

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

The Archbishop has again directed that in order to minimise the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, there should be no congregational singing in Anglican churches in the Diocese of Adelaide until further notice.

The Archbishop has undertaken to maintain a watching brief on advice about singing by SA Health with a view to announcing when it is possible to resume congregational singing.

When familiar chants are used, the congregation may wish to make the offering their own by humming or vocalising quietly, as may be found helpful or devotional.

When the bell rings, all stand. While the priest and ministers enter, the choir sings

Hark, what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?

Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn, 'I come'.

Yea, through life, death, through sorrow and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

Frederic William Henry Myers 1843-1901

Prayers at the Advent Wreath

We light the third Advent Candle as a sign of joy – a testimony to the Light of God coming into our world that will shatter the darkness and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

The third candle is lit, and the minister says:

Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4.4

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice: indeed, the Lord is near.

Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Priest may briefly introduce the Mass of the day.

Penitential Act

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

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

Silence

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray.

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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
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 the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Canticle

Magnificat

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters,

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

John 1.6–8, 19–28

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Fr Graeme Kaines

Silence may be kept.

Profession 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,
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.**

Prayers of the People

Pray for the world and for the church.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

During the preparation of the gifts, the chant is sung. Please note that there will be no Collection taken up: offerings of money can be left in the Collection plates at the front and rear of the pews.

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

When all is prepared, the priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

God of hope
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son
the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation,
given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,
we who bear your threefold likeness
look for the City of Peace
in whose light we are transfigured
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father.
In Jesus you showed us yourself.
Our hope is built on him,
the first, the last, the living one.
Obedient, even to accepting death,
He opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast
that heralded a kingdom yet to come,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:
"Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
"Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end. Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the bread, saying

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.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is said.

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

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ, and Christ in us.

All receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be administered in one kind only.

Communicants are asked to approach the priest in single file, maintaining physical distance, returning to their places via the side aisles.

Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

During communion, the choir will sing The Advent Prose

Ant. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

- 1 Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.
- 2 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour, and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.
- 3 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions; fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Isaiah 35.4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Merciful God,
may this eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR SERVICE TIMES

The schedule of worship will remain largely unchanged during the Christmas/New Year period, but for completeness' sake the schedule for the coming two weeks, with special services marked, will be as follows:

- Sunday 20 December (Advent 4), Mass at 10 am
- Tuesday 22 December, Mass at 12.10 pm
- Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve), 12.10 pm Mass cancelled
- **Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve) 11.30 pm, Midnight Mass**
- **Friday 25 December (Christmas Day), 10 am, Solemn Mass**
- Sunday 27 December (Holy Family), 10 am Sung Mass
- Tuesday 29 December, 12.10 pm Mass
- Thursday 31 December, 12.10 pm Mass
- **Friday 1 January (Naming & Circumcision of Jesus), 10 am Sung Mass**

Thereafter the regular schedule of Sunday and weekday Mass resumes.

LATEST COVID RESTRICTIONS

The state of alert about the Covid-19 pandemic remains high, but the management of the situation within the Australian community likewise remains very good, and so, from tomorrow, 14 December, the **policy on physical distancing will return to the 1 person per 2 square metre rule**. This obviously does not apply to family units, but all others must take greater care to ensure that they are suitably distanced from other worshippers. This will result in the effective uncapping of the capacity of the church, subject to physical distancing, though active steps must be taken to ensure everyone is well-spaced.

The capacity of the main hall will return to 30 people, with a further 4 able to be accommodated in the kitchenette, and 12 in the front room of the Hall.

This is still a significant reduction in the capacity of the Hall and affects all our user groups, especially the AA groups and the Drop In Centre. Please keep everyone in your prayers.

A particular impact of the return of the stricter physical distancing rules means that **congregational singing** has again been paused. Our thanks to our musicians who have once again stepped in to provide our worship with the joy of song. We hope that with the relaxation of physical distancing requirements, it will be possible to resume congregational singing next week.

CONTACT TRACING

All places covered by a Covid-Safe Plan – including the Church and the Mission Hall – must keep contact tracing records of all users by using the mandatory COVID SAfe Check-In system.

- Both the church and the hall will be supplied with a QR code to print off and display.
- It is mandatory for all relevant activities with a COVID-Safe plan to display their QR code from Tuesday 1 December.
- On arrival, visitors must check in by scanning the QR code using the mySA GOV COVID SAfe Check-In tile (at the bottom of the screen) on their mobile phone. Data will be collected and stored securely online for 28 days, only released to SA Health for official contact tracing purposes.
- A paper recording log will be available as a back-up if visitors don't have a smartphone with internet connection.

Our worship will continue to be supported by Covid Marshals, including Jim Perriman, Peter Burdon, Peter Turner and Fr Graeme. If others would like to do the free training to share in this responsibility, please let it be known.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

We heard recently that a former parishioner, June Schaeffer, died a few weeks ago. June and her husband Harold worshipped with us for some years. Harold is now in care. We pray for them both.

SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

Tuesday	12 noon	Angelus; 12.10 pm Mass (Church open 11.30 am – 1 pm)
Thursday	12 noon	Angelus; 12.10 pm Mass (<i>traditional rite</i>) (Church open 11.30 am – 1 pm)
Sunday	10 am	Sung Mass with children's ministry and choir

Mass is offered at St Peter's Cathedral from Monday to Friday at 7.30 am.

Inquiries about Baptisms and Weddings to the Parish Priest. Confessions or confidential personal time with a priest are always available on request.

Regular Giving and Donations

Financial support for our mission and ministry through electronic funds transfer (EFT) is an efficient way of making regular contributions to your congregation. Regular giving helps us plan for the future and ensures you continue offering support when you can't make it to Church.

Our Details: Bank: Bankwest, 8 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000
BSB 305 122, account no 0324654. Reference: Your name

The Magdalene Centre

*A partnership in mission between St Mary Magdalene's, St John's Halifax Street,
St Peter's Cathedral, and Anglicare SA*

82 Gilbert Street, Adelaide Tel (08) 8305 9389

Non-perishable food for those in need can be left in the baskets at the back of the church or delivered to the Magdalene Centre from 12 noon to 3 pm, Monday to Friday.

Goods for the Bargain Centre are not able to be accepted at the present time owing to Covid-19 restrictions.

Donations of cash are welcome via <https://anglicaresa.com.au/cause/magdalene-centre/>.

The Collective of St Magdalene (Drop-In Centre)

Pray for all those who receive the Collective's weekly support,
and who are seeking meals and companionship throughout the week.

Directory

St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church 26 Moore Street, Adelaide

Email: omarymag@anglicaresa.com.au (checked twice daily) • Web: stmarymagdalenes.weebly.com •
Blog: stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org • Facebook: St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church

Locum Priest: Fr Graeme Kaines

In addition to being present at times when the Church is open, Fr Graeme is also available to speak by phone on Tuesday & Thursday between 2 and 3 pm; and on Wednesday & Friday between 11 am and 3 pm. Phone 8357 6799.

In an emergency, please contact Fr Graeme on 0411 693 472

Next Sunday, 20 December, at 10 am – The 4th Sunday in Advent

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 • Romans 16.25-27 • Luke 1.26-38

For Your Prayers

Pray for responsible leadership among the nations as the Covid-19 pandemic continues; pray for an end to racist violence and oppression; pray for peace and justice, especially for refugees and asylum seekers.

Pray for all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, especially Paull, Valerie,
David, Sim, Chris, Clarice, Philip, Phyllis, Dulice, Jasmin and Henry

Pray for those who have died recently, especially June Schaeffer, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. *Rest ✕ eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*