

Midnight Mass of Christmas

25 December 2020

When the bell rings, all stand and sing the hymn

Processional Hymn

Let us proceed in peace.

✠ **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O 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!*

**2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:**

Prayers at the Advent Wreath

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Today we celebrate the gift of the Incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate the birth of Christ who is the Light of the World—a Light no darkness can extinguish. Christ's Light can enter any darkness; as members of the Body of Christ, we live in that Light.

The Christ Candle is lit, and the Priest says:

Loving God, we thank you for your mystery of the Incarnation—Emmanuel, God with us. Help us receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families and communities. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

The hymn resumes

**3 See how the Shepherds
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
We too will thither [lowly fear
Bend our joyful footsteps:**

**4 Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our heart's oblations:**

**5 Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?**

**6 Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:**

Blessing of the Crib

Let us pray.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. Lord, ✠ bless this crib, and bless all who look upon it; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to the one who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

The crib is censed, then the hymn concludes.

7 Yea, Lord, we greet thee
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing:

Adeste fideles (13th cent.)
trans. Frederick Oakeley 1802–80

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

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 choir sings

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Silence

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All say

**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.**

The priest says:

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.**

Hymn of Praise

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.

Collect

Let us pray.

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

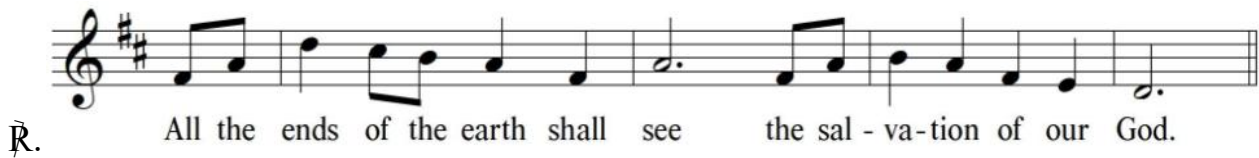
Isaiah 9.2–7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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, an heir given to us; upon whose shoulders rests authority; and who is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; whose authority shall grow continually. And there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and over David's kingdom, which will be established and upheld with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



℞. All the ends of the earth shall see the sal - va - tion of our God.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
With his own right hand and with his holy arm
he has brought deliverance. ℞.

The LORD has made known his salvation
and his righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and truth
towards the house of Israel. ℞.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Let the world be glad in him,
sing, rejoice and give him thanks. ℞.

Let music sound upon the harp,
and psalms be offered to his praise:
with trumpets and with songs of joy
shout the praise of God our King. ℞.

New Testament Reading

Titus 2.11-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

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, who was given for us that we might be redeemed from all iniquity and purified, Jesus' own people, who are zealous for good deeds.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2.10-11

Alleluia.
I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.1-20

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

✠ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In 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!'

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

For the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

All stand. On this day, it is customary to kneel at the reference to Christ's birth.

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

All stand to sing the Offertory Hymn. 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.

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| <p>1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.</p> | <p>3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.</p> |
| <p>2 O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.</p> | <p>4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.</p> |

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

Source of light and gladness,
accept all we offer on this joyful feast.
May we grow up in the One who unites our lives to yours;
who is Lord now and for ever. **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 into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Day and night celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary.
He emptied himself, taking our human form,
That through his incarnation and passion
we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit,
who at the first Creation
moved over the face of the waters,
and overshadowed the blessed Virgin at Nazareth,
we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who celebrate the birth 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 the Messiah you have come to us,
and lived for a time among us,
that we might for ever live with you.
In the manger at Bethlehem,
in his flight to Egypt,
and as the carpenter's son,
the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.

Obedient to your calling,
he accepted death on the cross.
When you exalted him on the third day,
and bestowed on him the name above all names,
he opened the gate of glory
that we might be your children,
and share in his kingdom of Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work
for which he came into the world,
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
and 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.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

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.

Communion Antiphon

John 1.14

The Word became flesh: and we have seen his glory.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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 the body of Christ in the world
we may bring your presence to all people.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand to sing the Postcommunion hymn.

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.**

**4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night,
drive far from you the darkness of vice
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen.**

And may God, who wills that the great joy
of his Son's saving Birth
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,
fill your minds with the gladness he gives
and make you heralds of his Gospel. **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **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:

- **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, and the emergence of a cluster of infections in New South Wales is of great concern, but in South Australia the **policy on physical distancing has returned 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 has returned to 30 people, with a further 8 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.

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.

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