

# BLUE CHRISTMAS

*On the Third Sunday of Advent*

6 pm • 17 December 2023

St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide

St Peter's Cathedral resides on the lands of the Kurna people. We give thanks for their ancestors and acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country. We are committed to work and pray towards a more just settlement for all Indigenous people and pay our respect to First Nations people with us.

**St Peter's Cathedral is a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented faith community.**

Dean: The Right Reverend Chris McLeod

Officiant: The Reverend Canon Jenny Wilson

Reflection: The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould

Readers: Christine Beal, Gerald Varley

Organist: Anthony Hunt

Choir: Syntony Chamber Singers

Welcome to St Peter's Cathedral as we gather on this evening of the Third Sunday of Advent. We know that the telling of the story of the Birth of the Christ Child is coming. Our task is a gentle one ... to embrace the waiting.

For many, we approach Christmas hoping to know it a season of joy and hope. For many, perhaps all of us, the joy is woven with the sadnesses of our own lives, the griefs in our families' lives, the struggles of the world in which we live. For some of us, the grief is all we can know at Christmas. And so, at this service of Blue Christmas, we spend time with that grief. We will light candles, we will listen to the music of the organ, we will ponder words of scripture and we will sing hymns.

As we gather this night, may we know that the God of love who was born as a baby in Bethlehem is with us, may we know that the light of God's love shines in the darkness.

*Jenny Wilson*  
*Canon Precentor*

*Please stand as the choir sings from the West Door*

## INTROIT

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,  
aus einer Wurzel zart,  
wie uns die Alten sungen,  
von Jesse kam die Art  
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht  
mitten im kalten Winter,  
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

*Das Röslein, das ich meine,  
davon Isaias sagt,  
ist Maria die reine,  
die uns das Blümlein bracht.  
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat  
hat sie ein Kind geboren  
und blieb ein reine Magd.*

*Das Blümelein, so kleine,  
das duftet uns so süß,  
mit seinem hellen Scheine  
vertreibt's die Finsternis.  
Wahr Mensch und wahrer Gott,  
hilft uns aus allem Leide,  
rettet von Sünd und Tod.*

Behold, a Branch is growing  
Of loveliest form and grace,  
as prophets sung, foreknowing;  
It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little Flow'r  
In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.

Isaiah hath foretold it  
In words of promise sure,  
And Mary's arms enfold it,  
A virgin meek and pure.  
Thro' God's eternal will  
This Child to her is given  
At midnight calm and still.

This Flow'r whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True Man, yet very God;  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

*Please remain standing*

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

**Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners to repentance,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus, sent to heal those who are burdened in soul,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus, now seated at the Father's right hand to intercede for us.  
**have mercy on us.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.**  
**Praise the Lord!**

**HYMN 79 – O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (FOREST GREEN)**

- 1 **O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 **O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**
- 3 **How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**
- 4 **O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in:  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.**

WORDS: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) MUSIC: English traditional melody harmonised by  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) last verse arrangement by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)  
Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 79

*The Christ Candle (Paschal Candle) is lit*

We light this candle, the candle of Christ's light and life, and symbol of God's presence with us even in the darkness. We remember all who gaze into the night sky with longing and with hope, all who listen for the song of the angels. We pray that this light will also kindle a flame of hope in our heavy hearts.

*Other candles are lit from the Christ Candle*

We light this **candle of memory and loss**, inviting Christ's light into our darkness. We remember those we have loved and lost. We acknowledge our sorrow and we look to the light in hope.

We light this **candle of compassion and community** in honour of the hope and support we have received from family and friends who have walked with us. We thank you, Holy God, for your expression of love through them.

We light this **candle of wisdom** as a prayer for the grace to accept what cannot be changed and to move forward even when our hearts are raging against the pain. May we be at peace in Christ's light.

We light this **candle of faith**, believing that even when we feel most alone, you, O Lord, are with us; even when we deny you and run from you, your love never changes. May our faith be strengthened day by day.

*Please listen reflectively as the choir sings*

John Tavener (1944-2013) *The Lamb*

*Little Lamb who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing woolly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice:  
Little Lamb who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little Lamb I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb I'll tell thee:  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb:  
He is meek and he is mild,  
He became a little child:  
I a child and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name:  
Little Lamb God bless thee.  
Little Lamb God bless thee.*

*All are invited to light a candle at any of the stations on the Nave Platform. There is no hurry. Let your candle burn as a symbol of light and hope.*

## THE COLLECTS

Father of all, we pray to you for those whom we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

LAMENTATIONS 3:1-3, 19-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

I am one who has seen affliction  
under the rod of God's wrath;  
he has driven and brought me  
into darkness without any light;  
against me alone he turns his hand,  
again and again, all day long.

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

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

*Please stand*

## **PSALM 80.7-19** (*Spoken*)

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;**

**it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.**

Why then have you broken down its walls,

so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

**The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.**

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;

have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

**They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.**

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

**Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **SECOND READING**

JOHN 14:1-6

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## **REFLECTION**

The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould

*Please listen reflectively as the choir sings*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548-1611) *O Magnum Mysterium*

*O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum  
jacentem in praesepio.  
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.  
Alleluia!*

*O great mystery  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord  
lying in a manger!  
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!*

*Please kneel/sit*

## THE PRAYERS

*Led by the Right Rev'd Chris McLeod*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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 to sing*

### **HYMN 84 – SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT! (STILLE NACHT)**

**1 Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin and her child:  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace;  
sleep in heavenly peace!**

**2 Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quail at the sight,  
glory streams from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!'**

**3 Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light:  
radiant beams your holy face  
with the dawn of saving grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), translated by John Freeman Youn (1820-1885)  
Music: Melody by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), arranged by David Iliff (b. 1939)  
Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 84



## 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.**

*You are invited to listen reflectively to the organ postlude.*

*Please refrain from conversation until the music is completed;  
applause is not normally appropriate during an act of worship.*



Thank you for worshipping with us today. The life and work of this Cathedral is made possible through the generosity of individuals like you. Your gift helps us to maintain this iconic building for all people to enjoy, to continue a strong music and liturgy tradition, and to support the mission of the Church. You can donate in these ways:

- Envelopes and/or cash in the Collection plates or the Donation Boxes around the Cathedral.
- Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB 705-077 Account Number 00040056 (include your name as reference)
- Use the \$10/\$20/\$30/\$50 Tap & Go machine to make an instant donation.
- Debit/Credit card: Scan the QR code to be taken directly to our online donation page.



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nurturing spirit and mind  
**CATHEDRAL**

# NOTICES

## **Sunday Night with Lynn Arnold (7 pm on 1079Life)**

Lynn Arnold's program this week will feature Astra Fleetwood from Anglicare as they talk about responding to need in the Christmas season.

**Tea/coffee after regular services:** Our community offer hospitality at the following times:

- The Wednesday 10 am community have tea & coffee after the first Wednesday each month. The next gathering will take place on Wednesday 3 January.
- The Sunday 8 am community have tea & coffee after the first Sunday of each month. The next gathering will take place on Sunday 7 January.
- After the 10.30 am Eucharist, there is tea and coffee provided every week *other than on 24 December (10 am) and 31 December.*

**Music Foundation performances of Handel's *Messiah*** – The final Music Foundation Concert for the year is the performance of *Messiah* on 22 and 23 December. Tickets for the Friday night are sold out, but some tickets for Saturday are still available. Tickets can be purchased via the QR code or website, or at the door, if available.



**Donate a star for the Cathedral Christmas tree supporting the ABM AID Al-Ahli Hospital Emergency Appeal** – During December special envelopes will be available for donating a star for this ABM AID Emergency Appeal. Cash donations of any amount can be made in the envelopes or Eftpos donations can be made at the Cathedral Shop. Every star represents a donation to this vital appeal. Please help make our Cathedral Christmas tree shine with an abundance of stars, guiding the whole world into the way of peace this Christmas.

**Flowers for Christmas** – The current abundance of beautiful blooming agapanthus in Adelaide gardens is a joyful sight and a sign that the season of Advent is here. Julie and Elspeth from the Cathedral flower team are seeking parishioners support in providing flowers for Christmas. Following our garden theme from last year we are seeking blue or white agapanthus and holly. We are particularly keen to have some holly!

In these times of financial constraints rather than buying flowers we want to use what is in our gardens. If you are able to help with these flowers please bring them to the Cathedral on Thursday 21 December where buckets will be available for you to place them in. Thank you in anticipation.

**Farewell Collection for the Rev'd Sally Sanford-Morgan** – please place cash in an envelope marked 'Gift for Sally' and place in the offertory bowl or donations box. If you are using bank transfer enter in the reference section 'Collection – Sally'.

**Lent Study 2024 – A Truth Universally Acknowledged - advance notice** – Lent studies will take place on Mondays at 10 am and 7 pm and on Tuesdays at 5 pm. Ash Wednesday is on 14 February, and our studies will commence in the following week. The Lent Study is based on a book *A Truth Universally Acknowledged* by the Venerable Dr Rachel Mann. Dr Mann introduces Jane Austen, her world and her ideas, and for each day of Lent offers commentary on a short excerpt from her writing to explore how her faith can illuminate ours.

The themes explored include: The triumph of Love, Learning wisdom, Seeing beyond the surface to the truth, Knowing where your treasure lies, The temptation to be prideful and prejudiced, The pomposity of religion, Privilege and its limitations, Duty and good manners and much more.

We have ordered 50 copies of the book which will be sold through the Cathedral shop for \$25. You might like to add Jane Austen novels and TV programmes to your holiday reading and viewing!

Please contact Canon Jenny at [jwilson@stpeters-cathedral.org.au](mailto:jwilson@stpeters-cathedral.org.au) for more details.

# FOR YOUR PRAYERS

## For the Church

### International

O Sapiaientia The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea  
Primate Bishop Nathan Ingen

### National

North Queensland: Bishop Keith Joseph

### South Australia

*Diocese of Adelaide* St Barnabas College: principal Joan Riley (Andrew)

*Diocese of Willochra* Port Augusta - Quorn: Sheridan Brand (Anthony)

*Diocese of The Murray* Tatiara (Bordertown, Keith): Robert Hupfeld (Gerri)

## For the People

We hold before God all those who have asked for our prayers, particularly:

**Immediate Prayer:** Audrey Ball, Heather Scott.

**Long Term Prayer:** Francis Brooks, Peter Garland, Max Lennard, Chris, Bridie Maxwell, Meredith Chesterman, Vernon Lewis, Pauline Van Buren, Alisha Coe-Fox, Anne Hogben, Matilda Lane, Helena Fernandes, Cricket Fox, Daniella, Peter Black, Jean Arnold, Martin Reece, Norton & Judy Schenscher, Joseph Burgess (WCH), John Hankin, Brooke Garry, David, Christine Chomel, Oliver (WCH), Sarah Boorman, Stephen Lane, Sandra Morrison.

We pray for those whose years mind occurs at this time:

17th Reginald William Mathews

18th Alan Hayward

19th Geoffrey Tremayne Sambell  
Kenneth William George Treagus

20th Hazel Shirley Whittney

21st Kate Abel Smith  
Richard Frederick Haselgrove

22nd Daniel Ditmar-Jansse  
Kathleen Moyle  
Jean Douglas McNicol

23rd Priscilla Mary Gilbert Brown



ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL MUSIC FOUNDATION

# CONCERT SERIES 2023

Handel's

# Messiah



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Jessica Dean - Soprano  
Sally-Anne Russell - Alto  
Andrew Goodwin - Tenor  
Pelham Andrews - Bass

St Peter's Cathedral Consort  
Adelaide Baroque  
Anthony Hunt - Conductor

Tickets  
\$90 adult / \$80 concession  
\$25 under 18

Friday 22nd December 7pm  
Saturday 23rd December 7pm  
St Peter's Cathedral



 St Peter's Cathedral  
**musicfoundation**  
Supporting musical excellence

information and tickets  
[musicfoundation.org.au](http://musicfoundation.org.au)



# Christmas at St Peter's Cathedral

*All Welcome*

**Sunday 17 December 2023**

**6:00pm: Blue Christmas Service  
(Evening service with hymns)**

A service for those who are struggling this Christmas. The simple act of lighting a candle serves to remind us that the darkness has not overcome the light. (John 1:5) With Syntony Chamber Choir and Cathedral Organ.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Sunday 24 December 2023**

**10:00am: Sung Eucharist service**

**4:00pm: Children's Crib Service**

Children are invited to come dressed as characters from the Christmas story. This service will last approximately one hour.

**7:00pm: Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**

With the Cathedral Choir, Cathedral Organ, and Brass

**11:00pm: The First Eucharist of Christmas  
(Midnight Mass)**

Doors open at 10.15pm

With the St Peter's Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Organ.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Monday 25 December 2023**

**8:00am: Holy Communion (BCP) with Carols**

**10:00am: Festive Choral Eucharist**

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**CATHEDRAL**

KING WILLIAM ROAD  
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[www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au](http://www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au)  
Cathedral Office on 8267 4551



# THIS WEEK IN THE CATHEDRAL

For some services, the West Doors of the Cathedral are not opened. Please make your way to the northern (carpark) side of the Cathedral and enter through the St Barnabas Porch.

<b>MON 18 DEC</b>	7:30am	Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
	9.15am	Morning Prayer (St Barnabas College)
	10:30am-1pm	Open for visiting and private prayer
<b>TUES 19 DEC</b>	7:30am	Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
	8:45am	Morning Prayer (Dean's Chapel)
	10:30am-3:30pm	Open for visiting and private prayer
<b>WED 20 DEC</b>	7:30am	Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
	8:45am	Morning Prayer (Dean's Chapel)
	10:00am	Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
	10:30am-2:30pm	Open for visiting and private prayer
<b>THURS 21 DEC</b> ST THOMAS, APOSTLE AND MARTYR	7:30am	Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
	8:45am	Morning Prayer (Dean's Chapel)
	10:30am-3:30pm	Open for visiting and private prayer
<b>FRI 22 DEC</b>	7:30am	Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
	8:45am	Morning Prayer (Dean's Chapel)
	10:30am-3:30pm	Open for visiting and private prayer
	7:00pm	Handel's Messiah ( <i>sold out</i> )
<b>SAT 23 DEC</b>	7:00pm	Handel's Messiah
<b>SUN 24 DEC</b> FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE	10:00am	Choral Eucharist Preacher – The Rev'd Canon Jenny Wilson
	4:00pm	Children's Crib Service
	7:00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
	11:00pm	Midnight Mass Preacher – The Archbishop of Adelaide

## CATHEDRAL STAFF

Dean	The Right Reverend Chris McLeod
Canon Precentor	The Reverend Canon Jenny Wilson
Assistant Priest	The Reverend Sally Sandford-Morgan
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold AO
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould
Cathedral Administrator	Peter Burdon
Cathedral Office	Marco Callisto, Robyn Shilcock, Emma Simpson-Smith
Director of Music	Anthony Hunt
Cathedral Organist	David Heah
Dean's Warden	Rijke Mellor
People's Warden	Reuben Jacob