

WELCOME TO THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF

ST GEORGE

EAST IVANHOE, MELBOURNE

CHRISTMAS DAY CHORAL EUCHARIST

The Birth of our Lord

SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER 2021, 9AM



WELCOME

St George's is a community committed to making and sustaining connections: with God, with one another, with the local and wider community, and with the environment. We value liturgical worship, encouraging fellowship and community service. We believe in God - the beauty of transcendent holiness, present in our connectedness; and in caring passionately for all in need. All are welcome in this sacred space.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies.

(Thomas Pestel)

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

It is, of course, Christ's nativity that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, which has been notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is itself an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth.

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February. The days around 25 December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar of Australia, and commercial pressures have led to much of Christmas celebration being displaced into Advent. It has become a still greater challenge to celebrate as they deserve the saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, who first paid with his life for following the incarnate Lord; John, who was believed to have lived to great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christchild are not yet manifest.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain seated as the choir sings.

INTROIT

Away in a manger

arr. Willcocks

All stand to sing the processional hymn during which the clergy and servers move to their places.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Puer Nobis 76.77

UNTO US A BOY IS BORN

Melody from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582
arr. Geoffrey Shaw 1879-1943

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a 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.

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

Anon., Latin 15 th cent.
tr. Percy Dearmer 1867-1936

All remain standing.

GREETING

The Celebrant says

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace.

JOHN 1.1,14

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Deacon says

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Celebrant says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Choir and Congregation

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

The priest lights the Christ-candle saying:

O God, we need a star by which to set our journey through this world. Help us to see in the Baby born in Bethlehem the eternal star which will lead us to the place where truth and love and mercy meet.

So may we kneel with shepherds and kings and find heart's joy and heart's peace in Jesus Christ the Light. **Amen.**

The ministers move from the Christ-candle to the place where the Liturgy of the Word is celebrated.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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.**

COLLECT

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 52.7-10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

PSALM 98



1. O sing to the Lord a | new | song:
for he has | done | marvel-lous | things:
2. His right hand and his | holy | arm:
they have | got | him the | victory.
3. The Lord has made | known . his sal|vation;
he has revealed his just de |liverance . in the | sight of . the | nations.
4. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the | house
of| Israel:
and all the ends of the earth have seen the sal|vation | of our | God.
5. Shout with joy to the Lord | all the | earth:
break into | singing . and | make | melody.
6. Make melody to the Lord up|on the | harp:
upon the harp and | with the | sounds of | praise.
7. With trumpets | and with | horns:
cry out in triumph be|fore the | Lord the | king.
8. Let the sea roar and | all that | fills it
the good earth and | those who | live up|on it.
9. Let the rivers | clap their | hands:
and let the mountains ring out to|gether . be| fore the |Lord;
10. For he comes to | judge the | earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness and the | peoples | with |
equity

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 1.1-4

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

All stand to sing and remain standing for the Gospel.

GRADUAL HYMN

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Infant Holy 447 D.444477

Polish traditional carol melody

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.

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

tr. Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed 1885-1933

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation

Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah

6 Cantor

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and a -

7 dore the Lord. For today a great light has come u -

10 pon the earth.

12 Congregation

Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is for the Congregation, with the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah'. The second staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics 'A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and a -'. The third staff continues the Cantor's part with 'dore the Lord. For today a great light has come u -'. The fourth staff is for the Congregation again, with the lyrics 'pon the earth. Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah Al - le - lu - jah'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

GOSPEL

JOHN I.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according *to* John.

Glory to you, Lord Jes-us Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ.

All sit

SERMON

All stand for the Nicene Creed

THE 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

Father,
on this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

All stand

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
And his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9.6

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

All remain standing to sing the hymn, during which a collection will be taken up.

OFFERTORY HYMN

ADESTE FIDELES irregular

○ COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Later form of melody probably by
John Francis Wade c.1711-1786

Adeste, fideles, laeti, triumphantes

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:

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

True God of true God, Light of
light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten,
not created:

Refrain

See how the shepherds summoned to
his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful
footsteps:

Refrain

All remain standing

Response to the Offertory prayers:

Blessed be God for ever.

Child, for us sinners poor and in
the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love
and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us
so dearly?

Refrain

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

Refrain

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this
happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh
appearing:

Refrain

Possibly by John Francis Wade c. 1711-1786
tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80,
William Mercer 1811-73 and others

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

SURSUM CORDA

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with the Priest's part in a smaller font and the Congregation's part in a larger font. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, and 12 indicated on the left side.

Priest
The Lord be with you
3 Congregation
And Al - so with you
5 Priest
Lift up your hearts
7 Congregation
We lift them to the Lord
9 Priest
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
12 Congregation
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 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:

**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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we 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 forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

Communicant members of Christian churches are welcome to receive communion.

During the distribution, the choir will sing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

All stand to sing

POST COMMUNION HYMN

Mendelssohn
77.77 D and refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn 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

From a chorus by
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47
adapted by
William Hayman Cummings 1831-1915

Refrain
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

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.

Refrain

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.
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.

Refrain

Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.

All remain standing for the blessing.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh

In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo BWV 608

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THIS WEEK

Sunday 26 December	8am	Eucharist
<i>First Sunday after Christmas</i>	10am	Eucharist

Details of all our Services and other activities are available at the parish website

www.stgeorgeseastivanhoe.org

Our services are live streamed on our YouTube channel
(St George Peace Memorial Church East Ivanhoe) and later on our
Facebook page @StGeorgesEastIvanhoe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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