



**Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parochial District of
Wangaratta West and The Warbys
The First Sunday after Christmass
31st December 2023**

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: TiS 305. tune, St John

1. Let earth and heaven combine, their voices all agree,
to praise in songs divine the incarnate deity,
our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made Man.
2. Unsearchable the love that has the Saviour brought;
the grace is far above our own or angels' thought:
enough for us that God, we know, our God, is manifest below.
3. He deigns in flesh to appear, widest extremes to join;
to bring our vileness near and make us all divine:
and we the life of God shall know, for God is manifest below.
4. Made perfect first in love, and sanctified by grace,
we shall from earth remove, and see his glorious face:
then shall his love be fully showed,
and we shall then be lost in God.

Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.

The Vicar welcomes the people

The Greeting

I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.
We worship and adore him. Alleluia.



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

Vicarage: 5721 6692. Mob. 0427 584 624

Parish Email: 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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Sentence

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2.30–32.

The Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray

**Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

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.

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 Hymn of Praise, *Gloria in excelsis (sung)*

**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

Let us pray
Saving God,
whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple
and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah [61. 10—62.3]

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear the Word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Psalm 148 TiS 93. tune, Austria. *Remain seated*

1. Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him;
praise him angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him,
praise him, all you stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken,
worlds his mighty voice obeyed:
laws, that never shall be broken,
for their guidance he has made.
2. Praise the Lord, for he is glorious;
never shall his promise fail:
God has made his saints victorious:
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;

hosts on high his power proclaim:
heaven and earth, and all creation,
praise and glorify his name.

Anon., Foundling Hospital Collection 1796/1801 alt.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians [4. 4-7]

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those
who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as
children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of
his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'
So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear the Word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: TiS 3187. tune, Cradle Song

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

vv. 1-2, Anon. ?1885 v.3, Anon. ?1892

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [2. 22-40] Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

When the time came for their purification according to the law of
Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the
Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male
shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a
sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

Please be seated for the Sermon

The Creed—see screen

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

We pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us,
Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you ...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth ...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness ...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities ...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer...
your gift of wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,
**hear our prayer,
receive our praises,
fill our lives. Amen.**

Please stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn TiS 297. tune, Quem Pastores.

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
loudly sing his love amazing,
Christian people, one and all.
2. See how God, for us providing,
gave his Son and life abiding;
he our pilgrim steps is guiding
from earth's pain to heavenly joy.
3. Christ, from heaven to us descending,
and in love our race befriending,
in our need his help extending,
saved us from the cunning foe.
4. Jacob's star in all its splendour
shines with comfort strong and tender,
forcing Satan to surrender,
breaking all the powers of hell.
5. From sin's bondage that possessed us,
from the prison that oppressed us,
from the sorrow that distressed us,
we, the captives, now are free.
6. O the joy, beyond expressing,
when by faith we grasp this blessing,
and with thanks we come confessing
you, O Jesus, as our Lord.
7. Dearest child, in mercy hear us,
from your lowly manger cheer us,
gently lead us and be near us
till we join the angel choir.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING 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.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty, everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
he took our nature upon him
and was born of the Virgin Mary,
that being himself without sin,
he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Hear us, heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Through him accept our sacrifice of praise,
and grant that, by the power of your Spirit,
these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
his body and his blood; ✠
who in the same night that he was betrayed
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. ✠

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying,
 Drink from this, all of you;
 for 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. ✠

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Therefore, Father,
remembering the saving death and resurrection of your Son
we offer to you in thanksgiving this bread and this cup,
your gifts to us,
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us
who share this bread and this cup.
Strengthen our faith, make us one
and welcome us and all your people
into the glorious kingdom of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
we worship you, Father eternal,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We who are many are one body in Christ,

For we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei 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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communicant members of any Christian church
are welcome to receive Communion.*

*Holy Communion is offered in two kinds,
Bread and Wine, using a Common Cup.*

*If you do not wish to partake of the Common Cup,
just receive the Bread.*

N.B. Dipping of the Host into the Cup is NOT allowed.

After Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Notices

Concluding Hymn: TiS 293. tune, Puer Nobis

1. Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.
2. Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he us all surpasses.
3. Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'
All the little boys he killed
at Beth'lem in his fury.
4. Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.
5. Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
now rends the air asunder.

Anon., Latin 15th cent.
tr. Percy Dearmer 1867–1936 alt.

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ, who by taking our flesh,
gathered into one all things
earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
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.