



MIDNIGHT CHRIST MASS • 2020

## WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of Christ the King, commonly referred to as Christ Church Cathedral.

The Cathedral stands on the traditional lands of the Bundjalung nation. We acknowledge and pay our respect to their elders past and present, as well as to indigenous people with us today.

You are sharing in worship from A Prayer Book for Australia, which stands in the long Anglican tradition of 'common prayer' in which people, choir and clergy offer God and each other the best of ourselves ('our souls and our bodies') for the common good. We seek the peace and well-being of our nation, and especially our local community.

We are delighted that you are here on this special night: please come and worship with us again.

Whether you are Anglican, from another Christian Church or from another faith tradition, you are warmly welcome to take part in the service. If you want to find out more about the Christian faith, please make yourself known to a member of the clergy after the service.

The service today includes a celebration of the Eucharist during which there will be an opportunity for people to receive Holy Communion. Communicant members of other Christian churches are invited to receive the Sacrament here today, as their own conscience allows. Everyone is welcome to come for a blessing, even if not receiving the consecrated Elements.

The Cathedral is open every day. Free WIFI is available in the Cathedral and throughout our gardens.

You are always welcome to use the Cathedral and its grounds for prayer and reflection, and we encourage you to make this House of Prayer a place of pilgrimage and prayer for our City.



Visit our web site for the latest news and information  
[www.graftoncathedral.org.au](http://www.graftoncathedral.org.au)

## GATHERING AND PREPARATION

Mass setting: St Thomas Mass (David Thorne)

Introit: *Hodie Christus natus est* (Plainsong)

Entrance Hymn: *O come all ye faithful* (TIS304)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:  
*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:  
*O come let us adore him ...*

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come let us adore him ...*

Lo, star-led chieftains, wise men, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations:  
*O come let us adore him ...*

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:  
*O come let us adore him ...*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
*O come let us adore him ...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
*O come let us adore him ...*

Possibly by John Francis Wade, c. 1711–1786.

A Sentence of Scripture appropriate to the day.

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.

The president greets the people.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All 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.

**All And also with you.**

**Act of Reconciliation**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

## The president gives the absolution

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.

**All Amen.**

## The Hymn of Praise (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.**

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

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.

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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.

All Amen.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from Old Testament

[Isaiah 9:2-7]

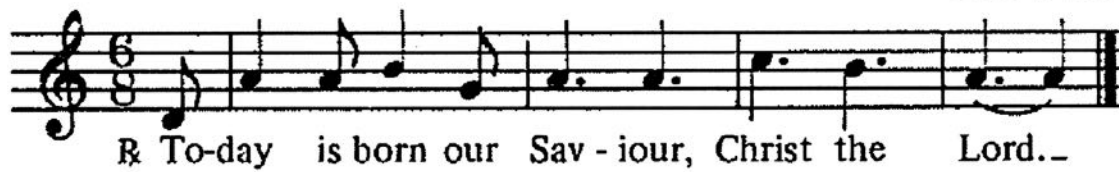
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 96

David C. Isele



O sing a new song to the Lord:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

R/

Proclaim his help day to day.  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all peoples.

R/

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad:  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout with joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.

R/

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

R/

## A Reading from the New Testament

[Titus 2:11-14]

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the word of the Lord,

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence Hymn: *Silent Night* [TIS311]

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night.  
wondrous star, lend your light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Josef Mohr, c. 1792-1848 *alt.*

## The Gospel

[Luke 2:1-14]

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Good news and great joy to all the world;  
today is born our Saviour Christ the Lord.

**All Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,



because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Sermon**

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us together 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  
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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

On this holy night 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

**All** hear our prayer.

On this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son  
to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

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

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

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

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

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

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

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

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

On this holy night 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

**All** hear our prayer.

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

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

Father, on this holy night 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.

Holy God

**All** hear our prayer.

**Together we say the Cathedral Prayer**

**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**

On this holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

Luke 2.14

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All** And also with you.

**All may exchange a sign of peace in a COVID-safe manner**

## THE OFFERTORY

Offertory hymn: *Once in royal David's city* (TIS 312)

Once in royal David's city,  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby,  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and despised, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
day by day, like us, he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles, like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness  
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that Child so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heaven above:  
and he leads his children on,  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him: but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
when his children gather round  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–95. alt.

The gifts of the people 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.**

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All 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 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:

**All 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.

**All 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.

**All 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 for ever. Amen.**



# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND HOLY COMMUNION

The president breaks the bread.

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

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

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.*

The president elevates the consecrated elements and calls the people of God to the Table of Jesus.

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

All the children of God have a place at God's Table.

Anyone who would normally receive Holy Communion in their own Christian tradition is welcome to receive the Sacrament with us here today.

Those who prefer to receive a personal blessing from the priest rather than Holy Communion are invited to come to the Altar and simply cross their arms in front of them so the clergy know their desire.

Gluten-free wafers are available on request.

Anthems sung by the Choir during Communion:

*God rest you merry gentlemen* – English trad. arr. D Willcocks  
*The Three Drivers* – Text: J Wheeler, Music: W James

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Final hymn: *On Christmas night all Christians sing* (TIS 300)

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad?  
Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
when sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
heaven and earth with joy may sing,  
all for to see the new-born King.

And so from darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
and so from darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to descend  
now and for evermore. Amen."

Traditional English carol

### The president says

God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

**All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

### The Blessing

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**All Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

### The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

### Organ Postlude:

*God rest you merry gentlemen (Noel Rawsthorne)*

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It began on Christmas Day 1949, when a minister named Rev Frank Byatt in Victoria placed a simple empty bowl on the table before him. He humbly asked his friends and family to contribute what they felt the cost of the meal had been. Rev Byatt asked that they consider their own good fortune in being able to share a Christmas meal together in comfort and safety. And he invited them to share God's blessings of love and friendship in the form of a gift to help people who had fled the horrors of World War Two and were suffering as refugees.

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.

