



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Cantor's Welcome

Cantor: We would like to extend to you all our online viewers the warmest Christmas greetings. This morning we celebrate the birth of our Saviour King. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

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!

*Chorus: O come,
let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors
not the Virgin's womb
Very God, Begotten,
not created

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest

<i>Chorus: O come,</i>	Yea, Lord, we greet You, born
<i>let us adore Him</i>	this happy morning
<i>O come, let us adore Him</i>	Jesus, to You be glory given
<i>O come, let us adore Him</i>	Word of the Father,
<i>Christ the Lord</i>	Now in flesh appearing

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Welcome

All God's people, men and women, boys and girls

Come and worship our Saviour!

The wise, the humble, Saints and Angels

Come and worship our Saviour!

All who need the Saviour, all who long for comfort and freedom

Come and worship Christ the newborn King!

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Sentence

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: *With expectant steps, and hearts filled with adoration, we approach God's throne of grace praying,*

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 Gloria

On this most holy morn when our Saviour Christ was born, let us join in the angels' song,

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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.**

Collect of the Day

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, who you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

**The first reading is from the book of Isaiah
Chapter 62 beginning at verse 6-7, 11-12.**

⁶ I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

11 The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Saviour comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'"

12 They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted. Hear the word of the Lord **thanks be to God.**

The Psalm for today is 97, verses 1 to 6.

1 The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.

**2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

3 Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

**4 His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**

5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

**6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.**

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The second reading comes from the letter of Titus, chapter 3 verses 4 to 8.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **8** This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

This is the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: Let there be love shared among us

Let there be love
shared among us
Let there be love in our eyes
May now your love
sweep this nation
Cause us O Lord, to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real
Let there be love
shared among us
Let there be love.

Let there be joy
shared among us
Let there be joy in our eyes
May now your joy
sweep this nation
Cause us O Lord, to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly joy that is real.
Let there be joy
shared among us
Let there be joy.

Let there be peace
shared among us
Let there be peace in our eyes
May now your peace
sweep this nation
Cause us O Lord, to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly peace that is real
Let there be peace
shared among us
Let there be peace.

Let there be hope
shared among us
Let there be hope in our eyes
May now your hope
sweep this nation
Cause us O Lord, to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly hope that is real
Let there be hope
shared among us
Let there be hope.

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The Gospel of our Lord, according to John, Chapter 1, commencing at verse 1 to 14. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all

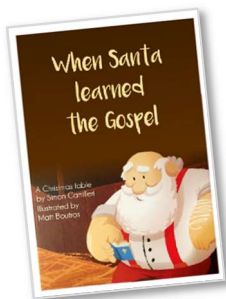
mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Children's Talk: Read by Liz Lazzaroni



Note for home readers: If you refer to the 7pm Carol Event script, you'll find a skit with Derek and RevMel. The skit is a dramatic reading of this book. During the service the book will be read by Liz Lazzaroni with pictures shown on screen.

A Short Message: God doesn't give gift cards!

He gave us each a personalised gift

In my family we are really good and letting other family members know what we would really like for Christmas.

So, by early December we start asking each other, "what would you like for Christmas?"

Usually someone [not mentioning any names] will say ... 'Oh I don't know ... money is always good, mum' [clue clue]!

Gifts can be so difficult when you don't really know the person very well, or they already seem have everything they need – with people like that a generic gift – like a gift card is so handy.

To some degree people often consider God's gift of his Son Jesus as much like they were receiving an awesome 'use-it-how-you-like' gift card – given to all humanity.

I mean, they hear the angel's song recorded by Luke - "Peace on earth, good-will to all humankind" ... they happily receive their gift, pop it in their wallet and store it safely for when they think they'll need it most.

When I need some peace, I'll pull out my Jesus gift card ...

When I'm feeling a little down, or depressed, I will remember my Jesus gift card and read a few of His promises.

However, God doesn't give generic gifts that we can just happily spend any way we want.

But there is one way that God's gifts are like a gift card – they do have an expiry date, and they also come with certain terms and conditions.

That's why Jesus said, "Today is the day of Salvation" – we must never take advantage of the generous gift God has given us.

How do you know whether you're treating God's gift of his Son like a gift card? You'll find yourself preferring that God would just come fix your immediate circumstances, so you can just keep on living the way you're used to.

What many of us don't realise is that when God gave us his Son Jesus, he was giving a gift that we absolutely cannot live without.

God sent his Son, Jesus, to be the Saviour of every person in the world – a Saviour who would be the only one who could destroy the cavern of sin that separated us from God's holiness and perfection.

Is that not what Harold the Angel sung?"

"Glory to the new-born King!

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

The God of the Bible, who sent his only human-born Son to earth, is not a God that just lets us do whatever we want with his gifts. Because our Heavenly Father knows each of us personally, He knows exactly what we need.

What every one of us need, above all else – above the new BBQs, new toys, new golfcarts ... is for the cavern that separates us from God to be bridged – and that is what Jesus has done.

So, on this Christmas Day, we remember that God didn't just give us a gift card for us to put in our wallet and forget about. He gave us exactly what we need – a Saviour who forgives us from our sins, and takes with us to be with him, so we may be with him beside our Heavenly Father.

So join me in *"Hailing the heaven-born Prince of Peace!*

*Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings
risen with healing in his wings.*

Hark the herald-angels sing, let us give glory to the new born King!

Sermon Song: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh

The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray

The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there

The Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, you make us glad each year through the expectation of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grand that, as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come as our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community

We gaze, Loving Father, at your glory that has been revealed, through the angels' message of peace and joy. We pray for the peoples of your world and for all your creation: for those in places still ravaged by war and unjust governmental structures. Comfort your people, at the time of your Son's coming, as we join in the angels' song, **Glorify to God in the highest.**

We gaze, Loving Father, at your glory that has been revealed, for the good news that salvation is at hand. We pray for your church throughout the world: for leaders of churches in this land; for the clergy and people of this parish; for prophets who call for church to repent. Guide your church into truth and free it from corruption. Comfort your people, at the time of your Son's coming, as we join in the angels' song,

Glorify to God in the highest.

We gaze, Loving Father, at your glory that has been revealed, for the glorious Christmas message of reconciliation and love. We pray for our community: for our homes and our neighbours; for our schools, our hospitals and our workplaces. Comfort your people, at the time of your Son's coming, as we join in the angels' song, **Glorify to God in the highest.**

We gaze, Loving Father, at your glory that has been revealed, for your good news of healing and wholeness. We pray for all in need of your comfort and care: We pray for the parishioners on our prayer list for God's healing and comfort. Comfort your

people, at the time of your Son's coming, as we join in the angels' song, **Glorify to God in the highest.**

Please join me in praying,

Fulfil now, Lord, our desires and prayers as may be best for us. Grant us in this life, knowledge of your truth and in the age to come, life eternal.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**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 forever. Amen.**

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

The Lord of light has come, bringing to light things which were hidden in darkness, thus disclosing the purposes of the heart. Knowing God's compassion to forgive, let us open our hearts by confessing our sins.

Merciful God, for the things we have done that we regret,
forgive us;

for the things we have failed to do, **forgive us;**

for the times we have acted without love, **forgive us;**

for the times we have acted without thinking, **forgive us;**

for our weakness, ignorance and wilfulness, **forgive us,
and restore to us the joy and peace of your salvation.**

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Let us stand to receive God's promise of forgiveness.

Promise of Forgiveness

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, 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.**

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**

Thanksgiving and Communion

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

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, forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he 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 this 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 giving 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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 our 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, by 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.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

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.**

Come and let us share in the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ and let us feed on him in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Communion Song: No wind at the window

No wind at the window, no knock on the door;

no light from the lampstand,
no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness,
no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman
and a voice in her ear.

'O Mary, O Mary,
don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favored
and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming
the world has begun;
and you are requested
to mother God's son.

'This child must be born
that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many,
destruction for some;
both end and beginning,
both message and sign;
both victor and victim,
both yours and divine.'

No payment was promised,
no promises made;
no wedding was dated,
no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting
to what none could guess,
replied with conviction,
'Tell God, I say Yes.'

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Communion Song: Jesus Christ is Waiting

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no-one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

2. Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me
rage with you.

3. Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
let my care be active,
healing just like you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he,
with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
where good conquers evil
let me dance with you.

5. Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

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Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, give us courage for our journey, and bring us to the joys you promise.

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.

Let us go from this place proclaiming that we have seen the glory of God, believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness, which the darkness shall not overcome. And may the love of God the Father, the peace of Jesus the Son, and the joy of the Spirit, be with you this Christmas, and evermore. **Amen.**

May today be a celebration of the love, joy and peace that comes with the birth of our Saviour! **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Song: Joy to the World

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven,
and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth!
The Saviour reigns
Let us our songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world
with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
And glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Devotional for Christmas and New Year: Is it time for a Spring Clean of your heart?



All of us recognise the need for our homes to undergo a thorough and extensive spring clean – but what about our hearts? Do not our hearts need a spring clean as well?

It is not until you start to sort through the three boxes of what should be thrown away, given away and held onto that you realise how important this process really is.

And what better time to do this spring clean, but at the beginning of the new year!

This devotional will continue for the first few weeks of 2024.