



# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GRAFTON

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds ...

20 December 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*A generous faith community—centred on Jesus, seeking wisdom for life and acting with compassion—in the heart of Grafton since 1842.*

Welcome to our worship this morning as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church year.

*President*

The Very Revd Dr Gregory Jenks

*Assisting Clergy*

The Revd Canon Camellia Flanagan, TSSF

*Preacher:*

The Revd Grant Sparks

*Director of Music*

Mr Robert Eather

Mass setting:

*Christ Church Mass* (Philip Mathias)

Kyrie:

*Ukrainian Orthodox Kyrie Eleison* [TIS 736]



# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

## Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

### Introit

Choir

*Rorate, cœli* – Plainsong

### Invocation and Greeting

*The presiding minister greets the people.*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of Approach

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts at Christmas,  
be King of our lives today.  
Amen.

### The Advent Wreath: Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### *Advent 4*

Mary's gift beyond all telling  
we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling,  
born to show the way.  
Who could guess their final story?  
cross and glory; Easter Day!

Today we light all fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

**The candles are lit.**

“Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” — John 13:34

Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. **Amen.**

### **Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath**

Heavenly Father,  
you exalted the humble and meek:  
give us humble and contrite hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you grew towards birth in the Virgin’s womb:  
be planted also in our hearts and lives.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you overshadowed Mary,  
that she might become the God-bearer:  
fill us with your heavenly gifts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God’s truth,  
strengthen us to do God’s will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,  
whose eternal Word took flesh among us  
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:  
prepare our hearts for his coming again  
and keep us steadfast in hope,  
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;  
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R cf.v.2

Roger Heagney

R I will sing for e - ver of the  
good-ness of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

*When spoken:* For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

- 1 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R
- 2 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' R
- 3 He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. R

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*Alleluia.*

Cantors

*I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.*

*Alleluia.*

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

## The Sermon

The Revd Grant Sparks

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, especially Sue Cotter, Brian Holley, Ken Harper, John McNally and Muriel Shepherd.

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father, remembering especially Bruce Leonard and those whose year's mind occur at this time: Joyce Watts, Lorna O'Hara and Leslie Nelson.

**Silence is kept.**

Let us pray the Cathedral Prayer together:

**Living and eternal Christ bless the ministry of this Cathedral as a place of pilgrimage and prayer. May our doors always be open to pilgrims, may our hearts always be open to one another, and may our minds always be open to new truth. Draw us deeply into the mystery of your life, your death, and your resurrection, now and always. Amen.**



# THE GREETING OF PEACE

## The president says

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. cf. Luke 1:78 & 79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

# THE OFFERTORY

## Hymn

*No Wind at the Window* [TIS 287]

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

Oh Mary oh Mary  
Don't hide from my face  
Be glad that you're favoured  
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

CCLI Song # 1052764 John L. Bell

The gifts are brought to the Lord's Table.

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

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, ever living 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.

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.

We thank you that when he shall come again  
in power and great triumph to judge the world,  
we may with joy behold his appearing,  
and in confidence stand before him  
who redeems us from sin and death  
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

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.'

**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**

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 celebrant breaks the bread.

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:  
**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

*Agnus dei (Lamb of God) is sung.*

**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.**

The celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Holy things for holy people.  
Broken things for broken people.

## Communion Anthem

*The Angel Gabriel* - Basque Carol

## Notices

## Mission Hymn

*Earth was waiting, spent and restless* [34 A & M 2013]

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,  
with a mingled hope and fear,  
faithful men and women praying,  
"Surely, Lord, the day is near:  
the Desire of all the nations--  
it is time he should appear!"

Then the Spirit of the Highest  
to a Virgin meek came down,  
and he burdened her with blessing,  
and he pained her with renown;  
for she bore the Lord's Anointed  
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him  
since the ages first began,  
for in him was hid the secret  
which through all the ages ran--  
Son of Mary, Son of David,  
Son of God, and Son of Man.

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us  
with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming.

**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.

## Blessing

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
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 to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Organ Postlude

*Passacaglia in D minor* – Dietrich Buxtehude

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## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Organ Music for Advent & Christmas

Sunday, 20 December at 7.00pm

**Christmas Eve:** 6.00pm Children's Service: Blessing of the Crib  
11.00pm Midnight mass

**Christmas Day:** 9.00am Eucharist

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BUSINESS HOURS

Please note the following times for closures during the Christmas and New Year holiday period:

### **Parish Office**

closes at noon on Christmas Eve  
reopens Tuesday, January 12

### **Cathedral Bookshop**

closes at 2.30pm Wednesday, December 23  
reopens at 9.30am Tuesday, January 19

### **Cathedral OpShop & Cathedral Pantry**

closes Friday, December 18  
reopens Monday, January 18



We are encouraging everyone associated with the Cathedral to make a special gift to the annual Christmas Bowl appeal. This project commenced in 1949 with the simple suggestion that people donate the cost of one place at their family's Christmas Dinner to assist those in need. Due to the on-going impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on church events, this year there is the option of making online gift while still linking your gift to the Cathedral's total amount raised.

Please use this QR code to make an online gift to the 2020 Christmas Bowl appeal and have your gift counted as part of the total contribution from Grafton Cathedral.





# MUSIC FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

*This organ recital with selected music for Advent and Christmas celebrates the return of the historic organ at Christ Church Cathedral as an extensive rebuild of the organ console.. The event will be live-streamed from the Cathedral as well as offering up to 150 places for people to be present in the Cathedral for this special occasion on the Sunday before Christmas.*

No. 3 from  
Three Liturgical Improvisations— *Verbum Supernum Prodiens*  
George Oldroyd 1886–1951

*Veni Emmanuel*  
Andrew Moore b. 1954

Chorale Prelude  
*Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her*  
(From Heaven to Earth I come)  
Johann Pachelbel 1653–1706

*Birjina Gaztettobat Zegoen*  
(The Angel Gabriel)  
Noel Rawsthorne 1929–2019

## Angels and Shepherds

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Luke 2:8-20 NRSV)

*Divinum Mysterium*

(Of the Father's love begotten)

Wilbur Held 1914-2015

Choral Prelude

*In Dulci Jubilo BWV 751*

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

*Stille Nacht*

Norman Warren 1934-2019

**Prayers for Peace**

**Lord's Prayer**

*Noël cette Journée*

(Noel for Christmas Morning)

Jean-François Dandrieu 1682-1738

*Christmas Postlude*

Robert Eather b. 1971

**Blessing**

**Cathedral Parish Directory**  
[www.graftoncathedral.org.au](http://www.graftoncathedral.org.au)

<b>The Dean</b>	The Very Revd Dr Gregory Jenks dean@graftoncathedral.org.au	0426 067 344
<b>Canon Pastor</b>	The Revd Canon Camellia Flanagan priest@graftoncathedral.org.au	0417 928 914
<b>Deacon</b>	The Reverend Grant Sparks deacon@graftoncathedral.org.au	0418 995 535
<b>Associate Minister Families &amp; Children)</b>	Mrs Leanne Harvey families@graftoncathedral.org.au	0402 278 323
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mr Robert Eather music@graftoncathedral.org.au	0458 093 292
<b>Parish Office</b>	Mr Roger Millard office@graftoncathedral.org.au	02 6642 2844
<b>Cathedral Bookshop</b>	bookshop@graftoncathedral.org.au	02 6642 3958
<b>Cathedral OpShop &amp; Pantry</b>	Mr John Adlington (OpShop) Mrs Moe Jones (Cathedral Pantry)	02 6642 1906

**Prayers for those in need**

Joy Baldwin  
 Cheryl Cook  
 Sue Cotter  
 Kathryn Douglas  
 Gail Gilmore  
 Gladys Gray

Brian Holley  
 Fay Kelly  
 Ruth Kingsley  
 Joan Marr  
 John McAnally

Kay Metcalfe  
 Eileen Rogan  
 Val Rogers  
 Muriel Shepherd  
 Tammy Uren  
 Jessie Usher

**Remembering those who have died**

**Recently departed:** Bruce Leonard

**Year's Mind:** Joyce Watts, Lorna O'Hara and Leslie Nelson.

## Around the Parish this Week

- Today**                    **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
9.00am – Cathedral Live Online:  
<https://www.graftoncathedral.org.au/this-sunday>  
**7.00pm – ORGAN MUSIC FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS** Please [register via Evenbrite](#) for your free tickets. This event will also be live-streamed.
- Weekdays**              **Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer** are said at 8.30am and 5.30pm every day except Sunday mornings. Join us by Zoom using this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2379732870?pwd=eFRvaEplWmJxaDZldDIkdVJiNm9Zdz09>  
**Wednesday worship:** 10.00am  
Please ensure that we have your **email address** and **mobile** number so we can reach out to you with information, news and pastoral support.  
If you need **pastoral care** or other support, please call either Dean Greg, Canon Camellia or Deacon Grant.  
**PLEASE MAINTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF VIGILANCE AND PERSONAL HYGIENE AS WE SEEK TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS**
- Christmas**                **Christmas for Children:** Christmas Eve, 6.00pm  
**Midnight Christ Mass:** Christmas Eve, 11.00pm  
**Christmas Morning:** Friday at 9.00am
- Next Sunday**            **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
9.00am – Cathedral Live Online:  
<https://www.graftoncathedral.org.au/this-sunday>



*Please visit the Cathedral web site for the latest news, additional information, and the text of sermons as well as video recordings of many special moments in our life as a faith community: [www.graftoncathedral.org.au](http://www.graftoncathedral.org.au)*