

1st Sunday after Christmas

9 am Service



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.

Welcome, praise and thanksgiving to God

The Lord our God the Almighty Reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory.

Let the word of God dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sentence

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)

Prayer of Approach

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we humbly thank you for life and health and safety, for freedom to work, leisure to rest, and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life. But above all, we praise you for our Saviour Jesus Christ, for his death and resurrection; for the gift of your Spirit; and for the hope of sharing in your glory. Fill our hearts with all joy and believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Song: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its 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 streams, 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
the glories of his righteousness,

and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.
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Collect 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.**

Ministry of the Word

Heavenly Father, as we listen to your Word, grant to us ears that hear and eyes that see what the Spirit is saying to our hearts. May your Word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory. **Amen.**

The first reading is from the first book of Samuel chapter 2, reading verses 18 to 20 then 26.

¹⁸But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord.” Then they would go home.

²⁶And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people.

Hear the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm for today is Psalm 148. We will read in alternate verse.

¹Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created,

⁶and he established them for ever and ever

—he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

¹¹kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹²young men and women, old men and children.

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.

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

The second reading comes from the letter to the Colossians, chapter 3 verses 12 to 17.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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,
Christ the babe was born for you.

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The Gospel of our Lord, according to Luke, chapter 2, commencing at verse 22 to 40. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²²When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." ³³The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling

and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed

**We believe in one God, who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again, and is coming to call all to
account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who calls,
equips and sends out God's people and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Message: Br Bill Nicolle will deliver the reflection

Offertory Song: We really want to thank you Lord

We really want to thank you, Lord,
we really want to bless your name,
hallelujah! Jesus is our king! [2]

We thank you, Lord, for our life together,
to live and move in the love of Christ,
Your tenderness which sets us free
to serve you with our lives.

We thank you, Lord, for your gift to us,
your life so rich beyond compare,
the gift of your body here on earth
of which we sing and share.

We really want ...

We really want ...

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise Him all creatures here below,
praise Him above, you heavenly hosts,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We really want ...

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Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered. Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought not have done.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Promise of Forgiveness

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to his call we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore, we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the light of your incarnate Word: may this light, kindles in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Christmas Bowl Prayer for all

In Colossians we read: whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, we pray for all those whom we have met through the stories of the Christmas Bowl. We offer you our words and deeds, our money and our hope as we offer our thanks for these opportunities to learn and to give. Bless the work of Act for Peace and all its partners in places of need, that your vision of a renewed world of peace and justice may be fulfilled. **Amen.**

Prayers and Intercessions

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your beloved children give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

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.**

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Living God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us in our meeting together.

Take us and use us to love and serve you and all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, working in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing Song: The Light of Christ

*The light of Christ
has come into the world;
the light of Christ
has come into the world.*

God gave up His only Son
out of love for the world,
so that all men who believe in Him
will live for ever.

The light of Christ...

We all must be born again
to see the kingdom Of God;
the water and the Spirit
bring new life in God's love.

The light of Christ...

The light of God has come to us
so that we might have salvation;
from the darkness of our sins
we walk into glory with Christ Jesus.

The light of Christ ...

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

Devotional for 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 2025.