

Mass of Christmas Day

25 December 2020

When the bell rings, all stand and sing the hymn

Processional Hymn

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

2 He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, despised and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 And through all his wondrous childhood
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

Station at the Crib

Let us pray.

Holy Jesus,
to deliver us from the power of darkness
you humbled yourself to be born among us and laid in a manger.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
and bring us at last to the joyful vision of your beauty;
for you are now alive and reign in the splendour of uncreated light,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The presider censes the crib, then the hymn resumes.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

5 Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him: but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall stand around.

Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Invocation and Greeting

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Litany of Praise

The priest, the deacon, or another minister, says

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

Silence

As we celebrate the mystery of God with us,
let us remember that our Saviour
is rich in mercy and great in kindness.

The minister says, or the cantor may sing,

Eternal Word, you have scattered the darkness of sin and death:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Word made flesh, you have made us children of God most high:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Incarnate One, you have united heaven and earth in God's peace:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Almighty God,
who gave your only-begotten Son
to take our human nature
and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:
grant that we being born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,
ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52.7–10

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, and has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD's holy arm has been bared before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 98



℞. 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. ℞.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading**John 1.1–14**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

**Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega;
He the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!**

**2 O that birth for ever blessed,
when a virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

**3 This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected:
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore!**

**4 In the heights of heaven adore him,
angel hosts, his praises sing,
all dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice together sing
evermore and evermore!**

4th C trans J.M. Neale 1818-66
and others

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 peace,
our Saviour Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you.
May all we offer you today
renew us as members of your household.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the 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 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 day 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

Psalm 98.4

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.

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.

**Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!***

**2 Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:**

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Blessing and Dismissal

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 day,
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 the special service on New Year's Day marked, will be as follows:

- 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

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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