

St Mary's



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
20 December 2020**



Eucharist at 8 am and 10 am

Gathering in God's Name

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Remain standing for the lighting of the Advent wreath

We have this ADVENT WREATH to remind us of the coming of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

We light the First Candle to remind us of all God's people who, in every age, watch for his coming.

We light the Second Candle to remind us of the great promise made by God and told to us by the prophets.

We light the Third Candle to remind us of John the Baptist, who told us to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

As we light the third candle let us say together:

Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

A young person asks: **Why do we light the fourth candle?**

A parent replies: **We light the fourth candle to remind us of Mary who was obedient to God's command; and gave birth to the Messiah**

"The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a woman engaged to a man called Joseph. "Mary, do not be afraid", he said, "You have won God's favour. Listen. You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus.

(Luke 1:26-33)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: Let us say together:

Our Father who is in heaven we need the light of peace and love to shine in our world. Help us to prepare our lives and homes to receive the Messiah. Come Lord Jesus come. Amen.

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.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The introduction to the confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, 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.

The presiding priest pronounces the absolution

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 celebrant reads the prayer of the day

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

A reading from the second book of the prophet Samuel.

God's Promise to David

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you:

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

(2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16)

*At the end
All*

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Magnificat

Response: The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

Response

the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation. *Response*

He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly. *Response*

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy.
The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever. *Response.*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

(Romans 16:25-27)

At the end

Hear the word of the Lord

All

Thanks be to God

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow

you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

(Luke 1:26-38)

At the end This is the gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon Fr Jan Joustra

The Nicene Creed

Let us 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

After each section: Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

And at the end:

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.**

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

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 the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.

All **It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving 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.

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.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence stand before him
who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

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.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your
creation, this bread and this 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 you 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.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

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.

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.**

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

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.

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.

The sending out of God's People

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us
with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.

As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful

that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

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.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter
the darkness from before your feet, and make you ready
to meet him when he comes in glory; 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

Acknowledgements:

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KOOYOORA
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

The Anglican Diocese in conjunction with St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne does not tolerate abuse, harassment or other misconduct within our communities. If any person has concerns about behavior of a church worker, past or present. The Diocese of Melbourne is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously, and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint. St Mary's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is on our noticeboard and can be downloaded from our website www.stmarys.org.au.

PLEASE REPORT ABUSE CALL 1800 135 246

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne is an inner-city Christian community that strives to be faithful, inclusive and sacramental.

God inspires us to worship in daily celebration; to be caring, thoughtful and inviting.

In response to God's call, in the next three to five years we aim:

- *To grow substantially in faith and numbers*
- *To create an inter-generational culture that values all age groups - children and adults - equally*
- *To express our faith in active engagement within and beyond our own community*
- *To deploy our property and financial assets in strategic support of the ministry needs of the parish for the long term*
- *To become more open to change as we learn to grow*





IN-CHURCH SERVICES THIS SUNDAY

Please sign in when you arrive at the church, please consider Internet banking for your offering. Masks are required while in church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Thursday 24 Dec 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Friday 25 Dec 9 am

Online Carol Service featuring readings and choir.

CHURCH GARDEN GROUP

If you are available to help in the Church Garden with watering, pruning, weeding and general maintenance, please contact Rhondda Fahey on 9329-4438.

HOTHAM MISSION CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Hotham Mission is the outreach service of the Congregation of Mark the Evangelist (Uniting Church), in association with St Mary's.

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

The Christmas Bowl Appeal funds food, shelter, medical care and support.