St George's Anglican Church, Malvern



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 28 January 2024

Liturgical Commemoration of Australia Day



The Southern Cross – a sign for all in this land

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We stand to sing the following hymn:

- Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand, where sun turns to gold the grass of the land, let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell their joy in the One who made everything well.
- 2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm, where green things grow lush and oceans are warm, let every sea-creature and tropical bird exult in the light of the life-giving Word.
- 3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain, where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain, let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.
- 4. Now people of faith, come gather around with songs to be shared, for blessings abound! Australians, whatever your culture or race, come lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (1956–) Music: 'Hanover' melody prob. by William Croft (1678–1727)

President: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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

The President welcomes the congregation, then this formal welcome is read:

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation, traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet, whose culture and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, acknowledging their continuing connexion to Country.

We honour the abiding legacy of these ancestors, who reside in the imagination of this land

and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation. We pray that we may walk together on the path to reconciliation.

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.

We say together:

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

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. Let us pray. The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

Bountiful God, we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land:

a land of despair and hope,

a land of wealth and abundant harvests,

a land of fire, drought and flood;

we give thanks for those who nurtured this land for millennia beyond counting, and those who came to find a home of peace and hope.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation and an end to all injustice; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 28:1-9

A reading from the book Deuteronomy:

If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God:

Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock.

Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl.

Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways.

Hear the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-9

Response: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

| Ι. | I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. |
|----|--|
| 2. | Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. |

- 3. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
- 4. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
- 5. On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- 6. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.
- 7. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 8. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

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Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities;

for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.

Do you wish to have no fear of the authority?

Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good.

But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer.

Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.

For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing.

Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord goes out to all the land. The word of the Lord is good news for all people.

Alleluia!

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

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him,

'Teacher, we know that you are sincere,

and show deference to no one;

for you do not regard people with partiality,

but teach the way of God in accordance with truth.

Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?'

But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them,

'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' And they brought one.

Then he said to them,

'Whose head is this, and whose title?'

They answered, 'The emperor's.'

Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'

And they were utterly amazed at him.

For the gospel of the Lord, praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

The Sermon

Silence is kept

All stand

Let us together 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

For the Anglican Church

The Church of Southern Africa St Mark's Camberwell; St James & St Peter's Kilsyth and Montrose; Anglican Men's Society and all churches in Australia.

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you especially: +John and Janine; +Peter; Angus; Ann; Chris; Coral; Elizabeth; Geoff; George & Linda; Ivan; James; Jane; Jenny and Jeff; Joan; Jon; Josie; Keith and Erica; Liza; Mary Therese; Nicola; Noel & Reva; Patrick; Roma; Ron; Sarah; Simon; Stephen; Susan; Vilma and the Tadgell family as they grieve.

For the Faithful Departed

Those who have died recently: Christina Tadgell; Christopher Edwards and those anniversary of death occurs this week: Eric Angliss; Alan Baxter, PRIEST; Charlotte Bayley; Elizabeth Dowsey; Constance Francis; Maxwell Glover; Frank Hansen; Peter Jackson; Caroline Leonard; Ethel Manning; Mary Moline; Lyndsay Nettlefold; Louise Willsmore and Winifred Wilkinson.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations, and in the Cross that fills the night skies of this Great Southern Land.

Silence is kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins of ignorance, prejudice and complacency in penitence and faith, confident of God's forgiveness:

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 President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond **Amen.**

All stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

We greet one another with an appropriate sign of God's peace.

We sing the following hymn, as the table is prepared:

- Blest are the pure in heart, For they shall see our God, The secret of the Lord is theirs, Their soul is Christ's abode.
- The Lord, who left the heavens Our life and peace to bring, To dwell in lowliness on earth, Our pattern and our King;
- Still to the lowly soul He doth himself impart, And for his dwelling and his throne Chooseth the pure in heart.
- 4. Lord, we thy presence seek;
 May ours this blessing be:
 Give us a pure and lowly heart,
 A temple meet for thee.

Words: John Keble (1792–1866), et al Music: 'Franconia, W. H. Havergal (1793–1870)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set on the altar and the President offers this prayer:

Generous God of Holy Dreaming, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The President 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.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise, be yours now and always, Lord of every time and place, God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the dawn of creation your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land: you spoke and the gum tree grew. In the vast desert and dense forest and in cities at the waters' edge, creation sings your praise. Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

In the fullness of time you revealed your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

When Jesus hung upon the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed, the refugees.

We give you thanks that in him you have revealed to us your presence

in the vastness of this land, your love in its fruitfulness, and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life.

The sunrise of your Son colours the earth anew, and bathes it in glorious hope.

And so, with angels and archangels, with people from every nation, country, tribe and language, and with the Church throughout the ages, 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 Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in obedience to our Saviour Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may be partakers of his body and blood, and be made one with him, with each other, and with all who set foot on this country, in peace and love.

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.'

Likewise, 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.' 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,

renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

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

Silence is kept.

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President 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.

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All are invited to receive the sacrament.

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand and the President prays:

God of Holy Dreaming, we thank you for this sacred meal we share together on this day of mixed emotions; a meal that brings the spirit and reality of Christ into our hearts and brings us closer to you and closer to each other. May our lives be lit up by your love, and may your love light up others through us.

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.

- Almighty God, lift up our eyes; inspire us all with visions brave; from mountain heights' grey driven skies, to cities hemmed with sunlit wave, from bushlands green to desert plain, recall us to your truth again.
- We do not seek the power, O Lord, to wing swift death with greater speed; but love, to be your love's reward, your love, to match our spirit's need – grant this; but human wrath repeal, and all the troubled peoples heal.
- Let not our land a tyrant know, nor shackled freedom give us shame; strongholds of selfishness o'erthrow: God, light in us your Spirit's flame – now fire this nation's heart and will your mighty purpose to fulfil.

Words: William Courtenay Saunders Johnson (1907–87) alt. Music: 'Melita', John Bacchus Dykes (1823–76)

THE BLESSING

Life is short;
we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of the One who made us and loves us and goes before us be upon you and all those whom you love, this day and always in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

National Anthem for Australia

Australians all let us rejoice, For we are one and free; We've golden soil and wealth for toil; Our home is girt by sea; Our land abounds in nature's gifts Of beauty rich and rare; In history's page, let every stage Advance Australia Fair. In joyful strains then let us sing: Advance Australia Fair.

Go, walk gently on country, learning to love and serve our God. In the name of Christ. Amen.

We look forward to sharing time together over lunch under the trees in the garden.

NOTICES

Thanks to all those, ably led by Ewan and Sandra Morgan, who set up for this morning's liturgy and for the lunch to follow.

St Alban's Food Relief collection today. We are one of the main contributors to this outreach, so please give generously at this time of great need in this disadvantaged area of our City. For further information, please contact Helen Baddeley on 0417 302 236.

The Funeral for Christina Tadgell will take place this coming Friday, February 2, at 10:30 a.m. in the church, followed by refreshments in the hall.

Flowers for Christina Tadgell's Funeral: It is hoped to make 'garden flower' arrangements for Christina Tadgell's funeral. Any contributions from home gardens, such as hydrangeas (even if fading), roses, dahlias and foliage, in white, yellow, pink and green (no red) would be gratefully received on the morning of Thursday February 1st from 9:00 a.m. in the hall foyer. Any queries to Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957.

Ron Pritchard's ashes will be interred in the Garden of Remembrance after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, February 4, when we will be keeping Candlemas.

"THE WEEK AHEAD" will not be included at the end of future pew sheets. Please refer to your copy of the Australian Lectionary for readings and festivals.

Lenten Study

There will be another book available for Lenten Studies this year; and at least two occasions on which those studies will take place. Please speak with (or email) the Vicar in the coming week if you are interested in participating in a Lenten Study.

Scripture Readings next week

CANDLEMAS

Malachi 3:1–4 Hebrews 2:14–18 Psalm 24 Luke 2:22–40

THE WEEK AHEAD

| Weekdays Monday – Saturday | 8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer |
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| <u>Day</u> | Morning Prayer in Chapel and by | <u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below) |
| Monday, 29 January | Psalm 69:1–16 Jeremiah 12:1–17 Philippians 1:1–11 | Psalm 69:17–38 Genesis 18:22–19:11 Luke 2:1–7 |
| Tuesday, 30 January | Psalm 72 Jeremiah 13:1–17 Philippians 1:12–20 | Psalm 73 Genesis 19:12–38 Luke 2:8–21 |
| Wednesday, 31 February | Psalm 59 Jeremiah 13:18–14:6 Philippians 1:21–30 | Psalm 58; 79 Genesis 20 Luke 2:41–52 |
| Thursday, I February | Psalm 74 Jeremiah 14:7–16 Philippians 2:1–11 | Psalms 75; 76 Genesis 21:1–34 Luke 3:1–14 |
| Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m. | Kings 2:1–12 Chronicles 29:10–13 | Psalm 144:1–4 Mark 6:7–13 |
| Friday, 2 February 10:30 a.m. Funeral for Christina Tadgell | Psalm 77 Jeremiah 14:17–15:9 Philippians 2:12–18 | Psalm 78:1–15 Genesis 22:1–24 Luke 3:15–22 |
| Saturday, 3 February First Anglican Service at Sydney Cove 1788 | Psalm 78:16–38 Jeremiah 15:10–21 Philippians 2:19–30 | Psalm 78:39–70 Genesis 23 Luke 3:23–38 |
| Next Sunday, 4 February CANDLEMAS (PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE) | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist |
| CHRIST IN THE LEMIFLE) | 5:00 p.m. | Holy Eucharist & Meditation |

Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283 https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWR1dm1XWDQ4Zz09

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283 https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWR1dm1XWDQ4Zz09

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We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples 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 unceded occupancy and continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.



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Friday



Your Presence, O Lord, endures as the Rock at the heart of our land.