



ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MALVERN

A WATCH-NIGHT EUCHARIST FOR THE DAWNING OF THE NEW YEAR

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Vicar greets the people:

As we come to the Lord at the start of this New Year
let us seek his grace to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Silence is kept. The service then continues:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through him who is the beginning and the end,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

A reading from the book Ecclesiastes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.
He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover,
he has put a sense of past and future into their minds,
yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy
themselves as long as they live;
moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all
their toil.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

Response: The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

1. God is our refuge and strength: a very present help in trouble.
2. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved:
and though the mountains are shaken in the midst of the sea.
3. Though the waters rage and foam:
and though the mountains quake at the rising of the sea. **R.**
4. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God:
the dwelling-place of the Most High.
5. God is in the midst of her, therefore she shall not be moved:
God will help her and at break of day.
6. The nations make uproar, and the kingdoms are shaken:
but God has lifted his voice, and the earth shall tremble. **R.**
8. Come then and see what the LORD has done:
what destruction he has brought upon the earth.
9. He makes wars to cease in all the world:
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
and burns the chariots in the fire.
10. 'Be still, and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted upon the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the church in Corinth:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21–37

Alleluia! Alleluia!

“I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

c.f. Revelation 1:8

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus warned his disciples:

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet,

so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes;

truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat,

and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’”

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A RENEWAL OF COVENANT

God made a covenant with the people of Israel,
calling them to be a holy nation,
chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death
and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power,
and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ.
For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the
covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim
upon us.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.
For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ,
reluctant to follow him
and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship,
the formality and selfishness of our prayers,
our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace,
and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts,
evade our responsibilities
and fail to be good stewards of your creation:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good,
tolerant of injustice,
quick to condemn
and selfish in sharing your love with others:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

Silence is kept. Then all say:

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit.**

Psalm 51.1, 2, 11, 13

The Vicar pronounces God's forgiveness, and the people respond: **Amen.**

The Vicar then addresses the congregation, concluding:

Eternal God,
in your faithful and enduring love
you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear and accept your commands;
in love we seek to do your perfect will;
with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.

All: I am no longer my own but yours.

**Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.**

**Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.**

**I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone,
but as God's servants and witnesses,
let us pray for the Church and for the world:

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:
make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the
nations of the world:
establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness,
grief or trouble:
deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered
your eternal glory:
bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence is kept.

Lord our God,
you have helped us by your grace
to make these prayers,
and you have promised through Christ our Lord
that when two or three agree in his name
you will grant what they ask.
Answer now your servants' prayers
according to their needs;
in this world grant that we may truly know you,
and in the world to come
graciously give us eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Blessed are the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set up on the altar and the Celebrant offers prayers, to which the people respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Celebrant then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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 Celebrant continues with a prayer appropriate to the season, concluding with:

... 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 Celebrant continues the prayer until:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues the prayer, which concludes:

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

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Rejoicing in the renewal of all things in God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the Celebrant breaks the bread, the following is said:

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.**

We say together:

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your
peace.**

All are invited to receive the sacrament.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand.

A prayer is offered by the Celebrant, which ends:

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 BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Celebrant offers a blessing, to which all respond: Amen.

The people are invited to depart, and make the following final prayers together:

Jesus, Lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.

Jesus, image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.

Jesus, friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future. Amen.

A thousand years in God's sight are like a single day.
Like an evening that has already gone.

Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

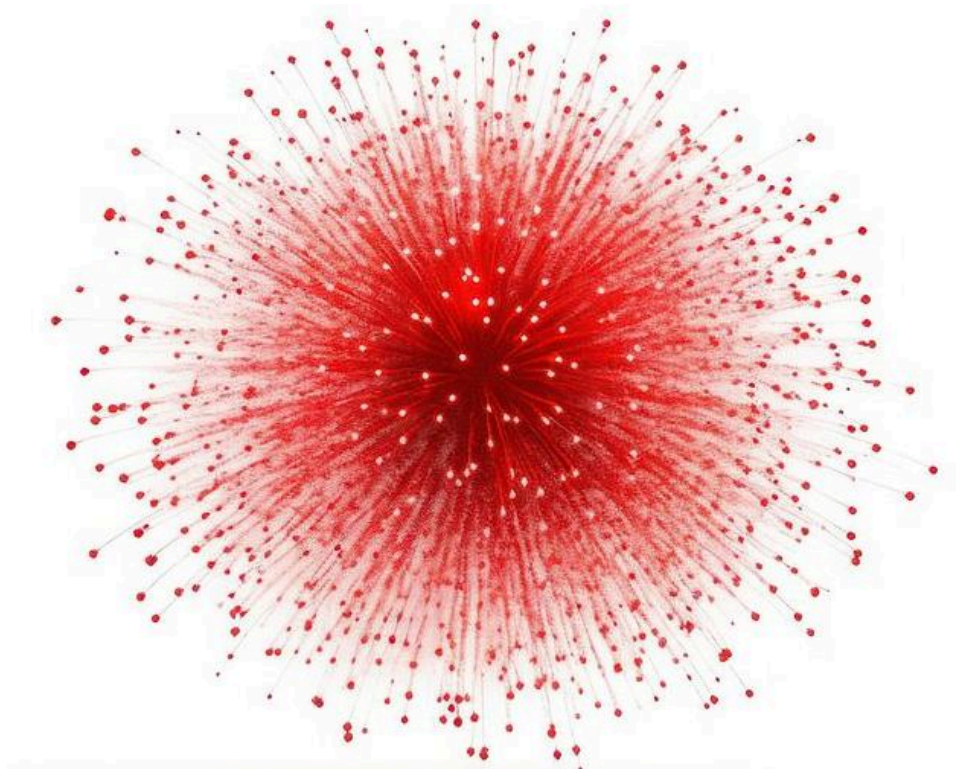
Jesus stands at the door and knocks.
Lord Jesus, enter our homes and our lives.

You hold the key to God's way of justice.
Open to us your kingdom of peace.

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

Please join us in the Parish Hall for traditional New Year's refreshments.

A very Happy and Peaceful 2024 to you all!



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*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.*