



FESTIVE CHORAL EUCHARIST

# Christmas Day

10 am • 25 December 2023

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.***

*Celebrant*

The Reverend Canon Jenny Wilson  
*Canon Precentor*

*Preacher*

The Right Reverend Chris McLeod  
*Dean of St Peter's Cathedral and National Aboriginal Bishop*

*Choir: The St Peter's Cathedral Choir*

*Director of Music: Anthony Hunt*

*Cathedral Organist: David Heah*

*Please stand when the handbell rings.*

*The Choir enters in procession followed by the Altar party.*

*All sing*

- 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:**
- 3 **Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
in the highest:**
- 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:**

*Music: ADESTE FIDELES att. J.F. Wade 1711–1786*

*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> Century trans. F. Oakely, W.T. Brooke and others  
Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 78*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1.1, 14

Let us pray:

*Please sit / kneel*

**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.**

*The choir sings*

## KYRIE

Anthony Hunt (b.1981) *St Peter's Setting*

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

*Silence may be kept.*

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

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.**

*Please stand*

*The choir sings*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Anthony Hunt (b.1981) *St Peter's Setting*

*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.*

## COLLECT

God Most High, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence: grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have given us, and how great is the hope to which we are called in the Word made flesh; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit for the reading (read by Andrew Charlton)*

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.**

*The choir sings*

## PSALM 96

Chant: Coby Mellor

*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.*

*Please remain seated for the reading (read by Ros Clarke)*

## SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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*

- 1 **Jesus Christ the Lord is born  
all the bells are ringing!  
Angels greet the holy One  
and shepherds hear them singing,  
and shepherds hear them singing.**
- 2 **'Go to Bethlehem today,  
find your king and saviour:  
glory be to God on high,  
to earth his peace and favour,  
to earth his peace and favour!'**

- 3 **Held within a cattle stall,  
loved by love maternal,  
see the master of us all,  
our Lord of lords eternal,  
our Lord of lords eternal!**
- 4 **Soon shall come the wise men three,  
rousing Herod's anger;  
mothers' hearts shall broken be  
and Mary's son in danger,  
and Mary's son in danger.**
- 5 **Death from life and life from death  
our salvation's story:  
let all living things give breath  
to Christmas songs of glory,  
to Christmas songs of glory!**

Music: Melody from *Piæ Cantiones*, 1582

Harmony: David Iliff (1939)

Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

based on *Puer nobis nascitur* (Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> Century)

Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 71

*Please remain standing*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The choir sings the alleluia, which is repeated by the congregation*



Al - le - lu - ia!    Al - le - lu - ia!    Al - le - lu - ia!

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to all who enjoy his favour.*

*After the verse, the alleluia is sung again by all*

## THE GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-20

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



Glo - ry to you, Lord    Je - sus 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 Je - sus Christ.

*Please sit. Children are invited to follow the gospel procession to the crib.*

## THE 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.**

*The Trebles sing*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*Children are invited to go to the Cynthia Poulton Hall for some special Christmas craft activities, returning in time for Communion.*

*Following the sermon, a brief period of silence may be kept to aid reflection.*

*Please stand to sing the Hymn*

- 1 **Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the world began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.**
- 2 **At his word they were created;  
he commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the light of moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.**
- 3 **O that birth, for ever blessed  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.**
- 4 **O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel-hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.**

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.413)

Music: Melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

harm. editors of *New English Hymnal*, 1986

Reproduced from *Common Praise* 65



*Please remain standing*

## THE NICENE CREED

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.**

*Please kneel/ sit for the prayers*

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us:  
help us to know you, to worship and to serve you ...

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

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom:  
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love  
and fill her with the Spirit of truth ...

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

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders:  
guide the leaders of all nations and bring in your kingdom  
of justice, righteousness and peace ...

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

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity:  
protect by your mercy all your children,  
bless our families and strengthen our communities ...

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

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross:  
by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace ...

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

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the Father,  
full of the Spirit,  
**hear our prayer,  
receive our praises,  
fill our lives.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav'n, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heav'n. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of trial and de - li - ver us from e - vil.  
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours now and for ev - er. A - men.

*Please stand*

## 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*

**I 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 wond'ring love.**
- 3 **How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
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.**

*Music:* FOREST GREEN, English Traditional  
*Harmony:* R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) *Descant:* David Hill (1957-)  
*Words:* Bishop P. Brooks (1835–1893)  
*Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 79*

*Please remain standing*

## 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 following may be said or sung*

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is labeled 'Priest' and 'Response' and contains the lyrics 'The Lord be\_\_\_ with you. And al - so\_\_\_ with you.' The second staff is also labeled 'Priest' and 'Response' and contains the lyrics 'Lift\_\_\_\_ up your hearts. We lift them to\_\_ the Lord.' The third staff is labeled 'Priest' and contains the lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord\_\_\_ our God.' The fourth staff is labeled 'Response' and contains the lyrics '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:

*The Choir sings*

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Anthony Hunt (b.1981) *St Peter's Setting*

*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:



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:



## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

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.

*Please kneel/sit as the Choir sings*

### AGNUS DEI

Anthony Hunt (b.1981) *St Peter's Setting*

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us your peace.*

*Baptised and communicant Christians of all denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten free bread is available on request at Altar. 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).*

*During Communion the Choir will sing a selection of Christmas Carols.*

*After Communion, please kneel/ sit*

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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*

- 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:* Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847) *Descant:* David Willcocks (1919-2015)  
*Words:* Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others  
*Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 66*

*Please remain standing*

## THE BLESSING

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will: 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 Choir and Clergy depart in procession.*

*After this, you are invited to sit and listen to the organ postlude.*

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995) Prelude On Adeste Fideles

*Please refrain from conversation until the music is completed.*

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.



**St Peter's**  
nurturing spirit and mind  
**CATHEDRAL**

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

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

Monday 10.30 am - 1 pm

Tuesday to Friday 10.30 am - 3:30 pm

**January 2024 Sunday Services**

8 am Eucharist (BCP)

10:30 am Sung Eucharist

6 pm Night Prayer

**Weekday Services**

**(from 27 December – 26 January)**

Wednesday 7:30 am & 10 am Eucharist (BCP)

Friday 7:30 am Eucharist

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