
ANGLICAN CHURCH *of the* ASCENSION

EAST BURWOOD



13th December 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope”

Welcome to Church

Sentence for Today

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour, the day of vengeance of our God. Isaiah 61.1–2



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 264 *“Hark! a herald voice is calling”*

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'

Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb so long expected
comes with pardon now from heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.

So when love comes forth in judgment,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.

Anon., Latin ? 6th cent tr. Edward Caswall 1814-78 and others

Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome

The lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

Jesus is our Way.

With Jesus even dark places are light;

Jesus is the Truth.

In Jesus we shall live for ever;

Jesus is our Life.

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

As three candles are lit:

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist and the third for Mary, who gladly responded to the call of God.

I am the Lord's servant,' said Mary; 'may it happen to me as you have said.' (Luke 1:38)

Startling God, we thank you for the joyful obedience of Mary. We ask you to fill us with your grace, so that we, too, may accept your call, and rejoice in your salvation.

Lord, by your presence

light up the past

that we might learn from it with thankfulness.

Light up the present

that we might live in it with love.

Light up the future

that we might prepare for it in hope.

As we watch and wait and pray

may we be always ready to encounter the Lord

who is ready and always with us. Amen.

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.'

Invitation to Confession:

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, 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.**

Trisagion:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

The Prayer of the Day:

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We join together in the following prayer in time of pandemic disease:

**Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend,
come and care for all of us
through the danger and uncertainty
of the coronavirus pandemic.
To people who are sick, bring healing.
To people who are displaced, isolated,
or cut off from family, friends or work,
bring comfort and companionship.
Work with medical staff as they care for the sick,
and protect them from harm.
Give skill and fruitful research to scientists
as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure.
To public health authorities, give wisdom
to decide the best ways to manage
both this crisis and our anxieties.
When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit,
and kindness to neighbours and strangers.
Through this testing time,
and through all the risks we face together,
teach us once again how we can love one
another as you have loved us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

Godzone talk and Blessing

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Mary

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.**

**God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.**

**The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.**

**God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.**

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,**

**The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

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

The second reading: Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are
offered according to the law),

then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first
in order to establish the second.

And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the
offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke, chapter 1 beginning at verse 39

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the
hill country,

where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and
blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes
to me?

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb
leapt for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of
what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.**

The Greeting of Peace:

We are the body of Christ.

His spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory hymn: TiS 283 "Long ago, prophets knew"

**Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
when he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

**God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.**

Refrain

Mary, hail! Though afraid;
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
till the time expected
nurtured and protected.

Refrain

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
we will make him welcome.

Frederick Pratt Green 1903-

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 was looked for by the prophets,
heralded by the Baptist
announced by an angel,
born of the Virgin Mary,
and revealed at last to men and women of every race.

By his death on the cross,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Through him,
you have revealed to us your glory in the community of your love,
three persons, one God,
ever to be worshipped and adored.

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 643 "I want to walk as a child of the light"

**I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world
the star of my life is Jesus
*In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus***

I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
and show me the way to the Father

Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to be with Jesus
when we have run with patience the race
we shall know the joy of Jesus

Refrain

Kathleen Armstrong Thomerson 1934-

Prayer after Communion:

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.**

Notices

The Blessing:

Christ the Sun 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.**

Final Hymn: TiS 161 "Tell out, my soul"

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
powers and dominions lay their glory by
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord.
to children's children and for evermore!**

Timothy Dudley Smith 1926-

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 following the service

NOTICES

ADVENT WREATH – Cheryl Hall.

CHRISTMAS BOWL envelopes are in the narthex, please take one and return it before Christmas placing it in the collection bowl.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

To help with the additional demand for emergency food relief at this time of year we are holding a special Christmas food and grocery drive for Uniting East Burwood and St Mark's Fitzroy. If you are able to pick up an additional item or two of non-perishable food, cleaning, or personal hygiene products to pop under our Christmas Giving Tree in the Narthex that would be greatly appreciated. Over the coming weeks we will let you know of any items in particular that Uniting or St Mark's might be running low on and in need of. Thank you in advance!

PAT'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Pat Eadon has been busy preparing prizes for the Christmas raffle. 1st prize is her famous Christmas cake, 2nd prize her equally famous Christmas pudding and 3rd prize her award-winning mince pies!! Tickets are \$1:00, please take a booklet with you. Can you please return the money/ticket stubs in an envelope and place in the collection bowl.

PAT'S JAMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Pat has also kept herself busy during the current lockdown with a wide variety of jams. She now has a supply to sell, it will be first in best dressed. We can arrange delivery for those who can't pick up.
Call Pat, 9802 0713 and place an order from the list below. Sales so far have raised \$242:00!!

Strawberry – 1 left	Plum and Raspberry – 3 left	Cumquat
Orange	Lime	Blood Orange
Lemon and Carrot	Lemon, Lime and Ginger	Lemon, Lime and Orange
Cumquat and Lemon	Cumquat and Orange	Cumquat and Grapefruit
Mixed Berry and Apple	Plum	

LECTIONARIES: The Lectionaries for 2021 are available from Christine or Ron. They are \$15 each and are a lovely “burnt orange” colour! The lectionary is an organised daily set of readings for every day of the year and is a really great way to read your Bible, and give you an idea of the sermon theme for each Sunday!

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>

- First SSM blessing takes place after Appellate Tribunal decision
- Gay conversion therapy legislation puts Andrews on collision course with churches
- ADF Anglican Bishop responds to Afghanistan Inquiry
- The Ugandan monk bringing Buddhism to Africa
- Tonga's noble solution to worship and more...

SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK

Monday John of the Cross, mystic and teacher (d. 1591)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday:

Isaiah 45.6-25
Psalm 85.8-13
Luke 7.19-23

Next Sunday: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 7.16
Psalm 89.1-4, 89.19-27
Romans 16.25-27
Luke 1.26-38

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

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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

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, Graeme Munday, Brittany Lee, Cath Ortlieb, Lyle (& Jan) Mansfield, Dave (& Joy) Ritchie, Vivienne Aitken (Pat Eadon's sister), Angelo (from Burwood Lodge), Julie, Jackson Munday, Colin Darvell, and others known to us.*

Those working in healthcare and aged care:

Lyndall Slaney - Disabilities Carer

Lois Ritchie - Aged Care Worker

Angeline Thiagarajah - Doctor, Monash Hospital

Janet Hemphill - Aged Care Nurse

Sandy Blease - Aged Care Nurse

Kym Le Riche - Personal Aged Care Assistant

Christine Youings - Medical Scientist Pathology

Darren Mansfield - Intensive Care Respiratory Specialist, Monash Health

Chloe Bedlow - National Manager, Seniors Living at Mercy Health

Cathryn Youings - Intern at St Vincents Hospital

Frances Harrison - Aged Care Nurse

The residents and staff at Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge

Prayer at long last, is an altar and an oblation...

By this surrender prayer finds a

“service which is perfect freedom.”

In this loss, prayer wins its richest gain.

(“Prayer” by George A. Buttrick)

ANGELICAN CHURCH
of the ASCENSION
EAST BURWOOD



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
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.