

Welcome to
ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

*Diocese of Melbourne - Anglican Church of Australia
Parish Church of the City since 1846*



Gari Melchers, "The Nativity" (1891)

**HIGH MASS & BLESSING OF THE
CRIB**

24 DECEMBER 2022

10.30PM

Reflection for Christmas Day, 2023. Written by Philip Harvey

Words are spare and essential from the people in the Christmas stories, if they speak at all. They are too busy about giving birth. Or else they are terrified, when they aren't watching, sorting things outside their regular experience. They follow signs and ask directions. But really they live in response, absorbed in wonder. Words might get in the way. No one is asking for their opinion.

Their attention is being drawn to the Word. This unlikely assortment congregate around a newborn child, like a scene off a Christmas card. Their example of adoration may be adopted by anyone, as congregations through time meet again in proximity to the stories and the all too human person generating this wondrous activity. Because this is always simply a beginning. We have the rest of the year in which to hear what this person will come to say to us, the Word speaking words that keep revealing our lives. The Word is abounding in gifts.

Nowadays words can be cheap about Christmas. Everyone has to have an opinion, usually being all too ready to share those opinions with others: 'December, it's the most stressful month'; 'I'd have it every second year but my family says, no way!'; 'It's just a rip off of some pagan holiday'; 'What's to be joyful about with the world in this state?'; 'I can't wait till it's all over.' The clichés do their annual round, as people settle for grumpiness over gratitude, consumption over consideration.

Yet all these passing words too congregate around the surprise reminder, made steadfast in places like churches, of the Word coming amongst us. Far from sliding from view, the Christmas stories and Christmas itself are sung and preached and celebrated and emulated everywhere, as though they were a regular experience. Love is placed at the centre of everything. The Word that can explain the truth about ourselves, changeable and desirous as we are, comes into being.

Like the little congregations in those stories, we arrive to be here now, to try and understand the nature of this inexplicable event, ever an abiding mystery, to attend as they did to something more than just the same old same old. Waiting in silence, we listen to what the Word will tell us next, in word and deed.

**Sunday 31 December 2023 – Feast of Holy Family/New
Year's Eve**

8am Mass

9:30am Parish (Families) Mass

11am High Mass

7pm Service of Lessons and Carols,
with New Year's festivities to follow

Monday January 1 – Mary, Mother of the Lord

9am Mass

Friday 5 January 2024 – Feast of Epiphany

7pm High Mass with Procession and blessing of chalk

Sunday 7 January 2024 – Feast of Baptism of Jesus

8am Mass

9:30am Parish (Families) Mass

11am High Mass

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

Mass setting: Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Missa Brevis St Joannis de Deo
"Little Organ Mass"

Processional Hymn:

**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:**

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:**

[Refrain]

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:**

[Refrain]

**Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;**

We to the Christ Child

Bring our heart's oblations:

[Refrain]

There is a station during the procession to bless the crib.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who has made heaven and earth.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to + bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
[Refrain]**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, in the highest:
[Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
[Refrain]**

NEH 30
Words: Latin 18th century, Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others
Music: probably by John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
Tune: ADESTE FIDELIS
Descant and reharmonisation: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

The sanctuary party enters the chancel. The celebrant censes the altar during the Introit.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

V. O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders: his right hand and his holy arm have wrought salvation.

Let us all rejoice...

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 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.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all
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 Kyries are sung by the choir.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Please then stand for the Gloria which is sung by the choir.

**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 Celebrant prays 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 your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96



O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day. **R.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods. **R.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. **R.**

Rejoice before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. **R.**

THE EPISTLE: Titus 2.11-14

chanted by the Sub-Deacon

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C. Mawby

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Deacon:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [2.1-16]

✠ **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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

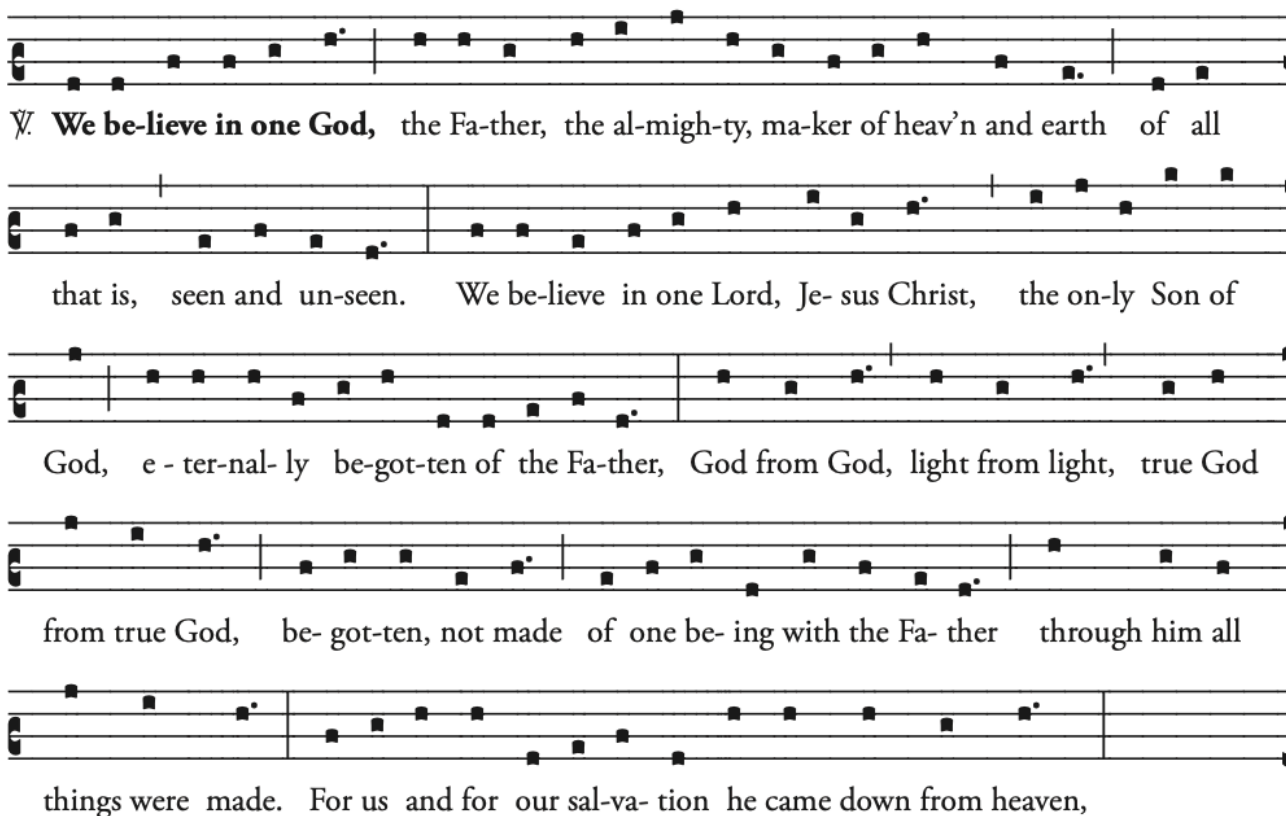
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit for the Homily by Fr Michael Bowie

Please stand for the Creed.

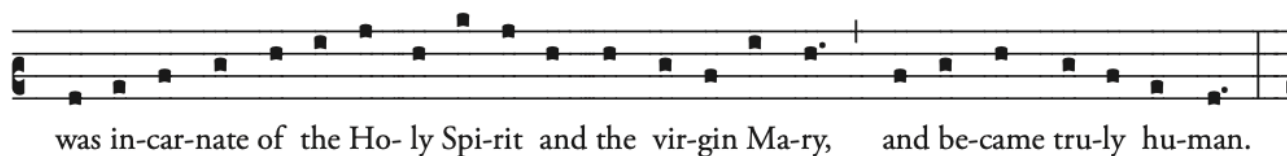
The Creed

All stand and sing together facing the High Altar. The priest intones the opening phrase.



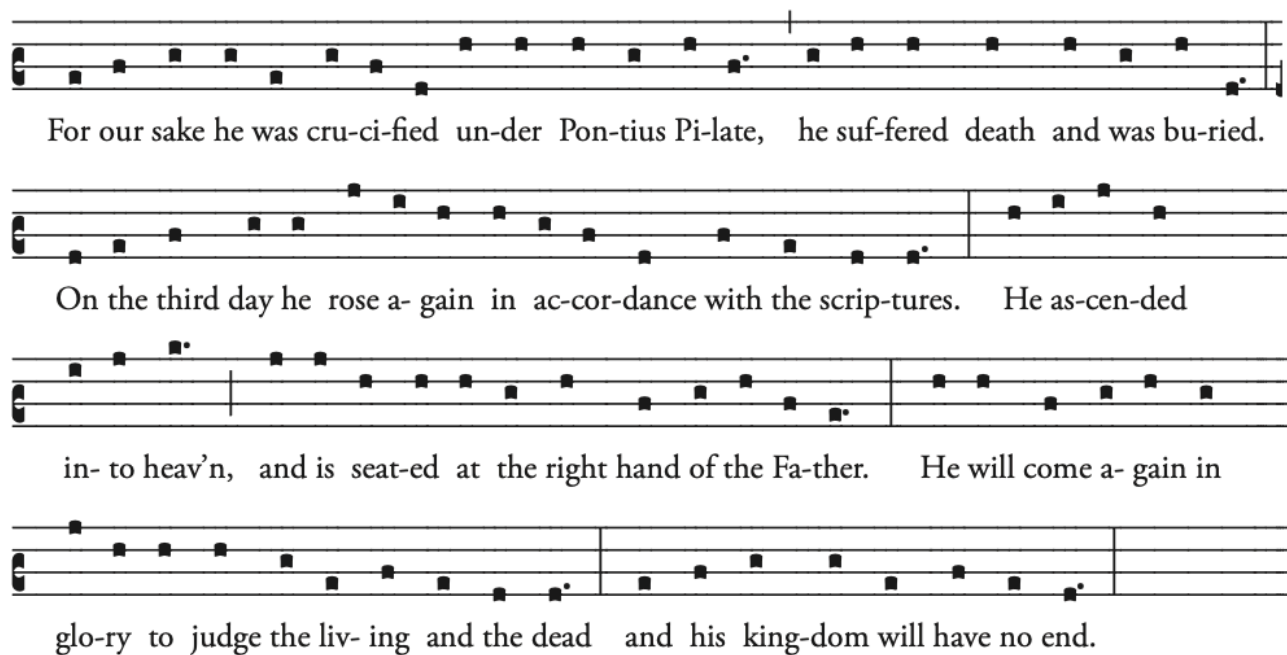
✠ We be-lieve in one God, the Fa-ther, the al-migh-ty, ma-ker of heav'n and earth of all
that is, seen and un-seen. We be-lieve in one Lord, Je-sus Christ, the on-ly Son of
God, e - ter-nal-ly be-got-ten of the Fa-ther, God from God, light from light, true God
from true God, be-got-ten, not made of one be-ing with the Fa-ther through him all
things were made. For us and for our sal-va-tion he came down from heaven,

All kneel during the following words

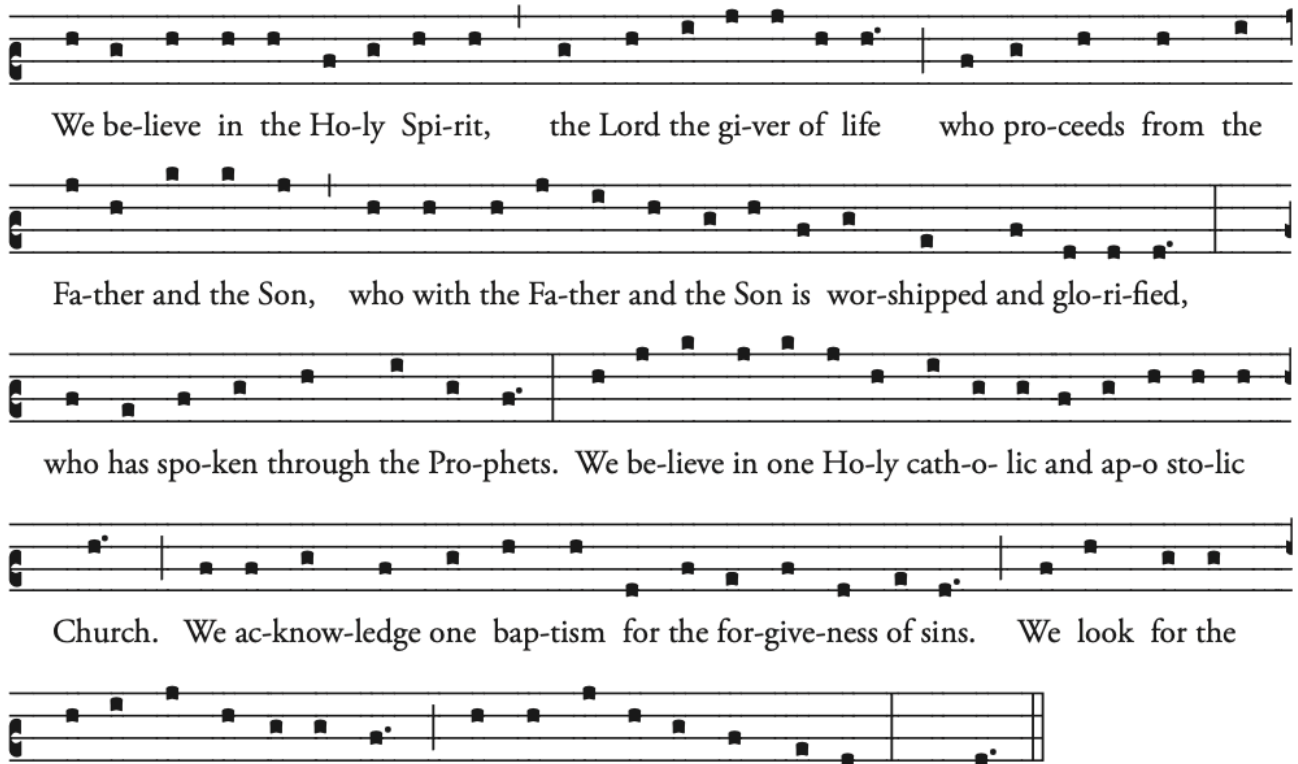


was in-car-nate of the Ho-ly Spi-rit and the vir-gin Ma-ry, and be-came tru-ly hu-man.

All stand



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-cor-dance with the scrip-tures. He as-cen-ded
in- to heav'n, and is seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther. He will come a-gain in
glo-ry to judge the liv-ing 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 cath-o-lic and ap-o sto-lic
 Church. We ac-know-ledge one bap-tism 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please kneel. 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.

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON [*Sung by the choir*]

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the face of the Lord: because he comes.

Please join in the offertory carol.

**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 to-night.**

**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.**

**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.**

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

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.

NEH 32
Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)
Music: English Traditional Melody, harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1852-1958)
Tune: FOREST GREEN
Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant:

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 Holy Church.**

The Celebrant prays the Prayer over the Offerings. People respond with Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

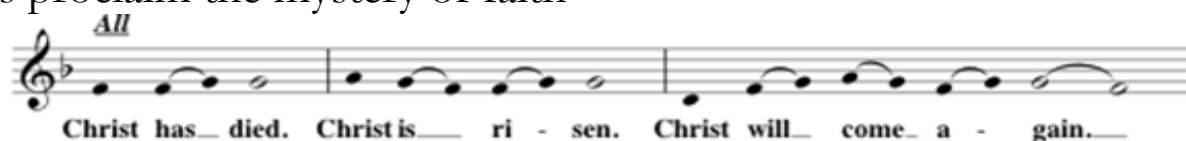
Please kneel. The celebrant continues the prayer.

The choir sings the Sanctus.

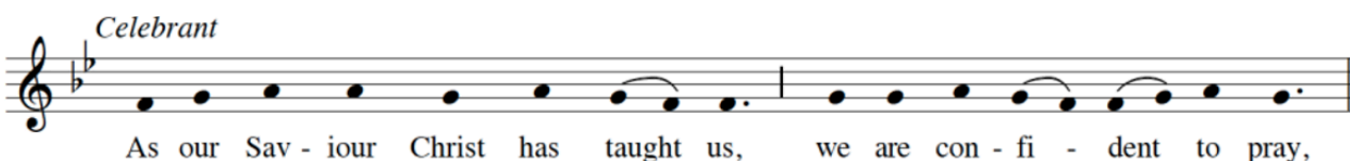
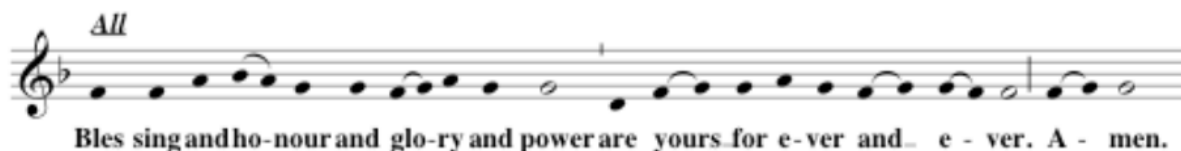
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
+ Blessed is he that comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues the prayer, leading to:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith



The celebrant continues the prayer, ending with:



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 - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

Celebrant:

We who are many are one body.

For we all share in the one bread.

The Agnus Dei is sung by the choir.

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

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

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

Celebrant:

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word and I shall be healed.

*Communicant members of any Christian church are invited to receive the sacrament.
All others are very welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

COMMUNION MOTET *Sung by the choir.*

Philip Ledger (1937-2012) *Sussex Carol*

Please stand for the Post-Communion carol.

**Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:**

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

**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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel: [Refrain]**

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth: [Refrain]

NEH 26
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) and others
Music: from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)
Tune: MENDELSSOHN
Descant and reharmonisation: Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Celebrant sings 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 the blessing and the Deacon dismisses the congregation:

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sanctuary party processes to the West door for the final prayers and dismissal.

Postlude: Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) Toccata, Symphony No. 5 in F minor, Op. 42

Our Christmas flowers are donated by Peter Yewers in memory Mavis Yewers.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

While all things were in quiet silence, And night was in the midst of
her swift course, thine Almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down out
of thy royal throne, alleluia.

Christmas Vespers, Western Rite



PARISH DIRECTORY

St. Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Phone: 0401 826 325 Web: www.stpeters.org.au

E-mail: office@stpeters.org.au

Vicar: mnrbowie@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: kathryn.bellhouse@gmail.com

FB: www.facebook.com/stpeterseasternhill

YT: www.youtube.com/c/StPetersEasternHill

Office Hours: 10am to 1pm, Tuesday – Friday

Sunday Services

8.00am Low Mass [BCP]; 9.30am Family Mass; 11.00am High Mass
6pm Low Mass [1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays] 6pm Evensong & Benediction [2nd & 4th Sundays]

Weekday Services

Mon-Fri Mass at 8.00am (9.00am on Public Holidays); Wednesday 1:15pm Mass; Saturday 12noon Mass
Special Devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham on the 1st Saturday of the month
Feast Day High Mass, as advertised: 7.00pm

Clergy and Lay Ministers

Vicar:	Fr Michael Bowie	0432 072 213
Assistant Priest:	Mthr Kathryn Bellhouse	0416 378 748
Associate Clergy:	Fr Graeme Brennan	0427 321 744
	Mthr Pirrial Clift	0407 453 306
	Fr Greg Davies	0417 992 976
	Fr Philip Gill	0480 101 711
	Fr Ken Letts	03 9662 2391
	Fr Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
Klingner Scholars:	Alex De Leon	03 9662 2391
	Naomi Johnson	03 9662 2391

Parish Council Membership

Fr Michael Bowie (President)
Daniel Mitterdorfer (Secretary)
Peter Griffin (Treasurer)
Anne Scott-Pendlebury
Craig Wilson
Geoffrey Bush-Coote
Marcus Roberts
Michael Upson
Terry Porter

Other Parish Ministries and Programs

Bookroom:	Carol O'Connor	03 9663 7487
Charitable Foundation:	Krystyna Campbell-Pretty	03 9662 2391
Children's Church:	Katherine Barnett	0403 352 256
Churchwardens:	Michael Gronow	0411 289 318
	Helena Hughes	-
	Daniel Ferguson	0419 572 033
COVID Safe & Child Safety Officer:	Rachel Ellyard	0419 335 793
Flowers:	Michael Upson	0492 964 984
Guild of St Benedict:	Daniel Ferguson	0419 572 033
Head Server:	Anthony Schepis	0400 578 952
Organist/Acting Music Director:	Rhys Arvidson	0405 277 853
Parish Administrator:	Eugene Chin	0401 826 325
Pastoral care:	Di Clark	0407 354 987
Prayer Link & Pastoral:	Fr Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
Sacristan:	Naomi Johnson	03 9662 2391

We are an inclusive and welcoming church, built on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people. Our mission is: "Worshipping Christ in the Eucharist; serving Christ in the world".