

PEW SHEET

The Birth of Our Lord Christmas Day

25th December 2020

Welcome to Saint John's! Whether you are visiting Saint John's for the first time, come every week, or have been away from the Church for a long time, we're glad that you're here and we hope that you will join us for refreshments after the service. Newcomers are encouraged to complete a Visitors' Card and to return it to the Welcomers. In line with government restrictions, all services are at the moment restricted to 230 persons indoors. Please ensure you have signed in for contact tracing purposes.

You can find out more about us at www.saintjohns.org.au.

The Anglican Parish of Saint John & Saint Agnes

5-7 Finch Street East Malvern VIC 3145

Phone: 03 9571 6616

Email: secretary@saintjohns.org.au

SERVICES

Sunday

8:00am – Said Eucharist (St John's)

9:30am – Choral Eucharist (St John's)

9:30am – Sung Eucharist (St Agnes')

Weekday Eucharist

9:00am - Tuesday (St. Agnes')

10:00am – Thursday (St John's)

Vicar

Fr. Alex Ross

0431 308 703

vicar@saintjohns.org.au

(Day-Off: Monday)

Associate Clergy

Fr. Ken Hewlett - 0427 772 003

Fr. Gary Bouma - 0409 234 960

Churchwardens

Susan Haycox - 9569 8714

Robin Richards – 0412 545 002

David Arden – 0408 174 028

Director of Music

Lachlan McDonald - 0488 278 139

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Text marked with  is sung at 9:30am to the Mass Setting in E by Harold Darke, but spoken at 8.00am. Please stand when the bells are rung. At 9:30am the Opening Hymn is sung.

OPENING HYMN

1. *(lower voices only)*

**Of the father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.**

2. *(upper voices only)*

**By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's
soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.**

4. *(upper voices only)*

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's
Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.**

3. *(lower voices only)*

**He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had
sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.**

5. *(lower voices only)*

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised
Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

6. (*all*)

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
Angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore

MELODY FROM PLAE CANTIONES
ARR. DAVID WILLCOCKS

✠ 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.
Let us pray.

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.**

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength.' Jesus said 'This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.

Let us come to the light of Christ,
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.

♪ Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

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 GLORIA

♪ 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

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit.

Before the Liturgy of the Word all children and their parents are invited to come forward to receive a prayer and blessing before proceeding to the Belltower for children's activities.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

[62.6-12]

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The Lord has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have laboured;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
'See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.'
They shall be called, 'The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord';
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.'

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

PSALM

At 9.30am the Psalm is sung by the choir alone.

Psalm 97

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.

**Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of his throne.**

Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.

**His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.**

The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.

**The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.**

They are ashamed, all those who serve idols
and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.

**Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.**

For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.

**The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**

Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end.
Amen.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

[3.4-8a]

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

[2.8-20]

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

The Sermon is followed by a period of reflection.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together stand to 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Please kneel.

Glory to you O God, in your great love for us you have entered our darkness with your great light. You come as our God and yet as a child, help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light.

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

Glory to you O God, for your love is revealed to us in your manger birth. We join with the shepherds to glorify and praise you, rejoicing in your presence among us. Let your church proclaim your glory and your love. Send out pastors and shepherds of your flock, all who go out in mission or are involved in outreach. May they reveal you as the Light to lighten all peoples. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, we come to bow with the shepherds, to kneel with the wise men, to adore with Joseph and to hold you in our hearts with Mary. Bring your peace to the divisions and violence of this world, may the nations come to know that peace which only you can give and may we learn to live together in harmony and fellowship. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, and bring your peace and goodwill to all those who are in need, suffering or hurt this Christmas. Pour out your consolation to those who are sad or lonely, anxious or depressed. Bring health to those who are sick and calm to those who are troubled. We remember especially today from our own community Marg, Ali, Patricia, Christine, Phil, Greg, Warwick, Andrew and Tom. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, as we remember and give thanks for all who now rest in joy and peace with you and have entered into the hope of your everlasting Kingdom. May we, with them, come into your glory to rejoice in your presence and your love. We commend to your loving embrace all those who have died, particularly those whose anniversary of death occurs in this week: Caroline Vere Jonas, Marie Dorothy Robinson, George William Masson, Clive Cox, Frederick Guy Tuddenham, Beryl Noble Graham, and John William Kilborn. May they rest in peace: **and rise in glory.**

GREETING OF PEACE

Please stand.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

We greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

A collection is taken to support the life and mission of the parish. At 9:30am the Offertory Hymn is sung.

OFFERTORY HYMN

- 1.**
Unto us is born a son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.
- 2. Christ, from heav'n**
descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Becradled in the manger,
Becradled in the manger.

3. *(lower voices only)*

**This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the world to slay,
And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.**

4. *(higher voices only)*

**Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory,**

5. *(all)*

**O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus domino,
Benedicamus domino**

*MELODY FROM PLAE CANTIONES,
ARR. DAVID WILLCOCKS*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

♪ 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.

The priest continues in thanksgiving...

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.**

The priest continues with the prayer of consecration...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Eucharistic Prayer continues...

... we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

♪ **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

Said at 8:00am

Sung at 9:30am

**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.**

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND 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.

♪ **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 your peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy 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.**

All baptised Christians who seek Christ in this sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion. It will be assumed during this time that you wish to receive the consecrated bread only. All are welcome to come forward to the altar for a blessing. During the communion the choir will sing the Motet 'A Boy was Born' by Benjamin Britten.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Notices may be given here.

Please stand.

The priest prays a post-communion prayer, followed by

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 priest prays this blessing

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen

At 9.30am the Closing Hymn is sung

CLOSING HYMN

1. 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!”
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 with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

3. Hail the heavenly 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

FELIX MENDELSSOHN
V.3 ARR. DAVID WILLCOCKS

The organist plays the POSTLUDE 'Toccata in D' by Marcel Lanquetui

Please join us for a glass of bubbly or minced pie after the service



The Anglican Parish of
Saint John & Saint Agnes

5-7 Finch Street Malvern East
www.saintjohns.org.au
9571 6616