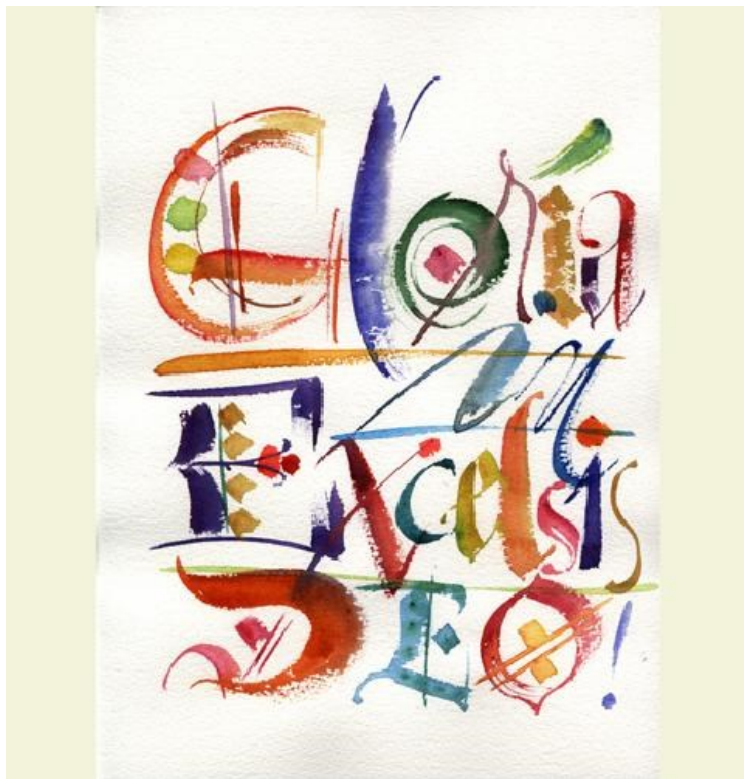


The Third Eucharist of Christmass 2023

9.30am Christmas Day

St. Michael's, Wangaratta.



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA

PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYS

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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: TiS 299

1. **While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.**
2. **'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
you and all humankind.**
3. **'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**
4. **'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'**
5. **Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

6. **‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.’**

Nahum Tate 1652–1715 alt.

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.**

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 Letter to the Hebrews [1. 1-12]

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
 'You are my Son;
 today I have begotten you'?

Or again,
 'I will be his Father,
 and he will be my Son'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says,
 'He makes his angels winds,
 and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says,
 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
 and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And,

'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.'

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

- 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its 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 earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams, 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 *alt.*
based on Psalm 98
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Please remain standing for the Gospel Reading

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [1. 1-14]

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning.

Everything came into existence through him.

Not one thing that exists was made without him.

He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.

The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.

God sent a man named John to be his messenger. John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light. The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into existence through him. Yet, the world didn't recognize him. He went to his own people, and his own people didn't accept him. However, he gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in him. These people didn't become God's children in a physical way—from a human impulse or from a husband's desire to have a child. They were born from God.

The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.

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 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.**

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,
O 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. **True God of true God, Light of light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:
 *O come let us adore him . . .***
3. **See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
 *O come let us adore him . . .***
4. **Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
 *O come let us adore him . . .***
5. **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.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

After Communion hymn

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all;
swift are winging
angels singing, nowells ringing,
tidings bringing,

Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory,
heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true;
thus rejoicing,
free from sorrow,
praises voicing,
greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

Polish carol (?13th cent.)
tr. Edith Gellibrand Reed 1885–1933

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.

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