

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF *Christmas*

11PM - CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December 2020

Celebrant & Preacher

The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith
Archbishop of Adelaide

The Dean: The Very Reverend Frank Nelson

Deacon: The Reverend Canon Jenny Wilson

Subdeacon: Larissa Bailey

Master of Ceremonies: Reuben Jacob

Cathedral Clergy: The Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold AO,
The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould,
The Reverend Peter Jin

Mass Setting: Vierne Messe Solennelle

Choir: The St Peter's Cathedral Choir

Director of Music: Anthony Hunt

Cathedral Organist: David Heah

St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide

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

Welcome from the Dean

As we gather in St Peter's Cathedral to worship God this Christmas, we do so at the end of an extra-ordinary, and in many ways, traumatic year. Words found in St John's Gospel may resonate more than usual: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Let us come ready to sing the great Christmas hymns of our faith, and to hear familiar words, knowing we do so in the company of countless millions of people the world over who are touched by the birth of this tiny child.

Welcome to you all (both physically in the Cathedral and online). If this is your first experience of Christmas worship, may you know something of the sheer mystery of God's love in your life.

To everyone here, God bless, enfold and keep you in the humility and love of the holy family, the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, and the awe of the worshipping sages.

A happy and blessed Christmas.

The Very Reverend Frank Nelson, Dean

St Peter's Cathedral - a place to call home

- Whether you are one of those who comes only at Christmas, or are here for the first time, welcome. What about making the Cathedral 'your place' of regular worship?
- Children are well catered for on Sundays in the Cathedral Kids programme at 10.30am; and our trebles take their place alongside the adult choristers in the Choir.
- If you are wanting to be baptized or married here, or are simply interested in finding out more about "*Your Cathedral*" please visit our website: www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au

*Please stand when the handbell rings for the start of the service
The Choir enters in procession followed by the Altar party*

The baby Jesus is carried in procession and placed on the High Altar by the youngest chorister singing tonight.

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

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

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

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings:
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.**

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King*

Music: MENDELSSOHN Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 66

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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born,
to us a son is given. – Isaiah 9:2, 6

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The Choir sings the Kyrie

Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy

Christe eleison
Christ, have mercy

Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy

Let us bring our weakness and infirmities to God, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Archbishop pronounces the Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as the Choir sings the Gloria (in Latin), during which the crib and altar are censed
Glory 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.

The Collect for Christmas

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit for the reading: Titus 3:4-8a (Read by Christine Nelson)

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

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

Please stand to sing the Gradual Hymn

- 1. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say,
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!**
- 2. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this:
he has opened heaven's door,
and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this!**
- 3. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!**

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO Later form of 14th century German melody adapted by John Stainer (1840-1901), based on arrangement by Robert Lucas de Pearsall (1795-1856)

Words: Latin and German, 14th century, adapted by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 65

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Choir sings: Alleluia!

All sing: 
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

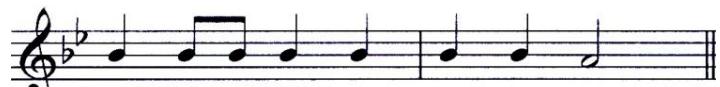
Choir sings: Good news and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

All sing: 
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All sing:



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,

All sing:

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ

Please remain standing until invited to sit by the Preacher

*The Sermon: The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith, Archbishop of Adelaide
Silence may follow*

Please remain seated

As the Choir sings Silent Night, the Dean carries the baby Jesus from the High Altar and places him in the manger.

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

The crib is blessed by The Dean.

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, and that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

This night Christ is born: **Alleluia!**

This night the Saviour comes: **Alleluia!**

This night the angels sing on earth: **Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!**

Please stand to sing

2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend your light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Music: STILLE NACHT F.X. Gruber (1787-1868)

Words: J. Mohr (1792-1848)

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 84

Please remaining standing for the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

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

(We keep silence for a moment)

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

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

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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

People

Our Fath - er 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 - liv - er 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 for the Greeting of Peace

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

And his name is called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We offer a discreet 'socially distanced' greeting to those around us.

Please remain standing to sing the Hymn

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 all 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)

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

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

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:

Choir sings: Sanctus (sung in Latin)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
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:

All sing:



Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

All sing:



Bless-ing and hon-our and glo-ry and power are yours for ev-er and ev-er, A - men.

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 (sung in Latin)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. (x2)

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

Baptised and communicant Christians of all denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion will be administered at the Nave platform. Please follow the guidance of stewards and servers and approach the altar via the central aisle, returning via the side aisles. Gluten free bread is available at the Nave platform only; please ask for this from the priest giving communion.

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

Prayers after Communion (please kneel/sit)

God of heaven, dwelling among us, we thank you for feeding us with this holy food. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh that as his body in the world we may bring your presence to all people.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Please stand to sing the Post-Communion Hymn

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!
2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him...
3. See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps
O come, let us adore him...
6. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him...
7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him...

Music: ADESTE FIDELES att. J.F. Wade 1711-1786

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

Please remain standing for the Blessing

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

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

Please remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart in procession.

You are invited to listen reflectively to the postlude:

Andrew Carter (b. 1939) – *Toccata on Veni Emmanuel*

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

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

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

- Please contact Cathedral Administrator Kate Palmrose
KPalmrose@stpeters-cathedral.org.au or 8267 4551

2. St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation

www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au/music/music-foundation/

3. The Magdalene Centre (or other AnglicareSA appeals)

www.anglicaresa.com.au/donate/

4. ABM Christmas appeals

www.abmission.org/appeals.php/186/

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North Adelaide

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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

Regular service schedule will resume on Sunday 31 January 2021.

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.

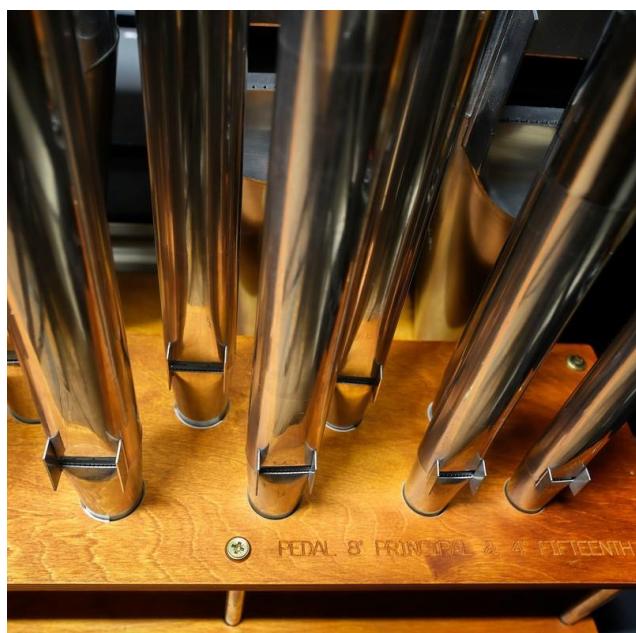
Let the glorious acoustic ring with soaring voice and thrilling organ.

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>



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.