

"Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope"

They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him. Matthew 2.11.

Welcome to Church

We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today. Please take Communion, whatever your denomination. If you are visiting, please make yourself known to Fr Walter or to one of our welcomers following the service and do stay for a cuppa and chat!



For those who have children with them, there is a children's corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend 'Godzone' - Special Children's Activities - shortly after we begin the 9.30am service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Before each service we enter a time of silence as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Entrance Hymn: TiS 454 "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, bow down before him, his glory proclaim; gold of obedience and incense of lowliness bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness, high on his heart he will bear it for you, comfort your sorrows, and answer your prayerfulness, guiding your steps in the way best for you.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of the poor wealth you would reckon to own: truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness, these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness, he will accept for the name that is dear, mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness, trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, bow down before him, his glory proclaim; gold of obedience and incense of lowliness bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-75 alt.

Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome

Epiphany is a manifestation, a clear view of who Jesus, the Messiah, is for everyone. This is shown in the coming of the wise men, which marks the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles.

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.

God, you are elusive! You are a mystery and yet, you are revealed. Help us to persist in our quest to find you as the magi did.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Prayer of Preparation:

Let us pray.

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 Two Great Commandments:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is

like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Kyries: Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

The Gloria:

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.

The Prayer of the Day:

Eternal God, who by a star led Magi to the worship of your Son; guide the nations of the earth by your light, that the whole world may see your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray together for hope:

God of Hope

You call on us to be your witness in this uncertain world; By your Spirit awaken in us

a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service;

that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

Give the king your judgement, O God:

and your righteousness to the son of a king,

That he may judge your people rightly:

and the poor of the land with equity.

Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:

and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

May he give justice to the poor among the people:

and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures:

and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.

May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:

and as showers that water the earth.

In his time shall righteousness flourish:

and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:

the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him:

and all nations do him service.

He will deliver the needy when they cry:

and the poor that have no helper.

He will pity the helpless and the needy:

and save the lives of the poor.

He will redeem them from oppression and violence:

and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

The second reading: Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellowheirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn: TiS 291 "Earth has many a noble city"

Earth has many a noble city—
Bethlehem alone excels:
from it came the Lord from heaven,
came to rule his Israel.

Eastern sages at his cradle make their offerings rich and rare; see them give in deep devotion gold and frankincense and myrrh: sacred gifts of mystic meaning frankincense God to disclose, gold the King of kings proclaiming, myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 2, beginning at verse 12

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped at your glad epiphany, now to you with God the Father and the Spirit glory be.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348-c. 413 tr. Edward Caswall 1814-78 alt.

Sermon – followed by a time of silent reflection

The Creed:

Let us stand together and 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.

The prayers of the people:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Response: God of Hope, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

At the conclusion

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preparation

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16.

Prayer of Approach:

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Confession:

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations. Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

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.

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.**

The Greeting of Peace:

We are the body of Christ. **His spirit is with us.**The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory hymn: TiS 275 "Hail to the Lord's anointed"

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son; hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to let the captive free, and take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with help and mercy to those who suffer wrong, to raise the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong, to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls condemned and dying were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth; before him on the mountains shall peace the heralds go, and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing; to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest, from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand for ever, that name to us is love.

James Montgomery 1771-1854 alt.

Prayer over the gifts:

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 Great Thanksgiving:

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

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

You anointed him as Messiah, the light of the nations, and revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered a one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
And all the company of heaven,
We proclaim your great and glorious name,
For ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blesséd is the one 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.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

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.

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:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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 breaking of the bread:

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.

Agnus Dei:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Invitation to communion:

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.

The Communion

Post communion hymn: TiS 497 "Let all mortal flesh keep silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood; he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light comes shining from the realms of endless day, and the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, lord Most High!

From the Liturgy of St James c. 4th cent Tr. Gerald Moulrie 1829-85 alt

Prayer after Communion:

God of the nations, we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament. Guide us by your presence, that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness, and establish your justice in the earth.

Most loving God, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

The Blessing:

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the + blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: TiS 314 "As with gladness men of old"

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold, as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright: so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your glory see.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to your lowly bed,
There to bend on knee before
One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at your cradle rough and bare: so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright need they no created light: you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down. There for ever may we sing hallelujahs to our King.

William Chatterton Dix 1837-98 alt.

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

NOTICES

Today we warmly welcome Fr Walter McEntee as he takes the services today, he is with us while Fr Anthony takes some annual leave to spend time with Kym visiting family and friends in NSW. Fr Anthony will be back in the parish on Wednesday 29th January. Please contact Fr Walter (0484 110 701) or the wardens for any pastoral issues.

Next Sunday, the 'Baptism of our Lord' with the renewal of our Baptismal vows.

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist will recommence this Wednesday, 8th January. Friday Cuppa and chat resumes this coming Friday, 10th January.

News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*. The NewsStand is now live on *TMA*'s website, using the link http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand. In this week's NewsStand:

SAINTS AND HOLY WOMEN AND MEN FOR THIS WEEK

Friday William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d.1645)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday: Next Sunday: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

1 John 4.7-10 Isaiah 43.1-7 Psalm: 72.1-71 Psalm 29 Mark 6.34-44 Acts 8.14-17 Luke 3.15-22

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR: THE CHURCH

Sun 5 St Alfred's Blackburn North (Incumbency vacant, Mark Simon, Elizabeth Bolton, Nicolas Curtis, Rene Pfitzner); The Diocese of Central Queensland (Bp Peter Grice, Clergy & People); All Saints' St Kilda East – Pastoral service (Abp Philip Freier);

Mon 6 St Paul's Boronia (James Connor); Trinity College & Theological School (Robert Derrenbacker, Dean); The Church in Wales (Bp Andy John);

Tue 7 Anglican Parish of Box Hill (Victor Fan); The Diocese of Gippsland (Bp Richard Treloar, Clergy & People); Defence Force Chaplains (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces);

Wed 8 St Andrew's Brighton (Ian Morrison, Xeverie De-Leon); The Diocese of Grafton (Bp Murray Harvey, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Frankston (Samuel Bleby);

Thu 9 St Peter's Brighton Beach (Jonathan Chamberlain, Chester Lord); Ministry with the Aboriginal people of Australia (Bp Chris McLeod, National Aboriginal Bishop, Aboriginal Clergy & People); Trinity Grammar School (Adrian Farrer, Principal; Chris Leadbeatter, James Hale, Chaplains);

Fri 10 Brimbank Anglican Parish (Luke Pedersen); Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander people of Australia (Torres Strait Islander Clergy & People); Korus Connect (Dawn Penney, CEO);

Sat 11 Christ Church Brunswick (Incumbency vacant, Russell Goulbourne); The Diocese of Melbourne (Abp Philip Freier, Asst Bps Paul Barker, Bradly Billings, Genieve Blackwell, Kate Prowd, Clergy & People); Anglican Development Fund (Julie Sizer).

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Reconciliation and justice for our First Nations People. Those impacted by the state of the economy and recent natural disasters.

THE WORLD

A compassionate outcome for all Asylum Seekers. Productive and harmonious relationships among Pacific neighbours. Peace in the Holy Lands, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa. All affected by climate change - wisdom and leadership to prevent further environmental damage.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Please hold in your daily prayers any individual parish members who may be on your heart, and for an awareness of God's presence in the events of the week.

Those in special need of prayer: Estelle Carman, Don Lambourne, Douglas Mortimer, Jean & Alan Close, Glenys Howell, Kaye & Carole Smith, Pauline & Edith Le Riche, Lyle & Jan Mansfield, Stanley & Rose Joseph, Pam & Tony, Marie Cleaver (Judithe's friend), Shirley & Alan Wagner, Joy (Jan Wheeler's sister), Fanny (Aggie's sister) & Clifford, Pat Ludwick, Gerald (Pat Eadon's brother), Beverley Frost, Heather & Ron, Peter Bedlow, Andrew Harding, Tim Youings and others known to us who are in special need of prayer.

Those at the Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge Those working in Health and Aged Care settings Our local Schools, Colleges, and Universities

Ourselves - as we are strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer for one another

ROSTERS:

8:00am 9:30am

Welcomers Sue Tregear Suzanne Seager & Ros Smith

Reader Sue Tregear Daniel Waite

Server Sue Tregear Natalie Ortlieb, Christine Youings

& Ava McKenzie

Liturgical AssistantRon McKenzieIntercessionsFr WalterChloe BedlowMusicPeter Bedlow

Morning Tea Cheryl & Keith Hall

SacristanJudithe AtkinsonPrintingRon McKenzieFlowersRobin Jellis

Cleaning Gavin & Ruth Ganasalingam



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

Vicar: Fr Anthony Frost Phone: 0409 012 543

Office Manager: Ron McKenzie Phone: 0418 320 301

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

FACEBOOK Please visit and www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheet to Ron McKenzie by

5:00p.m. Thursday evening (<u>r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au</u>.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Sunday 8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Eucharist

'Godzone' children's program during 9.30 am service (during school term)

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist

Friday 10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for cuppa and chat.

Banking details for direct debit or donation:

Bank: Indue Limited Name: Anglican Church of the Ascension

BSB: 703122 A/C: 050095388

<u>Commitment to Child Safety:</u> At the Church of the Ascension, we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to Child abuse or abuse of vulnerable people.

This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.

Read the full Commitment to Child Safety document on our website: www.ascensionchurch.org.au