

*Welcome to*  
**ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL**  
*Diocese of Melbourne - Anglican Church of Australia*  
*Parish Church of the City since 1847*



Nicolas Poussin (1594—1665) *L'Adoration des bergers*

# CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
10.30am

## A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION FROM THE LOCUM

It is a great joy and privilege to be able to share with you all the delights of Christmas worship here at St Peter's.

*Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. (Hamilton Wright Mabie)*

Christmas is a great gift. If we follow the story, we find that God is not remote. God is literally down-to-earth. The manger in Bethlehem isn't the end of the story: it is the beginning—beginning in the hope that this child brings into the world.

We feel that the story for us these last couple of years has been incredibly difficult. Many people feel very uncertain. We all want Covid to be a thing of the past.

There is another side. We have seen people doing courageous, even heroic, things. We need only to reflect on the commitment of so many medical people: that should help us see beyond ourselves. Then there is the goodness and extraordinary kindness showing love and support to their neighbours. As I have said elsewhere, strangely I experienced a greater neighbourliness during lock-down when people acknowledged each other despite the face masks.

Christmas reminds us that there is more kindness and beauty in the world than all the disasters we hear so much about. It also shows us that we are loved; that there is hope. Mary saying “Yes” to God changed the world. Christmas is our chance to say yes and to work for a better world.

We can, this Christmas, take the opportunity to grow closer to our Lord who comes to us in the Incarnation. God the Son, born of Mary, is one with us and we are called to share that knowledge and experience with others.

The following story is taken from *All about Christmas* by James Simpson. It needs no explanation.

Wallace Purling was nine, and regarded by other children as not very bright. He fancied the idea of being a shepherd with a flute in the Christmas pageant. He was given a more important role, that of the Innkeeper.

The usual large partisan audience gathered for the church's Christmas pageant. Then the time came that Joseph appeared, slowly, tenderly guiding Mary to the door of the inn. Joseph knocked hard on the wooden door set into the painted backdrop. Wally the Innkeeper was there, waiting.

"What do you want?" Wally said, swinging the door open with a brusque gesture.

"We seek lodging."

"Seek it elsewhere," Wally looked straight ahead, but spoke vigorously. "The inn is filled."

"Sir, we have asked everywhere in vain. We have travelled far and are very weary."

"There is no room in this inn for you." Wally looked properly stern.

"Please, good innkeeper, this is my wife, Mary. She is heavy with child and needs a place to rest. Surely you must have some small corner for her. She is so tired."

Now, for the first time, the Innkeeper relaxed his stiff stance and looked down at Mary. With that, there was a long pause, long enough to make the audience a bit tense with embarrassment. "No! Go away!"

Joseph sadly placed his arm around Mary, and Mary laid her head upon his shoulder, and the two of them started to move away. Wally stood there in the doorway, watching the forlorn couple. His mouth was open, his eyes filling with tears.

"Don't go, Joseph," Wally called out. "Bring Mary back." And Wallace Purling's face grew into a bright smile. "You can have *my* room."

Some people in the church thought that the pageant had been ruined. Yet there were others—most others—who considered it the best Christmas play they had ever seen.

I wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas.

+ *David Farrer (Locum)*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*Please stand for the beginning of the Mass. The people's responses are printed in **bold**.*

*Mass setting: Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924): Messe Basse & Gloria in excelsis Deo from the Missa de Angelis (Mass VIII)*

*Processional Carol:*

**1. The great God of heaven is come down to earth,  
His mother a Virgin, and sinless his birth;  
The Father eternal his Father alone:  
He sleeps in the manger; he reigns on the throne:**

**Refrain:**

*Then let us adore him, and praise his great love:  
To save us poor sinners he came from above.*

**2. A Babe on the breast of a Maiden he lies,  
Yet sits with the Father on high in the skies;  
Before him their faces the seraphim hide,  
While Joseph stands waiting, unscared, by his side:  
[Refrain]**

**3. Lo! here is Emmanuel, here is the Child,  
The Son that was promised to Mary so mild;  
Whose power and dominion shall ever increase,  
The Prince that shall rule o'er a kingdom of peace:  
[Refrain]**

*There station is at the crib. The celebrant intones the collect:*

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts: that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The crib is censed. The procession continues.*

4. The Wonderful Counsellor, boundless in might,  
The Father's own image, the beam of his light;  
Behold him now wearing the likeness of man,  
Weak, helpless, and speechless, in measure a span: [Refrain]

5. O wonder of wonders, which none can unfold:  
The Ancient of days is an hour or two old;  
The Maker of all things is made of the earth,  
Man is worshipped by angels, and God comes to birth: [Refrain]

NEH: 37  
Text: Henry Ramsden Bramley, 1833-1917  
Melody: A VIRGIN UNSPOTTED

### INTROIT

Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be called, Angel of the mighty Council  
Ps. O Sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things.  
Glory be &c.

*Celebrant:* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The celebrant chants the collect for purity. Please kneel as the choir sings the Kyrie.*

Kyrie eleison,		<i>Lord have mercy,</i>
Christe eleison,		<i>Christ have mercy,</i>
Kyrie eleison		<i>Lord have mercy</i>

*The deacon introduces the confession:*

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.

*The celebrant pronounces the absolution. Please stand for the Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

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, Iesu 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, Iesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu:  
+ in gloria Dei Patris. Amen

*Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace to men of good will,  
We praise you,  
We bless you,  
We adore you,  
We glorify you.  
We give you thanks for your great glory.*  
  
*Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father,  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
You take away the Sins of the world,  
have mercy on us,  
You take away the Sins of the world,  
receive our prayer  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
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 celebrant chants the Christmas collect. Please sit for the readings.*

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING** Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 98



O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought him victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. **R**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **R**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. **R**

**THE EPISTLE** Hebrews (1.1—6) *This is chanted by the sub-deacon*

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.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gradual:*

**GRADUAL**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God: O be joyful in God, all ye lands. The Lord hath declared his salvation: In the sight of the heathen hath he openly shewed his righteousness.

*The cantor chants the acclamation:*

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

*Deacon:* The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1.1—18)

**Glory to you + Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please be seated for the homily, by Fr Philip Gill.*



*Please then stand to sing the Nicene Creed.*

*Priest* *All*



We be - lieve in one God, the Fat - ther, the al - migh - ty,  
ma - ker of hea - ven and earth, of all that is, seen and un - seen.  
We be - lieve in one Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God,  
e - ter - nal - ly be - got - ten of the Fa - ther, God from God, Light from Light.  
true God from true God, be - got - ten, not made, of one be - ing with the Fa - ther.  
through him all things were made. For us and for our sal - va - tion he came down from hea - ven,  
was in - car - nate of the Ho - ly Spi - rit and the vir - gin Ma - ry and be - came tru - ly hu - man.  
For our sake he was cru - ci - fied un - der Pon - tius Pi - late:  
He suf - fered death and was bu - ried. On the third day he rose a - gain  
in ac - cord - ance with the Scrip - tures: he a - scen - ded in - to Hea - ven  
and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther. He will come a - gain in glo - ry  
to judge the li - ving and the dead and his king - dom will have no end.

We be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spi - rit, the Lord, the gi - ver of life, —  
 who pro - ceeds from the Fa - ther and — the Son, who with the  
 Fa - ther and the Son is — wor - shipped, and glo - ri - fied, who has spo - ken through the pro - phets.  
 We be lieve in one ho - ly ca - tho - lic and a - po - sto - lic Church. We ac know ledge one — bap - ti - sm  
 for — the for - give ness of — sins. We look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to — come. A - - - - - men.

*Please kneel for the Prayers of the People. After each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

*Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.*

*Celebrant:* We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to offer each other a sign of peace. Feel free to join the offertory carol as we take up the collection.*

## **OFFERTORY**

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; thou hast laid the foundations of the round world, and all that therein is; righteousness and equity are the habitation of thy seat.

## **OFFERTORY CAROL**

- 1. A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure!  
A Virgin bears the Infant  
With virgin-honour pure.**

### **Refrain:**

*Repeat the hymn again!  
'To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!'*

- 2. The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high!  
And Cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky. [Refrain]**
- 3. While thus they sing your Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
Ye oceans clap your hands. [Refrain]**
- 4. Since all he comes to ransom,  
By all be he adored,  
The Infant born in Bethl'em,  
The Saviour and the Lord. [Refrain]**
- 5. All idols forms shall perish,  
And error shall decay,  
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,  
Our Lord and God for ay. [Refrain]**

NEH: 21

Text: St. Germanus, 634-734

Melody: ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, Lord God ...

**Blessed be God forever.**

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all his Church.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant:* 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.**

*Please kneel. The celebrant continues the prayer, leading to: "... forever praising you and saying:"*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.</i>
Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra	<i>Heaven and earth and full of your glory.</i>
gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

Benedictus qui venit in nomine	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the</i>
domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Lord, Hosanna in the highest.</i>

*The celebrant continues the prayer. The deacon chants: "Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:"*



*The celebrant continues the prayer, ending with: "... songs of never-ending praise:"*



*Celebrant:* “As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:”

*All*  
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from e - vil.  
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours now and for e - ver. A - men.

*Celebrant:* 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.**

*Please remain kneeling as the choir sings:*

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.*

*Celebrant:* Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

*We share the Sacrament at the altar rail. Communicant members of all Christian traditions are invited to receive the Sacrament. Anyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

## COMMUNION MOTET

G. F. Handel (1685-1759) *Every valley shall be exalted* from *Messiah*.

*Please stand for the final carol.*

**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 all men surpasses.**

**3. Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'  
And all the little boys he killed  
At Bethlem 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  
Doth rend the air asunder.**

NEH: 39  
Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936  
Melody: PUER NOBIS

## SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The celebrant chants the final prayer, leading to:*

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.**

*The celebrant offers a Christmas blessing and the deacon dismisses the congregation:*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please stand as the sanctuary party depart.*

*Organ postlude: J.S. Bach (1685-1750) Fantasia in G (BWV 572)*

# **Christmas Mass & Service Times**

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Holy Family**

Usual Sunday morning services resume this Sunday:  
9am BCP & 10.30am High Mass

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021, Mary, Mother of God** 9am BCP & 10.30am High Mass

## **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021, 7pm**

### **A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Join us for our annual Christmastide service of lessons and carols on Sunday, 2 January from 7pm. Our service includes a festive supper of sparkling wine and Christmas treats.

## **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 6.15pm** **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Missa Cantata according to the use of the English Missal, with blessing of chalk and chalking of the precinct.