

Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2015

ST PAUL'S, MANUKA

11.30PM



*for
unto
us a
child
is
born*

St Paul's, Manuka
with St David's, Red Hill
Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn



Welcome



A very happy Christmas to all!

TODAY WE CELEBRATE A MIRACLE. Like the angel, who heralded glad tidings to the shepherds, we meet this holy day to sing the joy of Jesus' birth. Eternity enters time with a child in Bethlehem. Yet this birth is not as we might expect, not a magisterial or glorious arrival but a simple and vulnerable coming. A tiny baby, swaddled in rags, makes God's glory known to us. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth."

Tonight the setting for the Eucharist (sung by the choir, with orchestra) is: Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) *Messe da Minuit pour Noel* ('Midnight Mass for Christmas'). This music is based on old French Christmas carols.

Gathering in God's Name

HYMN

TIS 312

First verse sung by choir soloist

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 And through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95 alt.
Music: *Irby*

Celebrant ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

ALMIGHTY God,
to 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

KYRIE (CHOIR)

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

GLORIA

*Gloria in excelsis deo,
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi suscipe
deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram patris miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
✠ in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

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

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please be seated

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken

as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 96 (*Led by the choir*)

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 **Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations:
and his marvellous works among all the peoples.

4 **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is to be revered above all gods.**

5 For the gods of the peoples are idols;
but the Lord made the heavens.

6 **Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

8 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.**

9 Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
treble before him, all the earth.

10 **Say among the nations that the Lord is king:
he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved;
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.**

11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

12 **Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;**

13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO TITUS 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

TIS 316

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all on earth.
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
their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks 1835-93 *alt.* Music: *Forest Green*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Choir: Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Please remain standing for the Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL – ST LUKE 2:1-14

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

✠Glory to you, ✠Lord Jesus ✠Christ

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 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 Savior, 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!”

For the Gospel of the Lord:

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE SERMON - The Venerable Dr Brian Douglas

Following a period of silent reflection all stand and say

THE NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

WE believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

WE believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

WE believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Priest Let us pray for the world and the church. *(please kneel or sit as you are able)*

Intercessor Father, on this holy night our Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born in human form.
Renew your church as the body of Christ.
Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor On this holy night people all over the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor On this holy night there was no room for Christ at the inn. Protect those who have no home and all who live in poverty.
Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor On this holy night the shepherds in the field heard good tidings of great joy. Give us grace to tell the good news of Christ's coming.
Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor On this holy night the angels sang “Peace to God’s people on earth”. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice in our world.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor On this holy night travellers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in a manger. Bless our homes and families and all we love.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor On this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Keep in safety all those who have gone through death to your heavenly kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

People **Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

CONFESSIONS AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Silence may be kept

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

**we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:

✠ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE *please stand*

Priest We are the body of Christ.

People His Spirit is with us.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

OFFERTORY HYMN

TIS 304

- 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 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...

- 5 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...
- 6 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above,
'Glory to God,
in the highest':
O come, let us adore Him...
- 7 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, ...

Words: Possibly by John Francis Wade c. 1711-1786
tr. Frederick Oakley 1803-80, William Thomas Brooke 1848-
1917 and others. Music: *Adeste Fidelis*

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

- Celebrant* Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer: fruit of the earth and work of human hands. It will become for us the bread of life.
- People* **Blessed be God for ever.**
- Celebrant* Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer: fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us our spiritual drink.
- People* **Blessed be God for ever.**
- Celebrant* Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.
- People* **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- Celebrant* The Lord be with you
People **And also with you**
- Celebrant* Lift up your hearts
People **We lift them to the Lord**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

In your Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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

<i>Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,</i>	Holy, holy, holy Lord,
<i>Dominus Deus Sabaoth.</i>	God of power and might,
<i>Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.</i>	heaven and earth are full of your glory.
<i>Hosanna in excelsis.</i>	Hosanna in the highest.
✠ <i>Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.</i>	✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
<i>Hosanna in excelsis.</i>	Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

The Deacon says:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

✠ Renew us by your Holy Spirit unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, 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 break this bread to share in the body of Christ
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Agnus dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Agnus dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Agnus dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us
your peace.

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.

All are welcome to receive the Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing only, please put your hands behind you. Please do not leave valuables in your seats as you come forward for the communion.

During communion the choir will sing Sir David Willcocks (1917-2015) Birthday Carol and William Mathias (1934-1992) 'Sir Christèmas' from Ave Rex

Birthday Carol

Rejoice today with one accord, alleluia. This is the birthday of our Lord, alleluia. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds abiding in the field, to them God's glory was reveal'd: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

And to the shepherds sore afraid, an angel said, "Be not dismayed": *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Tidings of joy to you I bring, today is born a heav'nly King: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

And ye shall find in manger laid, the Babe in swaddling clothes arrayed: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

A host of angels fill'd the sky, thus singing praise to God on high: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Now join we all the angel throng, and let our voices swell the song: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Words: adapted from Luke 2

'Sir Christèmas' from Ave Rex

Who is there that singeth so? I am here, Sir Christèmas. Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!

Welcome to all, both more and less! Come near. Nowell, nowell.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, [God keep you, good Lords,] tidings I you bring: a maid hath borne a child full young, which causeth you to sing: Nowell, nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid; in an ox-stall he is laid, wherefore sing we at a brayde:

Nowell, nowell.

Buvez bien, par toute la compagnie. [Drink up, with all the company.] Make good cheer and be right merry, and sing with us now joyfully: Nowell, nowell!

Words: Anon. c. 1500

The Sending out of God's People

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

God of Heaven, dwelling among us, we thank you for feeding us with this holy food. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh that as his body in the world we may bring your presence to all people. **Amen**

BLESSING

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; And the ✠ blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN

TIS 303

- 1 **Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**
- 2 **Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

- 3 **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others
Music: *Mendelssohn*

DISMISSAL

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US AGAIN!
THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE HELD:

At St Paul's Manuka

Sundays

7am Holy Eucharist (*Book of Common Prayer*)

8am Holy Eucharist with hymns (*APBA*)

10am Sung Eucharist (*APBA*)

6 pm Choral Evensong (third Sunday of the month, January to November)

Wednesdays

10am Holy Eucharist (*APBA*)

At St David's Red Hill

Sundays

8.30am Sung Eucharist (*APBA*)

Thursdays

10am Holy Eucharist (*APBA*)



St Paul's Manuka
St David's Red Hill
an anglican parish in the city of canberra

Parish Office: PO Box 3417, Manuka ACT 2603

Tel: 6239 6148

www.stpaulsmanuka.org.au

Text from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trusts Corporation. Psalm texts are from *The Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version* © David L. Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A. Macintosh, used with permission. Hymns, some of which are copyright, are from *Together in Song* (Sydney: HarperCollinsReligious, 1999). Unauthorised copying of copyrighted hymns is prohibited. Bible readings *The New Revised Standard Version* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989) Cover Artwork from <http://www.prettyprettygalleries.com/>. Garland illustration from: www.123RF.com/photo/23111148-pinkcoala/