

# BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

6:00pm 20 December 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Welcome:** The season of Christmas is not always one of joy and goodwill, and many struggle to respond to the merry greetings of those around us. Some of us have a loved one who is ill, or has died. Others are trapped in loneliness, illness or loss – loss of work, of friendship, of broken dreams. Many of us are confused and afraid of the future. This year has been a particularly difficult one as the coronavirus has ruled our lives and prevented people from gathering to love and support one another in times of crisis, loss and grief.

And so we turn to God and lay our burdens before God, as we light candles to remind us that Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, is the light which shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

*The Very Rev'd Frank Nelson  
Dean*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

*Officiant*

The Very Rev'd Frank Nelson

*Choir*

The Festival Statesmen Chorus

*Director*

Jonathan Bligh

*Organist*

Anthony Hunt

**Hymns: 45, 79**

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 Kaurna people whom we acknowledge as the original custodians of the Adelaide Region

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

*Please stand as the procession enters*

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!**

*Please join in singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" - a song of people in darkness longing for God's light. It is not calling us to rejoice in the worldly form of the word, but calling our spirits and souls to reflect the true hope and joy that only God can give.*

**Hymn: #45** [*Veni Emmanuel*]

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:

3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

4. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

5. O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

WORDS: John Mason Neale (1818-1866) translated from Latin Advent Antiphons

MUSIC: Melody adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)  
harmonised by Noël Tredinnick (b. 1949), descant by David Iliff (b. 1939)

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number **45**

*Lighting of Candles (Please be seated)*

The season of Christmas is not always one of joy and goodwill, and many struggle to respond to the merry greetings of those around us. Some of us have a loved one who is ill, or has died. Others are trapped in loneliness, illness or loss – loss of work, of friendship, of broken dreams. Many of us are confused and afraid of the future. And so we turn to God and lay our burdens before God, as we light candles to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

*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.

*While the Choir sings you are invited to come forward and light a candle. There is no hurry. Let your candle burn as a symbol of light and hope.*

*Ola Gjielo (b. 1978) – Ubi Caritas*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsulemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Love of Christ has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart  
let us love one another.*

*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 you 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, ever 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 sit for the first reading: Isaiah 11:1-9 (read by Chris Goodes)*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

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

*The Song of Mary: Luke 1:46-55 (said)*

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

**He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.**

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

*The second reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14 (read by Bill Goodes)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

*Please sit for the Reflection from the Dean*

*The Choir sings:*

Count Aleksandr Sheremetev (1859-1931) – *Now the Powers of Heaven*  
(English translation, sung in Russian)

Now the Powers of Heaven do serve invisibly with us.

Lo, the King of Glory enters.

Lo, the mystical sacrifice is upborne, fulfilled.

Let us draw near in faith and love  
and become communicants of life eternal.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Please kneel/sit: The Rev'd Canon Jenny Wilson leads the following prayers sourced from a Blue Christmas liturgy "When Christmas Hurts"*

In the spirit of this season  
let us now confidently ask our God  
for all the good things we need:  
For ourselves as we participate in this Christmas  
coping with our many different losses.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For our families and friends,  
that they may continue to help and support us.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For any person we have loved who has died,  
for all the losses we know in our lives,  
that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For our family and friends,  
that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For peace throughout the world  
as proclaimed by the Christmas Angels  
on that faraway hillside.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance  
as taught by Jesus your Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of great compassion and love,  
listen to the prayers of these your people.

Grant to all,

especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas,  
the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Support us, Lord, all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen,  
and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our  
work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, give us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace  
at the last. **Amen.**

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.**

*The Choir sings:*

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) - *O Holy Night*

Arranged by Evan Paton

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born;

O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

*A prayer at night*

Lord, it is night.  
The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.  
It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done; let it be.  
The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world  
and of our own lives rest in you.  
The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us, and all who have no peace.  
The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys, new possibilities.  
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing the Hymn

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

**O little town of Bethlehem**

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

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:*

Naji Hakim (b. 1955) – *Viens, mon Bien-Aimé*

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

## How to give to the Cathedral

Use Direct Credit to give to the Cathedral: BSB 305-122 Account Number 0256051  
(Include your name as reference).

For Direct Debit or other means of giving,  
please contact the Cathedral Office on 8267 4551.

Place envelopes and/or cash in the Donation Box provided.

Use the Tap & Go machine to make an instant \$10.00 donation  
(can be tapped more than once)

**Christmas Giving:** Looking for something different this year? Here are two Cathedral funds worthy of your consideration; and two a little further afield.

1. St Peter's Cathedral Restoration Fund - National Trust (details below)

2. St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation

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

3. The Magdalene Centre (or other AnglicareSA appeals)

[www.anglicaresa.com.au/donate/](http://www.anglicaresa.com.au/donate/)

4. ABM Christmas appeals

[www.abmission.org/appeals.php/186/](http://www.abmission.org/appeals.php/186/)

**St Peter's Cathedral Restoration Fund - National Trust:** Tax deductible donations specifically intended for building works or restoration of St Peter's Cathedral may be channelled through the National Trust. The donation will thereby be deductible for income tax purposes. Donations for building restoration and/or conservation works which do not require tax deductibility are better given directly to the Cathedral. There is a specific form to accompany National Trust donations.

Please contact Cathedral Administrator Kate Palmrose

[KPalmrose@stpeters-cathedral.org.au](mailto:KPalmrose@stpeters-cathedral.org.au) or 8267 4551

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# Christmas 2020

Bookings are essential for all attendees; be ready to check-in using the QR Code - STRICTLY NO WALK-INS.

Online Bookings: <http://www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au/christmas-2020/>

Most of the following services will be livestreamed on the Cathedral Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/StPetersCathedralAdelaide](http://www.facebook.com/StPetersCathedralAdelaide)

## Sunday 20 December 2020

6.00pm Blue Christmas Service (with candle lighting)

## Tuesday 22 December 2020

7.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

## Thursday 24 December 2020

4.00pm Eucharist (with Christmas carols)

7.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - **Fully Booked** & will be livestreamed on Facebook

11.00pm Midnight Mass - **Fully Booked** & will be livestreamed on Facebook

## Friday 25 December 2020

8.00am Eucharist (with Christmas carols)

10.00am Choral Eucharist



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

Phone (08) 8267 4551  
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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

**Holiday Sunday Services (from 27 December 2020):**  
8:00am Eucharist (BCP)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist  
6:00pm Night Prayer

**Holiday Weekday Services (from 30 December 2020):**  
Wednesday 7:30am & 10:00am Eucharist  
Friday 7:30am Eucharist

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Regular service schedule will resume on Sunday 31 January 2021.

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### ***Organ meets Opera - Sunday 14 February 2021 at 2pm***

St Peter's Cathedral's Cathedral Director of Music Anthony Hunt will perform a selection of operatic treats on the magnificent Cathedral Organ, with special guest soprano Jessica Dean.

Let the glorious acoustic ring with soaring voice and thrilling organ.

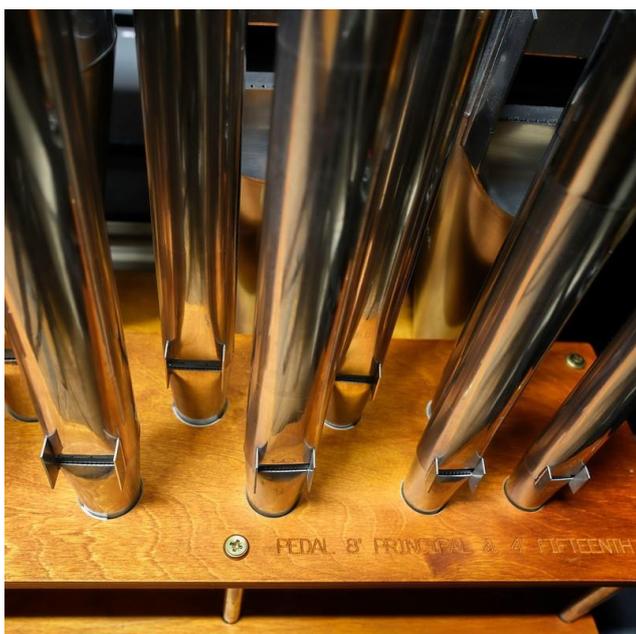
Featuring organ transcriptions and operatic solos from Johann Strauss, Verdi, Rossini, Wagner and more.

A fundraiser for the St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation: supporting excellence in the sacred music of the Cathedral and beyond.

**Tickets:** Adult \$35 | Concession \$20

**Book your tickets at** <https://www.trybooking.com/BMMRN>

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### ***Divine Intervention - Cathedral Exhibition at the 2021 Adelaide Fringe***

19 February - 21 March 2021

A photographic exhibition of the St Peter's Cathedral Organ during its restoration in 2018.

View this stunning series of photographs from unusual and unseen angles in the ethereal and sacred space of St Peter's Cathedral.

Photographer: Chris Oaten.

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