

"Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope"

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful. Colossians 3.14-15.

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 Anthony 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.

"Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him" Entrance Hymn: TiS 93

> Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him; praise him angels in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before him, praise him, all you stars and light. Praise the Lord, for he has spoken, worlds his mighty voice obeyed: laws, that never shall be broken, for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is glorious; never shall his promise fail: God has made his saints victorious: sin and death shall not prevail. Praise the God of our salvation: hosts on high his power proclaim: heaven and earth, and all creation, praise and glorify his name.

Anon., Foundling Hospital Collection 1796/1801 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

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

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:

God of community, whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood: may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked with ours that we fail not in loyalty to you, but make choices according to your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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,

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

in whose name we pray. Amen.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy

Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:

O praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all his angels:

O praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, you highest heaven:

and you waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for he commanded and they were made.

He established them for ever and ever:

he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.

O praise the Lord from the earth:

praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, mist and snow:

and storm-wind fulfilling his command;

Mountains and all hills:

fruit trees and all cedars;

Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:

creeping things and winged birds;

Kings of the earth, and all peoples:

princes, and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens:

old folk and children together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for his name alone is exalted.

His glory is above earth and heaven:

and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:

of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

The second reading: Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn: TiS 313 "Good Christians all, rejoice"

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; listen well 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.

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this; he has opened heaven's door and you are blest for evermore; Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke, chapter 2, beginning at verse 41

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save,

calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall; Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save.

John Mason Neale 1818-66 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: Lord 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 grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, 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:

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

And his name is called The Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory hymn: TiS 293 "Unto us a boy is born"

Unto us a boy is born! King of all creation, came He to world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he with sleepy cows and asses; but the very beasts could see that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled: 'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry'! All the little boys he killed at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us, lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us.

Alpha and Omega He! Let the organ thunder, while the choir with peals of glee now rends the air asunder.

Anon. Latin 15th cent. Tr. Percy Dearmer 1867-1936 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. 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 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 292 "Infant holy"

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing; Christ the babe is Lord of all; Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new; saw the glory, heard the story - tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you!

Polish carol (?13th century) tr. E M G Reed (1885-1933.

Prayer after Communion:

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.

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.

Notices

The Blessing:

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will, and the + blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Final Hymn: TiS 613 "Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy"

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy, be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our labours, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1901 - 1953)

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

NOTICES

Next Sunday We will be celebrating The Epiphany of our Lord; incense will be used at the 9:30am service.

Pat's Christmas raffle results:

- Anne Orchard won the Christmas mince pies
- Fang Chen won the Christmas pudding
- Alma Brand won the Christmas cake
- Lolly jar winner Samuel Waite correctly guessed 130 lollies in the jar!!

Thanks to all who purchased tickets for the final raffle, well done Pat for so many years of cooking and giving so many people an extra special Christmas!!.

A big thank you to Chloe & Peter for organizing the Nine Lessons & Carols last Sunday night, and providing the abundant supper. And an equally big thanks for all who helped with the setting up and tidying up.

The Wednesday 10:00am service recommences on 8th January 2025.

Friday Cuppa & Chat recommences Friday, 10th January 2025.

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.

SAINTS AND HOLY WOMEN AND MEN FOR THIS WEEK

Monday Josephine Butler, social reformer (d. 1905)

Tuesday John Wyclif, teacher and reformer (d. 1384)

Wednesday THE NAMING AND CIRCUMISION OF JESUS

Thursday Basil of Caesarea (d. 379) and Gregory of Nazianzus (d. 389)

bishops and teachers

Eliza Hassall, pioneer of missionary training and CMS (Australia) (d. 1917)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Next Sunday: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12

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

Sun 29 St Michael & All Angels' Beaumaris (Wayne Walters); The Diocese of Melbourne (Abp Philip Freier, Asst Bps Paul Barker, Bradly Billings, Genieve Blackwell, Kate Prowd, Clergy & People); The Episcopal Church (Bp Sean Rowe); Holy Trinity Hastings – Pastoral services (Bp Paul Barker);

Mon 30 Bellarine Anglican Parish (David Willsher); The Diocese of Newcastle (Bp Peter Stuart, Asst Bps Charlie Murry, Sonia Roulston, Clergy & People); Mentone Grammar School (Mal Cater, Principal; Andrew Stewart, Michael Prabaharan, Chaplains); Tue 31 St Stephen's Belmont (Shirley Littras); The Diocese of North Queensland (Bp Keith

Tue 31 St Stephen's Belmont (Shirley Littras); The Diocese of North Queensland (Bp Keith Joseph, Clergy & People); Relationship Matters (Janet Jukes, CEO);

New Years Day Wed 1 St John's Bentleigh (Santaseelan Packianathan); The Diocese of Bendigo (Bp Matt Brain, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Essendon (Michael Flynn); Thu 2 Berwick Anglican Church (Vijay Henderson, Samuel Creek); The Diocese of Brisbane (Abp Jeremy Greaves, Asst Bps John Roundhill, Sarah Plowman, Cameron Venables); Tintern Grammar (Brad Fry, Principal, Alison Andrew, Chaplain); Fri 3 St Agnes' Black Rock (David Powys, Bruce Everett); The Diocese of Bunbury (Bp Ian Coutts, Clergy & People);

Sat 4 St John's Blackburn (Andrew Price, Mark Chew); The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn (Bp Mark Short, Asst Bp Vanessa Bennett, Clergy & People); Anglican Board of Mission (John Deane, Executive Director).

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. A peaceful outcome in Eastern Europe. Those 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, Barbara (Kalo's niece), Kalo, 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:

<u>8:00am</u> <u>9:30am</u>

Welcomers Sue Tregear Pat Ludwick & Heather McKenzie

ReaderSue TregearTrevor SmithServerSue TregearNatalie OrtliebLiturgical AssistantChristine Youings

IntercessionsFr AnthonyCath OrtliebMusicDawn Joseph

Morning Tea Shirley Reid & Julie Wee

SacristanSue TregearPrintingBarrie HardingFlowersAggie Canterbury



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)

Tuesday Fr Anthony's day of rest!

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist

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

<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 <u>Commitment to Child Safety</u> document on our website: <u>www.ascensionchurch.org.au</u>