

# **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST - CHRISTMAS 2020**

*all the wonder and joy of the real Christmas*



**Locum Priest: Canon Dr. Ray Cleary AM**  
**Assistant Curate: Rev'd Brenda Williams**  
**Organist and Director of Music: Elizabeth-Anne Nixon**  
**St George's Choir**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON

*Common Worship: Times and Seasons*  
(The Church of England)

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,  
like a weak infant cries!  
In form of servant is the Lord,  
and God in cradle lies (Thomas Pestel).

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

It is, of course, Christ's nativity that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, which has been notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is itself an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth.

The Christmas season is celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.  
*Isaiah 9.2, 6*

## HYMNS

Christmas Eve - 10.30pm – O little town of Bethlehem (Hymn No 1)

Christmas Day - 8.00am and 10.00am – Once in Royal David City (Hymn No 2)

## THE WELCOME AND GREETING

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**ALL And also with you.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

*Isaiah 9:2, 6*

In the weeks before Christmas, we have lit the four Advent candles to mark a time of waiting for the coming of the Christ child. We now light the Christ Candle, for the light of the world is with us.

We celebrate your coming, O Christ. In the humanity we share with you, we see the Word made flesh.

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us to shine as lights in your world. Amen.**

**Let us Pray**

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

## CONFESSION 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.**

***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 for Christmas***

Almighty God,  
who gave your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:  
grant that we being born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;

through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,  
ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### READINGS

#### **Christmas Eve – 10.30pm**

##### **First Reading**

##### **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 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 Counselor, 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.

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

**Reader**            Hear the word of the Lord  
**ALL**                **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Christmas Day – 8.00am and 10.00am**

##### **First Reading**

##### **A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

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 labored; 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."

*Isaiah 62:6-12*

**Reader** Hear the word of the Lord  
**ALL** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 96 (said by alternate verses)**

- 1** O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2** Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3** Declare his glory among the nations,  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4** For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5** As for all the gods of the nations they are mere idols,  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6** Majesty and glory are before him;  
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.
- 7** Render to the Lord you families of the nations,  
render to the Lord glory and strength.
- 8** Render to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
bring offerings and come in to his courts.
- 9** O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 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.

**Christmas Eve – 10.30pm**

**Second Reading**

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus**

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 Savior, 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. *Titus 2:11-14*

**Reader**            May your word live in us  
**ALL**                **And bear much fruit to your glory.**

**Christmas Day – 8.00am and 10.00am**

**Second Reading**

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus**

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 Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. *Titus 3:4-8a*

**Reader**            May your word live in us  
**ALL**                **And bear much fruit to your glory.**

**HYMNS**

**Christmas Eve - 10.30pm** – Silent Night (Hymn No 3)

**Christmas Day - 8.00am and 10.00am** – Away in a Manger (Hymn No 4)

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! **Alleluia Alleluia**  
I am bringing you good news of great joy:  
to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
**ALL**                Alleluia, alleluia! **Alleluia Alleluia**

**Reader**            The Lord be with you.  
**ALL**                And also with you.

**Reader**            The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**ALL**                Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christmas Eve – 10.30pm**

**Christmas Day – 8.00am and 10.00am**

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 favors!" 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.

*Luke 2:1-20*

**Reader** For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

### **SERMON**

The Locum Vicar

*A pause for reflection follows*

### **THE CREED**

**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 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 FOR THE WORLD AND CHURCH**

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show how much God loves the world.  
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,  
until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory.  
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
Amen.

Loving Jesus,  
you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels.  
Be with (N. and) all who are lonely,  
and with all who feel distant from celebrations.  
Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts.  
Amen.

Jesus, as you healed the sick,  
bring healing to those in our families who are ill today.  
Jesus, Lord of love,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Christ born for us,  
Son of God, given for us,  
help us to know you,  
to worship and to serve you.  
Amen.

The kings, Lord,  
brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold.  
Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring;  
we bring you what you have given:  
our lives for your life.  
Amen.

Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary,  
you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever.  
Amen.

May God, who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.  
Amen.

#### **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and  
his name is called the Prince of Peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**ALL    And also with you.**

## HYMNS

**Christmas Eve - 10.30pm** – O Come all ye faithful (Hymn No 5)

**Christmas Day - 8.00am** – Good Christian all rejoice (Hymn No 6)

**Christmas Day - 10.00am** – Angels from the realms of Glory (Hymn No 7)

*The gifts of the people are brought forward and the bread and wine  
of the Eucharist placed upon the altar.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to share,  
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 share,  
fruit of the vine and joy of human hearts.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE EUCHARIST

*We now lift up the world and the church to God as we offer our prayers.  
Incense is blessed and burnt as a symbol of our prayers rising to God.*

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.**

All glory and honour is yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator and 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.  
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:

**Sung 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 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.'

**Sung 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.

***Sung*** ***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 forever. Amen.**

#### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

On this holy night heaven is come down to earth,  
and earth is raised to heaven as we receive the One born for us,  
in the breaking of the bread.

We who are many are one body.

**ALL** **For we all share in the one bread.**

***sung***

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*All who wish to come to receive communion are welcome.*

*Ushers will assist the movement of communicants to the altar rails.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward with arms crossed.*

*The bread and wine are offered with the following words*

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*During Communion, the choir will sing:*

**Christmas Eve - 10.30pm**

*Silent Night / First Noel* Franz Gruber / Trad - arranged Sylvia Woods

*O Holy Night* Adolphe Charles Adam - arranged Sylvia Woods

**Christmas Day - 8.00am**

*Mid-Summer* Text: George Stuart, Music: Ross Brooks

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming* Bruce Neswick

*Ding Dong Merrily on High* Trad. arranged Charles Wood

**Christmas Day - 10.00am**

*Mid-Summer* Text: George Stuart, Music: Ross Brooks

*In Dulci Jubilo* Trad.

*Ding Dong Merrily on High* Trad. arranged Charles Wood

**THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

***Please stand***

*The priest says*

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.

**Most loving God,**

**you send us into the world you love.**

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage**

**in the power of your Spirit.**

## THE BLESSING

May God the Creator, who has loved the eternal Word from before the foundation of the world, now shed that love upon you without measure. **Amen.**

May Christ our Redeemer, who by his incarnation, united heaven and earth, now make you one with each other and with him. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became Mother of the Word, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ within your life. **Amen.**

And the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN

(To be sung at all services)

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'.

*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 the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. *[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 we no more need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. *[Refrain]*

*The minister says*

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

**Please remain seated for the Organ Postlude**

**Christmas Eve - 10.30pm**

**Christmas Day - 8.00am, 10.00am**

*Carillon-Sortie Henri Mulet*

***We wish you every blessing this joyful season!***



**The Christmas Bowl appeal of Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches of Australia.**

**FREECALL 1800 025 101**

**[www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)**



**Anglicare is the Anglican Church's welfare agency assisting people in need throughout Victoria**

**FREECALL 1800 809 722**

**[www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au)**

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