



St George's Anglican Church, Malvern

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24 December, 2023



8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Setting (10:00 a.m.):

Parish Eucharist – Michael Dudman (1938–1994)

The service may be followed from p. 119 in An Australian Prayer Book

Opening Hymn:

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed in awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.

Rejoice! ...

3. O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

Rejoice! ...

The fourth candle on the wreath is lit as the following words are said.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

4. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice! ...

5. O come, Desire of nations! Show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall..
Rejoice! ...

Sentence:

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

c.f. Luke 1:32–33

During Advent, instead of the Gloria, we say together:

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Collect of the day and season:

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.**

Almighty God,
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility,
that, on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

A reading from the book of the prophet Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.'

Nathan said to the king,

'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD:

Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying,

'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:

Thus says the LORD of hosts:

I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;

and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house...

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the Psalm, The Song of Mary

Response: My Soul rejoices in God my Saviour.

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
2. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
3. For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant,
from this day all generations will call me blessed.
4. For the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. **R.**
5. He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
6. He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R.**
7. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
8. He has filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he has sent away empty. **R.**
9. He has come to help his servant, Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
10. The promise he made to our forebears:
to Abraham and to his children for ever.' **R.**

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25–27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel
and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
but is now disclosed,
and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,
according to the command of the eternal God,
to bring about the obedience of faith—
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever!
Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady,' *Gloria!*
2. 'for know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady,' *Gloria!*
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name':
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will for me be done.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said,
'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'
But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
The angel said to her,
'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.'

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel,
'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her,
'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said,
'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'
Then the angel departed from her.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

We pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; Ministry to the Defence Force;
St Matthew's Ashburton; St Paul's Cathedral and Examining Chaplains.

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you.
We pray for: Ann; Angus; Coral; Geoff; George & Linda; Heather; Ivan; Jane; Jenny and Jeff; Joan;
+John and Janine; Keith and Erica; Kelly; Liza; Noel & Reva; Patrick; +Peter; Peter; Roma; Ron;
Sarah; Simon; Stephen; Susan; Vilma; and those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

For the Faithful Departed:

We remember those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Renee Briggs;
Simonette Guest; Augusta Lesh; John Richard McPherson; Derrick Osmond; Beryl Pringle;
Archelaus Richards; Ellen (Nellie) Richards; Margaret Stokes and Adam Walker.

Offertory Hymn: 181

Final Hymn: 9

Postlude: Postlude on 'Helmsley'
by James Vivian (b. 1974)

NOTICES

The Australian Anglican Church Calendar 2024 is now available for collection at the entrance counter. Please make your \$20 payment to:
St George's Malvern BSB: 703 122 Account Number: 0500 4999
with reference to "[Your Initials] Calendar 2024". Thank you.

Christmas Services:

Please take a copy of the card outlining all services during the Christmas season from the Entrance Desk.

New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Therefore, we will also offer a **"Watchnight Service"** at **11:30 p.m.** as we join in prayer for a more peaceful world in 2024.

The **Christmas season** continues until the **Feast of the Epiphany** (kept this year on January 7). In that time, the following services will be held at St George's.

You are welcome at all of them:

December 26 (St Stephen's day, aka Boxing Day)

9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

December 27 (St John, Apostle & Martyr)

9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

December 28 (Holy Innocents)

9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

December 29–30

9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
5:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

December 31

9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
11:30 p.m.	"Watchnight Service"

January 1 (*Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of our Lord*)

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

January 2–6

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

January 7 (*The Feast of the Epiphany: the ‘Twelfth day of Christmas’*)

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with meditation

From January 8 normal services resume:

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with meditation

Monday to Saturday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

both also via Zoom:

Morning Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283
<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283
<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09>

with eucharists at 9:00 a.m. on Festivals (and as announced)

Thursday

10:15 a.m. Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Galatians 4:4–7

Psalm 148
Luke 2:22–40

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Prayer</u> in Chapel and by	<u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below)
Monday, 25 December <i>The Birth of Our Lord</i>	Psalm 132:10–18 Micah 4:1–8 Matthew 1:18–2:6	No Evening Prayer
Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.	Isaiah 62:6–12 Titus 3:4–8a	Psalm 97 Luke 2:1–20
Tuesday, 26 December <i>St Stephen, Deacon & Martyr</i>	Psalm 130 Jeremiah 26:1–16 Acts 6:1–7; 7:1–49	Psalm 139 Isaiah 28:1–13 Titus 1
Wednesday, 27 December <i>St John, Apostle, Evangelist & Martyr</i>	Psalm 45 Wisdom 7:3–14 John 1:1–18	Psalms 141; 142 Isaiah 28:14–29 1 John 5:1–12
Thursday, 28 December <i>Holy Innocents</i>	Psalms 2; 36 Genesis 37:13–20 1 Peter 4:12–19	Psalm 119:153–176 Isaiah 61 Titus 3
Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.	Jeremiah 31:15–20 1 John 1:5–2:2	Psalm 124 Matthew 2:13–18
Friday, 29 December <i>Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d. 1170)</i>	Psalm 145 Isaiah 30:15–28 John 1:35–51	Psalm 147 Isaiah 62 Ephesians 1:1–14
Saturday, 30 December <i>Josephine Butler, social reformer (d. 1905)</i>	Psalms 148; 149 Isaiah 63:1–9 Ephesians 1:15–23	Psalms 144; 150 Isaiah 30:1–14 John 2:1–12
Next Sunday, 31 December First Sunday after Christmas	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 11:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Watch Night Service

Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

PARISH DIRECTORY

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VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone: 9822 3030 Option 3 (w);
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Day off: Friday

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HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey 0412 852 697

ORGANIST and DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Baldwin music@stgeorgesmalvern.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Phone: 9822 3030 Option 2
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WARDENS

Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957

Ravi Renjen 0412 399 897

Meg Winter 0408 124 246

CHILD SAFE OFFICER

Leonie Bird 0409 860 026

*We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation
as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.*

*We pay our respects to their Elders past and present,
acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country,
and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.*

