

# EUCCHARIST ON Christmas Eve

4.00PM

24<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*Celebrant: The Rev'd Canon Jenny Wilson*

*Preacher: The Rt Rev'd Chris McLeod, The Dean*

*Master of Ceremonies: Les Milner*

*Cathedral Clergy:*

*The Rev'd Peter Jin*

*Organist: Anthony Hunt*

**St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide**

*St Peter's Cathedral strives to be a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented, faith community. The Cathedral resides on the lands of the Kaurana people whom we acknowledge as the original custodians of the Adelaide Region.*

# *Welcome from the Dean*

Christmas is one of the happiest of seasons. It has been greatly challenged in recent years due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but Christmas is still with us. Nothing can take that away. At the heart of Christmas, of course, is the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the middle of all our wonderful festivities and celebrations stands this truth that Jesus is truly the 'reason for the season'. Our worship services proclaim this through the beauty of scripture, liturgy, and music.

In all the busyness of Christmas it is good to be reminded of the simplicity which is at its heart. In the child Jesus God comes to the world in love. It is a story of redemption. God comes to bring us back to God. As we look out into our world we are confronted with anger, war, injustice, disease, racism, hatred, sexism, abuse, and, sadly, the list could go on. The world is in desperate need of God. Christmas is not just a celebration, but it is also a proclamation. The message is Good News! God has come into his world and wants to put it right. Christmas acknowledges this and asks us to join God in this mission.

Susan and I bring you Christmas greetings, and we pray for peace on earth and good will for all. May your Christmas season be a joyful and blessed one.

*The Rt Rev'd Chris McLeod, Dean*

*Please stand as the Altar party enters*

The Lord be with you. **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

Let us pray: *(please kneel/sit)*

**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.**

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

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

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to God, 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 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.**

*We stand and say together the 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*

Give us, O God, such love and wonder that, with shepherds and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy Child, the promised King, and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit for the reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Read by Don Morris)*

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 96*

O sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations:  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**Majesty and glory are before him:  
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**

Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:  
render to the Lord glory and might.

**Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:

let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

**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.**

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:

let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

**Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:**

**then shall all the trees of the wood**

**shout with joy before the Lord;**

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:

he shall judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with his truth.

*Titus 2:11-14 (Read by: Will McLachlan)*

For 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 Saviour, 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.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Please stand to sing the Gradual Hymn (masks must be worn while singing)

Hymn: #78 [*Adeste Fideles*]

O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
    *O come, let us adore him,*  
    *O come, let us adore him,*  
    *O come, let us adore him,*  
    *Christ the Lord!*
2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
    *O come, let us adore him...*
3. See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps  
    *O come, let us adore him...*
4. Lo! Star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:  
    *O come, let us adore him ...*
5. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
    *O come, let us adore him...*

*Music:* ADESTE FIDELES arr. J. F. Wade (1711–1786)

*Words:* Latin 18<sup>th</sup> Century trans F. Oakely, W.T. Brooke and others

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 78

Please remain standing for the Gospel reading: Luke 2:1-20

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please remain standing until invited to sit by the Preacher*

*The Sermon: The Rt Rev'd Chris McLeod, Dean*

*Please stand to say the Nicene 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 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.**

*Please kneel/sit for the prayers of the Church (led by The Reverend Peter Jin)*

### **Prayers at the Crib**

O God the Son, highest and holiest,  
you humbled yourself to share our birth and our death:  
bring us with the shepherds and the wise men to kneel before your holy cradle,  
that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven;  
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign,  
God, world without end. **Amen.**

Let us bring before God our needs and the needs of the world.

*(We keep silence for a moment)*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Wonderful Counsellor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulder.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever, and  
bring healing in this time of pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

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.**

*Please stand for the Greeting of Peace*

A child has been born for us, a son given to us:

**And his name is called the Prince of Peace.**

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



*Please remain standing to sing the Hymn (masks must be worn while singing)*

**Hymn: #79 [Forest Green]**

**O little town of Bethlehem**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>How still we see thee lie!<br/>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br/>The silent stars go by.<br/>Yet in thy dark streets shineth<br/>The everlasting light;<br/>The hopes and fears of all the years<br/>Are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>2. O morning stars, together<br/>Proclaim the holy birth,<br/>And praises sing to God the King,<br/>And peace to men on earth;<br/>For Christ is born of Mary;<br/>And, gathered all above,<br/>While mortals sleep, the angels keep<br/>Their watch of wond'ring love.</p> | <p>3. How silently, how silently,<br/>The wondrous gift is giv'n!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>The blessings of his heav'n.<br/>No ear may hear his coming;<br/>But in this world of sin,<br/>Where meek souls will receive him, still<br/>The dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,<br/>Descend to us, we pray;<br/>Cast out our sin, and enter in,<br/>Be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>The great glad tidings tell:<br/>O come to us, abide with us,<br/>Our Lord Emmanuel.</p> |
|---|---|

*Music: FOREST GREEN, English Traditional Words: Bishop P. Brooks 1835–1893  
Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 79*

*Please remain standing for the Blessing of Gifts and The Great Thanksgiving*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. 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 Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**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.

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 saying:

*We say together the Sanctus & Benedictus:*

**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.'

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.**

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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

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.

*Baptised and communicant Christians of all denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion will be administered at the Nave platform in one kind only (bread). Please follow the guidance of stewards and servers. Gluten free bread is available at the Nave platform only; please ask for this from the priest giving communion.*

*If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you may like to come forward and receive a blessing (simply bow your head as a signal).*

*Prayers after Communion (please kneel/sit)*

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.

**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.**

*Please stand to sing the Post-Communion Hymn (masks must be worn while singing)*

**Hymn: #66 [Mendelssohn]**

**Hark! the herald angels sing**

**1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.  
*Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.***

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.***

**3. 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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King***

*Music: MENDELSSOHN Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847) Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788) and others*    Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 66

*Please remain standing for the Blessing*

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

*Please remain standing as the Clergy depart in procession.  
You are invited to listen reflectively to the organ postlude:  
Simon Preston (b 1938) Fantasia on the Christmas Light*

*Wishing you a blessed,  
holy and happy Christmas.*

**How to give to the Cathedral**

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(Include your name as reference).

For Direct Debit or other means of giving, please contact the Cathedral Office.

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Use the Tap & Go machine to make an instant \$10.00 donation  
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Select: St Peter's Cathedral Conservation Appeal

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Website [www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au](http://www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au)



**The Cathedral is open to visit and to pray:**

Mon 11.00am-1:00pm

Tues-Sat 11.00am-3:00pm

**Sunday Services on 26 December 2021:**

8:00am Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am Sung Eucharist

**January 2022 Sunday Services:**

8:00am Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am Sung Eucharist

06:00pm Night Prayer

**December 2021 - January 2022 Weekday Services  
(from 29 December 2021 - 28 January 2022):**

Wednesday 7:30am & 10:00am Eucharist

Friday 7:30am Eucharist

**Cathedral Office will be closed from  
4pm on 24 December 2021 and re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2022.  
Regular service schedule will resume on Sunday 30 January 2022.**