Egypt, with Joseph and his family:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!**

Hymn: AHB 240

1. **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
2. **O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**
3. **How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

4. **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
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Phillips Brooks 1835-93

Invitation to Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis

**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 Collect

Today, O God of light,
your loving-kindness dawns,
your tender compassion shines upon us,
for in our Saviour, born of human flesh,
you reveal your gracious gift of our birth to life eternal.

Fill us with wonder on this holy day:
let us treasure in our hearts what we have been told,
that our lives may proclaim your great and gentle mercy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the prophecy of Micah [5. 2-5a]

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: AHB 224/TiS 268. Tune Antioch.

- 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3. 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.**

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748
based on Psalm 98 (97)*

Please remain standing for the Gospel Reading

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [2. 8-20]
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

A time of silence will follow the sermon, a time for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brothers and sisters, on this most holy day of our Lord's birth, that we may find peace, joy, and contentment in this holy season, let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our prayers, saying:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the church of Christ, that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and may care for the needs of God's people in all corners of the world, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice may be replaced by the light of peace and love, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry; those who are hospitalized; those who are imprisoned in body or soul; and all those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick [*especially N.*], that their illnesses may be turned into health and their sorrow into rejoicing, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who labour at this time on behalf of others: doctors and nurses, police officers and firefighters, petrol station attendants, train, bus and taxi drivers, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this time with those they love, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[*pause for silent prayers*]
we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith [*especially your servant N.*].

That we, like them, may remain faithful to the end and live forever in the light of your eternal glory, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory;
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

Luke2.14

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

*You are invited to share the Peace of Christ,
in a COVID Safe way, with your neighbours*

Offertory Hymn

1. **O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
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.***
2. **God of God, Light of Light.
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created:
 *O come let us adore him . . .***
3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God, in the highest' :
 *O come let us adore him . . .***
4. **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 adore him . . .***

Possibly by John Francis Wade c.1711–1786
tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802–80,
William Thomas Brooke 1848–1917 (vv.3–5) and others

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

*It is customary to remain standing for this prayer.
If circumstances do not permit this,
please feel free to sit or kneel for the prayer.*

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.

We give you thanks, O God,
through your beloved servant Jesus Christ,
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit Christ was born of Mary,
and shared our human nature.

With loving arms outstretched upon the cross for us,
Jesus broke the chains of evil and destruction.

By the resurrection your will was fulfilled
and you gathered a holy people to offer you praise.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim your glory, as we say:

**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.**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God,
because on the night before he died,
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks, he broke it,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you;
do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

God of hope and joy, we thank you
for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.
With this bread and this cup we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection,

we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration,
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son
and be filled with your life and goodness.

Strengthen us to do your work,
and to be your body in the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.

May we praise you and give you glory
through your First-born, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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

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 says

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.



THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

God our Father,
today you have made known to us again
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
may our Christmas celebration
confirm our faith
and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns
and Christ the morning Star rises in our hearts.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Final Hymn TiS 313

- 1. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
listen well to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today.**
- 2. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door
and you are blest for evermore;
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this.**

**3. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall;
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.**

John Mason Neale 1818–66 alt.

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing
Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace
to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the Blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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