
ANGLICAN CHURCH *of the* ASCENSION

EAST BURWOOD



27th December 2020

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

“Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope”

Welcome to Church

Sentence for Today

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. Luke 2.30-32



For those who have children with them, there is a children's corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend 'Godzone' - Special Children's Activities - shortly after we begin the 9.30am service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Entrance hymn: TiS 152 “Joyful, joyful, we adore you”

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call us to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
You our Father, Christ our Brother,
all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to your joy above.

Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933 alt.

Acclamation

Blessed be Christ, made visible in the flesh, seen by the angels, and
proclaimed among the nations.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome

Prayer of Preparation:

Let us pray.

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 Two Great Commandments:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Kyries: *Lord have mercy,*
 Christ have mercy,
 Lord have mercy.

The Gloria:

**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 Prayer of the Day:

Saving God,
whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple
and was acclaimed the glory of Israel
and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer in a time of pandemic disease:

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and dis-ease.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Isaiah 61.10-62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord ,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:
O praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels:
O praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon:
praise him, all you stars of light.
Praise him, you highest heaven:
and you waters that are above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for he commanded and they were made.
He established them for ever and ever:
he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.
O praise the Lord from the earth:
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, mist and snow:
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;
Mountains and all hills:
fruit trees and all cedars;
Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:
creeping things and winged birds;
Kings of the earth, and all peoples:
princes, and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens:

old folk and children together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for his name alone is exalted.

His glory is above earth and heaven:

and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:

of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

The second reading: Galatians 4.4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual hymn: TiS 292 "Infant holy"

**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!**

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke, chapter 2 beginning at verse 22

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),

and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see

death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed

so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**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!**

Polish carol (?13th century) tr. E M G Reed (1885-1933)

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us stand together and 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,
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 for the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

At the conclusion

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Preparation

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

Prayer of Approach:

We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Confession:

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, confessing our
sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Merciful God, our maker and our judge
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God,
who 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.**

The Greeting of Peace:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
And his name is called The Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory hymn: TiS 319 “Child in the manger”

Child in the manger,
infant of Mary;
Outcast and Stranger,
Lord of us all!
Child Who inherits
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
upon Him fall

Once the most holy
child of salvation
gently and lowly
lived here below;
now, as our glorious
mighty Redeemer
see Him victorious
over each foe

Prophets foretold Him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold him
on His throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all our praises;
happy forever
are his own

Mary MacDonald 1789-1872

tr. Lachlan MacBean 1853-1931 *alt*

Prayer over the gifts:

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, 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.**

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 breaking of the bread:

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.

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.**

Invitation to communion:

The gifts of God, for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Post communion hymn: TiS 318 "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed"

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

vv. 1-2 Anon. ?1885 v.3, Anon. ?1892.

Prayer after Communion:

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful
to your word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence to all people.

**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.**

Notices

The Blessing:

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

Final Hymn: TiS 293 "Unto us a boy is born"

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

**Alpha and Omega He!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
now rends the air asunder.**

*Anon. Latin 15th cent.
Tr. Percy Dearmer 1867-1936 alt*

Dismissal

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

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WELCOME TO CHURCH. . . We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today, please take Communion, whatever your denomination and come and worship with us again. If you are visiting, please make yourself known to Fr. Anthony or to one of our welcomers following the service and do stay for a cuppa and chat!

NOTICES

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist will recommence on 13th January 2021

Friday Coffee & Chat will recommence on Friday 8th January 2021

ROSTERS -This week we are pleased to have:

Flowers – Christmas Day and today Jan Mansfield

Welcomers 8:00am Don Lambourne 9:30am Ros Smith & Joanne Waite

Readers 8:00am Sue Tregear 9:30am Elizabeth Waite

Morning Tea 8:00am Self-service 9:30am Jan Mansfield & Barrie Harding

Music 9:30am Heath McKenzie & Josh Waite

Next Sunday January 3rd, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord and the Coming of the Magi, with incense being used at the 9:30am service.

Special Christmas thanks from Fr Anthony and the Wardens to:

- Cheryl Hall for making the Advent wreath and maintaining it so well over the Advent season.
- Christine Youings for preparing the Crib and ensuring the church was set up for all the Christmas services.
- And all the unseen, unsung folk who helped in so many ways once again during this busy Christmas period. your contributions are appreciated.

News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*. This week's NewsStand is now live on TMA's website, using the link <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand>

- Archbishop Freier's Christmas message
- Taking a stand against conspiracy theories in churches
- Major Sydney Anglican donor jailed for tax fraud
- Anglican aid agencies step in to help cyclone ravaged Polynesia
- "Why I can't join calls to ban conversion therapy"
- and more...

SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	HOLY INNOCENTS
Tuesday	Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d. 1170)
Wednesday	Josephine Butler, social reformer (d. 1905)
Thursday	John Wyclif, teacher and reformer (d. 1384)
Friday	THE NAMING & CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS
Saturday	Basil of Caesarea (d. 379) and Gregory of Nazianzus (d. 389) bishops and teachers

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday:

1 John 2.12-17
Psalm 96.7-9
Luke 2.36-40

Next Sunday: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 60.1-6
Psalm 72.1-7, 72.10-14
Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR THE CHURCH

Sun 27: Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement, His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; The Diocese of Bendigo (Bp Matt Brain, Clergy & People); Christ Church Grammar School (Neil Andary, Principal; Linda Fiske, Chaplain); St Andrew's Brighton (Ian Morrison, Michelle Wang);

Mon 28: The Diocese of Brisbane (Abp Phillip Aspinall, Regional Bps Jeremy Greaves, Cameron Venables, John Roundhill, Clergy & People); Social Responsibilities Committee (Gordon Preece, Chair); St Peter's Brighton Beach (Jonathan Chamberlain);

Tue 29: The Diocese of Bunbury (Bp Ian Coutts, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of La Trobe (Gavin Ward); Brimbank Parish (Simon Koefoed);

Wed 30: The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn (Bp Mark Short, Asst Bps Stephen Pickard, Carol Wagner, Clergy & People); Firbank Grammar School (Jenny Williams, Principal; Christine Croft, chaplain); : Broadmeadows/Dallas Anglican Parish (Valentina Emmanuel);

Thu 31: Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces);: SparkLit (Michael Collie, National Director); Christ Church Brunswick (Lindsay Urwin OGS, Kathryn Bellhouse);

JANUARY 2021 Fri 1: The Diocese of Gippsland (Bp Richard Treloar, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Maroondah (Bruce Bickerdike); St John Chrysostom Brunswick West (Steve Sonneman, Len Firth);

Sat 2: The Diocese of Grafton (Bp Murray Harvey, Clergy & People); Geelong Grammar School (Rebecca Cody, Principal; Gordon Lingard, Howard Parkinson, Chaplains); St Timothy's Bulleen (Ben Wong, Ivy Wong);

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

All who have lost their livelihood due to the Coronavirus. Families, healthcare workers, emergency workers in these uncertain times. Those still recovering from the fires.

THE WORLD

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff.

A compassionate outcome for Asylum Seekers on Manus Island, Christmas Island, and Nauru. Peace, justice, and healing for the people of the USA and a renewed sense of unity and hope.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Each other and God's presence in the events of the week

Those in special need of prayer: *Helen Daniels, Peggy Horman, Estelle Carman (and daughter Sue), Jean (& Alan) Close, Carole, Joanne, Nelson, Pauline Le Riche (Kym's sister), Paul Maharaj, Graeme Floage (& Lisa), Glenys and Brian Howell, Ethel Lloyd, Elizabeth O'Shannessy, Barbara Stark, Rosemary Roach, Jim Munday, Brittany Lee, Cath Ortlieb, Lyle (& Jan) Mansfield, Dave (& Joy) Richie, Vivienne Aitken (Pat Eadon's sister), Angelo (from Burwood Lodge), Julie, Jackson Munday, Colin Darvell, Rose Joseph, and others known to us*

Those at the Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge

Those working in Health and Aged Care settings

Ourselves - as we stay connected through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer

**The people of true prayer are
those who can see the answer when
it is given in God's way - not theirs.
(From "The Secret of Effective Prayer" by Helen Smith Shoemaker)**



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.
We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*

PRIEST in CHARGE: Fr. Anthony Frost **Phone:** 0409 012 543

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

FACEBOOK Please visit and  www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheets to Ron McKenzie by 5:00p.m. Thursday evening (r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Weekly services

Sunday	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Eucharist 'Godzone' children's program during 9.30 am service (during school term)
Tuesday	<i>Fr Anthony's day of rest!</i>
Wednesday	10:00am Eucharist
Friday	10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for coffee and chat.

Commitment to Child Safety: At the Church of the Ascension we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive. This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.