



HOLY COMMUNION  
(BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)

# Christmas Day

8 am • 25 December 2023

*Celebrant:*

The Rev'd Joan Claring-Bould

*Preacher:*

The Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold AO

*Organist:*

Marco Callisto

*Hymns:*

66, 79, 78

# Welcome!

***‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ (Luke 2: 14)***

*Christmas is a time of great celebration. At Christmas we proclaim that God entered the world through his son, Jesus. Jesus came to bring peace, joy, and reconciliation. The Christmas services celebrate God’s presence with us while acknowledging that we live in a world that is in desperate need of the message of peace. Christmas is also a time when we pause from the busyness of life and enjoy spending time with family and friends. For some, however, Christmas can be a time of sadness as they mourn the loss of loved ones or face personal issues and problems. Christmas proclaims that God is with us in the times of sorrow as well as joy. As we enjoy singing our favourite carols and listen to the words of scripture lets us hold fast to the truth that God loves this world, and in loving the world God loves each one of us. This is the central message of Christmas – ‘God so loved the world that he sent his only Son ...’ (John 3: 16). May we all experience something of God’s love and peace this Christmas.*

*On behalf of the clergy and staff of St Peter’s Cathedral I wish you all God’s blessings for Christmas and the New Year.*

*The Right Reverend Chris McLeod, Dean*

St Peter’s Cathedral resides on the lands of the Kaurua 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.**

*Please stand as the Clergy enter*

*Please kneel/sit*

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**A**LMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

*Turning to the People, the Priest says*

**O**UR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And a second is like it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Please sit for the first reading (read by Don Morris)*

## 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 exultation;  
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.

Great will be his authority,  
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 onward and forevermore.

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.

*Please sit for the second reading (read by Brian White)*

## SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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. **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)*

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

*Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 66*

## THE GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel is written in the 2nd Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, beginning at the 1st verse.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord**

LUKE 2.1-20

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 be to thee, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing*

## 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 sit at the invitation of the preacher.*

## THE SERMON

The Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold AO

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

## THE PRAYERS AT THE CRIB

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.**

*Please stand to sing*

- 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 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 *harm.* R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Words:* Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 79

*Then the Priest says*

**Y**E that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

## THE GENERAL CONFESSION

*Then all say together,*

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## THE ABSOLUTION

*Then shall the Priest (or the Bishop, if present,) standing up, and turning to the people, shall give the Absolution.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Priest makes the sign of the Cross towards the congregation at the words pardon and deliver you, and it is the custom of some to also make the sign of the Cross at this time in thankfulness for God's pardon.*

## THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

*Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matth. xi. 28.*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*St. John iii. 16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

*1 Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

*1 St. John ii. 1.*

*After which the Priest shall proceed, saying,*

## THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Priest.* Lift up your hearts.

*Answer.* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Priest.* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*Answer.* **It is meet and right so to do.**

**I**T is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

*All say together*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Let us pray

*All say together*

**WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

*Then the Priest says*

**A**LL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again:

*The bell rings once to prepare us for our Lord's coming.*

Hear us, O merciful Father we most humbly beseech thee, and with thy Holy and Life-giving Spirit vouchsafe to bless and sanctify both us and these thy gifts of Bread and Wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to the end that we, receiving the same, may be strengthened and refreshed both in body and soul.

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.

*The bell rings three times to call us to adoration when the host is elevated. It is the custom of some to make the sign of the Cross at this time.*

Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,

Drink ye all of this;  
for this is my Blood of the New Testament,  
which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins;  
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Amen.

*The bell rings three times to call us to adoration when the chalice is elevated. It is the custom of some to make the sign of the Cross at this time.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us we are bold to say

*Then all say together*

**OUR** Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

*Then the Priest says,*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Answer.* And with thy spirit.

## AGNUS DEI

*All say together*

**O** Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
**O** Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
**O** Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

Holy Communion

*Then the Priest says,*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him that taketh away the sin of the world.

*It is customary to make the sign of the Cross at this time in adoration.*

*The Priest then receives the Communion in both kinds, and then delivers it to other members of the Sacntuary party, and after ths to the people on their hands or tongue, kneeling at the Altar rails.*

*And the Priest who gives the Bread to any one shall say,*

**T**HE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.

*Or:*

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*And the Minister who gives the Cup to any one shall say,*

**T**HE Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.

*Or:*

Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

*After Communion, the Priest says*

Let us pray.

## **THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*All kneel.*

Having now by faith received the precious Body and Blood of Christ, let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**A**LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*All stand and say together*

**G**LORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Please remain standing to 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)*

*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*

## THE BLESSING

**M**AY Christ our infant saviour give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages and the humility and love of the holy family: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The Priest makes the sign of the Cross towards the congregation at the words and the blessing of God Almighty, and it is the custom of some to make the sign of the Cross in thankfulness for God's blessing.*

*Please wait until the Sanctuary party leaves before leaving your seat.*

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

Garth Edmundson (1892-1971) *Toccata on Von Himmel hoch*

## How to give to the Cathedral

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:

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**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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