



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



First Sunday of Advent

28th of November, 2021

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.

This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859, a faithful Christian presence for over 160 years. We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying; however, in order to continue to keep everyone as safe as possible, pastoral care will be mainly via phone for the remainder of this year. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry.

Now that restrictions have eased, weddings and baptisms have recommenced; please check the website for details regarding permitted numbers at these services. If we can be of service to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you would like to give of your time and talents in the service of others, please also contact the church.

If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy.

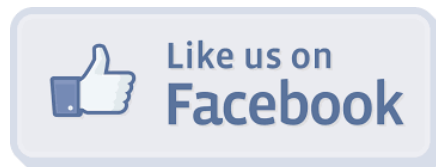
Services of Worship

Sundays at 8am and 10am (also via Zoom at 10am)

Links for services are in the notices below



@stjohnstoorak



Cover Image

Hans Memling *Advent and Triumph of Christ* 1480
Oil on wood, Alte Pinakothek, Munich

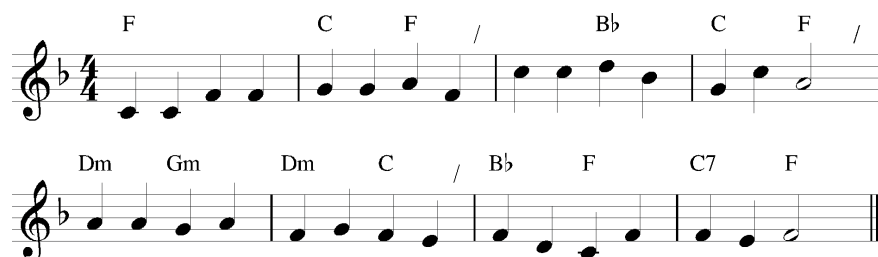
INTRODUCTORY RITE

The First Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, using the following prayer

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs and matriarchs of old, you are our God too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit and to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

HYMN 272 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus' (at 8am verses 1 & 4 are sung)



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release
us,
let us find our rest in thee. | 3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring. |
| 2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart. | 4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne. |

Charles Wesley 1707-88
Reproduced with permission

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *said together*

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.

KYRIE ELEISON *said at 8am and sung at 10am*

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ have mercy, **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures: the first and third are labeled 'Cantor' and the second and fourth are labeled 'Congregation'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have - mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy'. The second staff starts with a measure number '5' and contains three measures. The first and third are labeled 'Cantor' and the second is labeled 'Congregation'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.'. The signature 'Brother Colin Smith SJ' is at the end of the second staff.

CONFESSION

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

Silence is kept

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

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 *Here absolution is pronounced by the celebrant*

TRISAGION

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

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The celebrant prays the Collect, after which all are seated

THE CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

At the 10am service, all children are invited to join together at the chancel step

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 33.14-16

Volunteer reader required at 8am; and at 10am read by Keith Beecher

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

THE PSALM Psalm 25.1-10 *said together at 8am, and sung by the Choir at 10am*

¹ In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:

in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² Let none who wait for you be put to shame:

but let those that break faith
be confounded and gain nothing.

³ Show me your ways, O Lord:

and teach me your paths.

⁴ Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:

for you are the God of my salvation.

⁵ In you have I hoped all the day long:

because of your goodness, O Lord.

⁶ Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:

for they are from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth,

nor my transgressions:

but according to your mercy think on me.

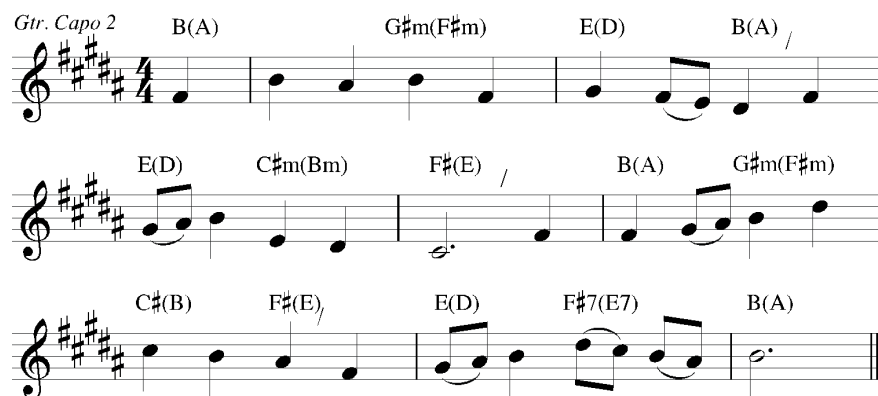
- ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord:
therefore will he direct sinners in the way.
- ⁹ The meek he will guide in the path of justice:
and teach the humble his ways.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:
for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.

THE SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

Read at 8am by Lindsay Hosking, and at 10am read by James Griffith

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN (AT 10AM) 'Hark the glad sound (*Verses 1, 4 & 6 are sung*)



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.</p> <p>2. On him the Spirit largely poured
exerts its sacred fire;
wisdom and might and zeal and</p> | <p>love
his holy breast inspire.</p> <p>3. He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him
burst,
the iron fetters yield.</p> |
|--|--|

4. He comes the broken heart to
bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his
grace
to enrich the humble poor.

5. His silver trumpets publish loud
the jubilee of the Lord,
our debts are all remitted now,
our heritage restored.

6. Our glad hosannas, Prince of
Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's exalted arches ring
with your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge 1702-51
Reproduced with permission

At both services please stand and turn and face the Gospel as it is read

THE GOSPEL Luke 21.25-38

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁵'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' ²⁹Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.' ³⁷Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night

on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON The Assistant Curate, The Revd. Keiron Jones

ANTHEM (AT 10AM)

Hark the glad sound

Music: Henry Walford Davies (1702-51)

Text: Philip Doddridge (1869-1941)

THE NICENE CREED *said together, standing*

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 of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *kneeling*

At 8am led by Brenda Mouritz and at 10am led by Jenny Smith

The Prayers end with the following

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.

THE GREETING OF PEACE *standing*

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

All share with each other a 'COVIDsafe' sign of peace

PARISH NOTICES *given by The Assistant Curate*

OFFERTORY *A monetary collection for the life and ministry of St. John's is taken here. You may give by contributing to the brass collection plate, the paypoint at the rear of the church, or by prior arrangement with the parish office*

HYMN 'Lo! He comes with clouds (at 8am verses 1, 2 & 4 are sung)

G Em C G /

D G D G C G D / G Em

C G / D G D

G C G D / D D7 G /

(v. 2 deep - ly shamed be - fore him,

Em C D G / Am D /

deep - ly shamed be - fore him, deep - ly shamed be - fore him.)

G Em D C G D G

1. Lo! he comes with clouds
descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints
attending
swell the sound of this refrain:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who have betrayed and
sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the
tree,
deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what
rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Saviour, take the power and
glory,
claim the kingdom for your own;
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly;
hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

Charles Wesley 1707-88 *alt.*
Reproduced with permission

4. Sing amen! let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING THE OFFERTORY

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

All stand

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.

The Assistant Curate continues, concluding with

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:

Brother Colin Smith CFC



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord; God of pow'r and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est.



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.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues until the following

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith



Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer ends with the following

... songs of never ending praise. or ... now and for ever.



Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Please pray the Lord's Prayer of your custom, in your own language, or using the following translation*

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 forever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI *at 8am said together, at 10am sung together, kneeling or standing*

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn, likely 'Agnus Dei'. It is divided into three systems, each with a 'Choir' part (marked with a cross) and a 'Congregation' part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. have mercy on us. Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.'

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *kneeling or standing*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward and indicate this by keeping your arms behind your back. Please maintain social distancing during Holy Communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Agnus Dei* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 –1594)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *which ends with*

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

FINAL HYMN Hark, a herald voice (at 8am verses 1 & 4 are sung)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hark, a herald voice'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score includes guitar chords above the notes. The first system is marked 'Gr. Capo 2'. The lyrics are: 'Hark, a herald voice, hark, a herald voice, hark, a herald voice, hark, a herald voice.'

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of
darkness,
waken, children of the day!'
2. Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth
dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.
3. 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.
4. 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

Reproduced with permission

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Come now, redeemer of the gentiles Joh Seb Bach (1685 – 1750)

Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia* 1995. Broughton Books by E.J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A. Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Advent

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (Latin *adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

'Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty.' (Charles Wesley)

The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent

prayer remains 'Our Lord, come.' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Purple is the traditional liturgical colour, the colour of the light at dawn. The church is decorated with purple and with bare wreaths and trees in preparation for Christmas. The tradition of lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice across the Anglican Communion. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continues to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has three purple candles and one pink candle in a ring around a white candle. The three purple candles reflect the liturgical colour for Advent, with the pink candle for the Third Sunday ('*gaudete*' Sunday), when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white or gold one on Christmas Day. There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle; the most popular (and indeed most helpful) is the following: On Advent 1 the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Church are remembered; on Advent 2, the Prophets; on Advent 3, John the Baptist; on Advent 4, The Virgin Mary, and on Christmas Day, Jesus the Christ. Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs and Matriarchs' naturally focus on Abraham and Sarah, our parents in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

PARISH NOTICES

The Church is open for Services

Churches are permitted to reopen for services of worship, with no restriction on the number of people attending - *dependent upon those attending being vaccinated*. When you arrive you will need to both check-in *and* give proof of your vaccination status (if you haven't done so already). Services on Sunday at 10am will continue to be streamed via Zoom for those unable to join us in person:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82030719729?pwd=Q0pKWUYrWk0rNGFON3IyRIJNODIvdz09> Meeting ID: 820 3071 9729. Passcode: 492880.

Annual Meeting, Elections and Appointments

Last Sunday our Annual meeting was held at 11.30am. Reports remain available from the Parish Office, by request. The following elections were made: Incumbency Committee: Campbell Johnston and Jess Hall. Parish Council: Jess Hall, Michael Kirwan, Anthony Mannering (Warden and Council); Stella Jongebreur (Warden and Council); Harrison Young; Vivienne Brown; and, Craig Cooper. The Vicar has

appointed Amanda Bagot as the Vicar's Warden, and Dougal Colhoun and Diana Dunlop as members of Parish Council.

Christmas food donations to charities

There will be a basket in the narthex on Sunday mornings (up until Sunday 5 December) to receive donations of non-perishable Christmas food. Donations will be sent to Christ Church Mission Community Centre, St Kilda and Richmond Churches Food Group. See the 'Food for Friends in Covid Times' flyer below.

Kinross Arts Centre, Toorak UCA

Invites you to view a selection from The Begg Collection. A chance to view 176 notable ceramic pieces amassed from around the world. Free exhibition hours - Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm, 25 November to 14 December. Kinross Arts Centre, rear, 603 Toorak Road Toorak, ph 9829 0340.

Advent Working Bee, Saturday 4 December 10am

In preparation for Advent and Christmas, it's all hands on deck! Please give an hour or two of your time to clean up the church, put out the trees and wreaths, ready for this wonderful time of the year! Morning Tea provided. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Darnlee Carols

This year, carol singing will be from 1pm Tuesday 14 December at Blue Cross Darnlee Aged Care, 33 Lansell Road, Toorak. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, please contact Keiron at curate@saintjohnstoorak.org. All levels of singing ability are welcome! After such a long year of continual lockdowns, the Darnlee community will be greatly uplifted by this Carols concert.

Farewell to our Asst. Curate, The Revd Keiron Jones

Keiron will be officially farewelled at a celebratory morning tea on December 19. If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift for her, please give cash or cheques to the Vicar or Wardens (clearly marked) or deposit to the St. John's account, BSB 033086 Acc. No. 871931, with your name and titled 'Keiron Gift.'

Vicar On Leave

Our Vicar Peter is on leave from 22 November - 3 December.

Food for Friends 2020 Update

Last year our appeal for funds raised \$23659.90 which together with a balance carried forward from the previous year gave us an amount of \$26167.79 to spend this year. St Peter's agencies received goods to the value of \$8977.46. St John's agencies received goods to the value of \$8142.45. TUC's agencies received goods to the value of \$7538.47. A further amount of approximately \$1200 will be spent next week by TUC to provide assistance to one of their agencies who asked for food donations in preparing for Christmas. This will see all of the funds donated last year

spent. All of the agencies assisted have been most grateful for the food we have provided and we look forward to being able to assist them once again next year. Thank you all for your extremely generous support of this endeavour.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

The link to the latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to this week's Newstand is [here](#). The link to the November Prayer Diary and prayer resources is [here](#).

Be part of our Sunday Services

All our ministries are supported by volunteers. The Rosters for November and December are now available. If you are able to assist with duties please complete the form/contact the parish office on 0477 091 492 or at enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Prayer apps to help us pray

Along with prayer books and the Bible, a number of apps are available, which can help us maintain an active and engaged prayer life. Here are a few for you to consider: [epray](#) [Daily Prayer app and podcast](#) [Pray as you go](#)

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can still be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Vicar Peter has Friday and our Assistant Curate Keiron Monday. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

Support St. John's

Your support of St. John's is greatly appreciated. The church often gets requests from members and friends about how best to support the church financially. With this in mind, donations can always be made directly to: St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac, 509 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142, Australia. Account Name is St. John's Anglican Church. BSB is 033 086. Account No. is 871931. For international transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.

What's Happening at St. John's?

For the latest details on what is planned in the parish this year, go to [Community & Events - St. John's Anglican Church, Toorak](#)

28 November - 5 December 'Food for Friends,' our annual food drive for those in need in our community, alongside our friends of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement.

Saturday, 4 December 10am - 12pm Advent Working Bee

Sunday, 5 December 5pm A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols,
sung by The Choir of Trinity College, the University of Melbourne.

Monday 13 December, 6pm Hosting The Swedish Church's annual 'St. Lucia' service.
***Please note, this event has been cancelled.**

Sunday 19 December, 11am Morning Tea with Farewell to The Revd Keiron Jones

Friday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 6pm Children's Pageant

Friday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 11pm Midnight Mass
with Melbourne University Choral Society under the direction of Andrew Wailes and with the
Majestic Brass Ensemble.

Saturday, 25 December, Christmas Day Services at 8am and 10am

2022

Sundays 26 December, 2021 - 30 January, 2022 Summer Sundays! One Service at 10am.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Sun 28: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (Abp Miguel Uchoa, Primate); The Diocese of Sydney (Abp Kanishka Raffel, Regional Bps Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Peter Hayward, Peter Lin, Malcolm Richards, Gary Koo, Clergy & People); Working Group on Aboriginal Matters (NATSIAC); St Stephen's Richmond (Matthew Healy); St John's Bentleigh – Pastoral Visit (Abp Philip Freier); Christ Church Geelong – Pastoral Visit (Bp Kate Prowd); St Mark's Forest Hill – Pastoral Visit (Bp Paul Barker).

For all those who lead us in the Anglican Church, especially: Our Primate The Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Our Archbishop The Most Revd Philip Freier, and our Bishop, The Right Revd Genieve Blackwell.

For those who lead us in Government: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Katie Allen; Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

For The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare.

For those celebrating birthdays: Brenda Mouritz on Tuesday; Rona Hatfield on Saturday.

For those who have died recently, and the families who mourn them: Billee Edwards, Elizabeth Clare Rouse, Tim Swann.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Rachel George; St Catherine's School, Principal Michelle Carroll; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Maggie Perkins; Rosie Creswell; Gwen; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; Mary; Sue; Adrian Hall; Samantha; Patricia Williams; Anthea; Bp. Andrew St. John.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Teri Lawrence; Beverley Joyce; Val Hurst; Marcia Larsson; Gordon Kennett; Anne Myers; and Elizabeth Johnson.

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Jennifer Henderson; Philip Strang; Sir Thomas North; Lorna Mirfield; Diana Hardy; Lauren West; Betty Blomfield; Hugo Griffiths; Margaret Schneider.

In the Church Foyer

The following pamphlets and newsletters are currently in the foyer:

- *The Real Australian* Bush Church Aid Summer 2021/22

FOOD for FRIENDS in COVID TIMES

Again, we are not able to do our usual Supermarket collections.

So, as we did last year with remarkable success, we again are asking for money donations.

This money is spent during the year on food requirements for each nominated agency. This proved to be the best as the agencies were receiving increasing demands through the year as the Covid fallout showed its effect.

So, please consider donating this way...to

The Toorak Ecumenical Fund CBA Toorak

bsb:063177 acc: 10026147. Please mark it F for F.

No receipts will be issued. This money will be spent on food throughout 2022.

Thank you for your support



Food delivery to Christ Church Community Centre St Kilda

Donations of Christmas goodies will be received on Sunday mornings up to 5th December in time for distribution to the agencies

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

This commentary presents one interpretation; others may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings. Text from New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV)

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jeremiah ministered around the time when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 586 BC. In bad times, he told of God's love for his people. The restoration of the city is mentioned in vv. 6-9: "... this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory ..." Our passage was edited or written centuries later.

Now we hear that it is a certainty that a time will come when God will complete his obligations ("fulfill the promise I made", v. 14) under his covenant with the Israelites. Vv. 15-16 are Jeremiah's prophecy in 23:5-6 with a difference: there it is Judah and Israel; here it is "Judah" (v. 16) and "Jerusalem". The "righteous Branch" (v. 15) is a king (or messiah) of David's line; both kings and the messiah were expected to be just and righteous (godly). Judah will be restored to prosperity ("saved", v. 16); Jerusalem will be protected. Per the NRSV, it is the city or the "Branch" that will be called "The Lord is our righteousness", but this may be the name of a king: thus the Revised English Bible. Vv. 17-18 foretell the permanence of the Davidic monarchy, and of priests offering sacrifice. God's covenant with his people is forever, or at least until the end of the age, i.e. to the start of the messianic era. God will never break the pact (even if the people deviate from it).

Psalms 25:1-10

The psalmist seeks deliverance from personal enemies. He trusts in God (vv. 1-4); may God never allow the ungodly (the "treacherous", v. 3) to claim victory over him. Key to maintaining the upper hand is knowing God's ways, being taught by God (v. 4), accepting God's leadership (v. 5), coming to know ultimate "truth" (v. 5): this is the way to being saved from the scheming of his (and God's) adversaries. The psalmist nudges God into remembering his "mercy" (v. 6, compassion) and "love", qualities of God since time immemorial. In youthful *flings*, we deviate from God's ways, but please, Lord, remember my times of fidelity (v. 7). God does teach his ways to those who have strayed and who approach him in awe ("humble", v. 9). "Love and faithfulness" (v. 10) are characteristic of God's covenant relationship with his people.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Paul predicted, when he was in Thessalonika, that some Christians there would be persecuted. This has now happened; he has sent Timothy to "strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith, so no one would be shaken by these persecutions" (vv. 2-3). Timothy has now returned to Paul in Athens, and has conveyed to him "the good news of your faith and love" (v. 6). Indeed, their faith has encouraged Paul in facing persecution himself. Now he considers their prayer for him to be a debt to be repaid ("in return", v. 9). Even though he lives continually in gratitude to, and dependence on, God ("before our God"; "Night and day", v. 10), "all the joy" (v. 9) their faith brings to him is hard to repay, but he does give thanks. He also prays that he may visit them ("see you face to face", v. 10) to "restore" (or

make good) lacks in their knowledge of the faith, to give them further instruction in specific areas (likely what will happen when Jesus comes again: see v. 13). In vv. 11-13, he prays, intercedes with God, on their behalf: (1) that he may visit them again ("direct ...", v. 11); (2) that they may have a superabundance of love for their fellow Christians and for others ("all", v. 12), as Paul, Timothy and Silvanus ("we") have for them; and (3) that their very beings ("hearts", v. 13) may become so God-like ("holiness") that they may be totally free of sin ("blameless") when Christ comes again with all those who belong to God ("his saints") at the end of time. At that time, says 4:13-17, Christ will bring the faithful dead with him; they will rise to be with God first; then those who are still alive will join them in heaven forever.

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus has foretold the destruction of the Temple (v. 6). Some have asked him when this will occur and what will indicate that it is about to happen (v. 7). Given that "all the people were spellbound by what they heard" (19:48) and that the religious authorities "kept looking for a way to kill him" (19:47), the destruction must have spiritual meaning. Jesus tells of events commonly expected at the end of the era, and adds some which are specifically Christian. First, Christians will be persecuted by religious and civil authorities (v. 12). Then there will be "wars and insurrections" (v. 9), but "the end will not follow immediately" (as people expected). Disastrous natural phenomena, cause for great distress, will occur (v. 11), and when Jerusalem is surrounded by armies (v. 20), the city will soon fall: either physically or spiritually. Again the end will be delayed: the killing and deportation of citizens will continue "until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (v. 24), i.e. until non-Jews have had the opportunity to come to Christ.

Now Jesus foretells unnatural events ("signs ...", v. 25) and the resulting confusion among nations and people, not knowing what will happen next. But the "Son of Man" (v. 27), the ideal human, Christ, will come from heaven ("in a cloud", a symbol of divine presence, as at the Transfiguration) with power to control events. Then "redemption" (v. 28), God's acts of freeing his chosen people, will be near. Just as the leafing of trees shows that "summer is ... near" (v. 30), so the occurrence of all these events will show that "the kingdom of God is near" (v. 31): this time will be evident to the faithful. The signs will be as striking as is seen in fig trees: in winter, they look dead but in spring they sprout. In spite of the delay, the era will end before all those alive now have died (v. 32). Jesus' "words" (v. 33) are even more eternal than creation ("heaven and earth"). Finally, he advises vigilance: do not be so "weighed down" (v. 34) with day-to-day earthy matters that you are unprepared for the final call ("that day"). It will be for all those who survive all disasters (v. 35). Pray that God may give you the strength to resist all evils, so that you may "stand before" (v. 36) Christ, be deemed worthy by him.

THIS SUNDAY

8am Service

First Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16, volunteer reader required

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13, read by Lindsay Hosking

Gospel Reading: Luke 21.25-38

Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

10am Service

First Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16, read by Keith Beecher

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13, read by James Griffith

Gospel Reading: Luke 21.25-38

Intercessor: Jenny Smith

Morning Tea: Celia Langford and Fiona Singleton

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

NEXT SUNDAY, 5th December

8am Service

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-14, volunteer reader required

Second reading: Philippians 1.1-11, read by Ted Mouritz

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.1-6

Intercessor: Volunteer required

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

Celebrant: The Revd Dr Peter French

10am Service

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-14, read by Stella Jongebreur

Second reading: Philippians 1.1-11, read by Keith Beecher

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.1-6

Intercessor: Jenny Smith

Morning Tea: Jane Anderson & Amanda Bagot

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

Celebrant: The Revd Dr Peter French



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Mr Anthony Mannering

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