



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859



Second Sunday of Advent

5<sup>th</sup> of December, 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



Like us on  
**Facebook**

## Cover Image

Alessandro Allori *The Preaching of St John the Baptist* 1601-03

Oil on copper, 39 x 47 cm

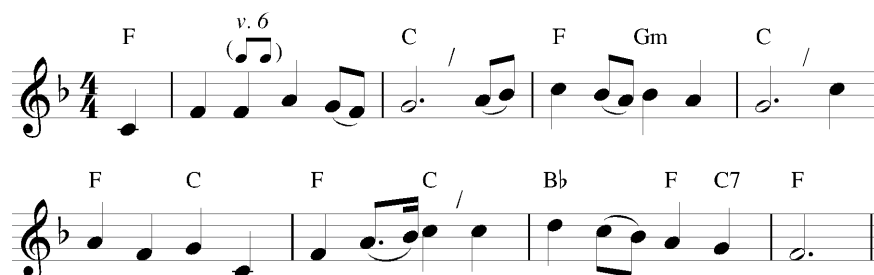
Galleria Palatina (Palazzo Pitti), Florence

## INTRODUCTORY RITE

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

Gracious God, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. 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 'The advent of our God' (at 8am verses 1 & 4 are sung)



1. The advent of our God  
with eager prayers we greet,  
and singing hasten on his road  
his coming reign to meet.

2. The everlasting Son  
was born to make us free;  
and he a servant's form put on  
to gain our liberty.

3. Let Zion now arise  
to greet her infant king,  
and gladly take with thankful  
heart  
the peace he comes to bring.

4. As judge, on clouds of light,  
he soon will come again,  
his scattered people to unite,  
with them in heaven to reign.

5. Then evil flee away  
before the rising dawn!  
Let our old nature day by day  
God's image still put on.

6. Praise to the incarnate Son  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever one  
to all eternity.

Charles Coffin 1676-1749 *tr.* John Chandler  
1806-76 and others  
Arrangement © Australian Hymn Book Co  
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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.**

Cantor Congregation Cantor Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have - mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy

5 Cantor Congregation Brother Colin Smith SJ

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Merciful God, who sent your messenger John the Baptist to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed his warning and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Malachi 3.1-14

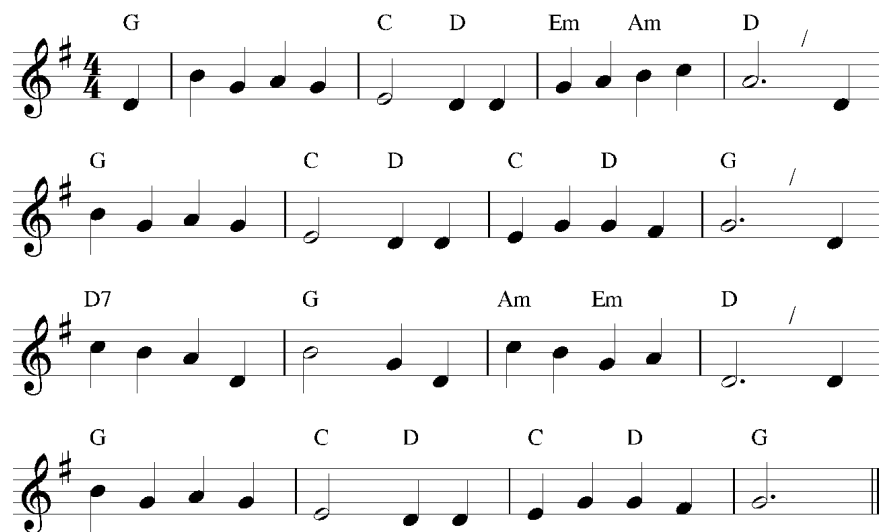
*Volunteer reader required at 8am; and at 10am read by Stella Jongebreur*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup>Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>6</sup>For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. <sup>7</sup>Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' <sup>8</sup>Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In your tithes and offerings! <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup>Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. <sup>11</sup>I will rebuke the locust for

you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>12</sup>Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>13</sup>You have spoken harsh words against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' <sup>14</sup>You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the Lord of hosts?

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

# HYMN 'O bless the God of Israel'



1. O bless the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us,  
with love for all to see.  
The prophets spoke of mercy,  
of rescue and release:  
God shall fulfil his promise  
and bring our people peace.

2. He comes! the Child of David,  
the Son whom God has given;  
he comes to live among us  
and raise us up to heaven:  
before him goes his servant —  
forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation,  
the herald of the Day.

3. Where once were fear and  
darkness  
the sun begins to rise —  
the dawning of forgiveness  
upon the sinner's eyes.  
He guides the feet of pilgrims  
along the paths of peace:  
O bless our God and Saviour  
with songs that never cease.

*Luke 1:68–79*

Words: Michael Arnold Perry 1942–96

Music: Hal H. Hopson

Words © 1982 / Music © 1983 by Hope

Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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THE SECOND READING 1 Philippians 1.1-11

*Read at 8am by Ted Mouritz, and at 10am read by Keith Beecher*

<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.**

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

THE GOSPEL Luke 3.1-6

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.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother

Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

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

THE SERMON The Assistant Curate, The Revd. Keiron Jones

ANTHEM (AT 10AM) *My eyes for beauty pine*

My eyes for beauty pine,  
My soul for Goddes grace :  
No other care nor hope is mine,  
To heaven I turn my face.

And every gentle heart,  
That burns with true desire,  
Is lit from eyes that mirror part  
Of that celestial fire.

One splendour thence is shed  
From all the stars above :  
'Tis named when God's name is said,  
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

Robert Seymour Bridges (1844 - 1930)  
Shorter Poems of Robert Bridges, 1890  
Musical Setting: Herbert Howells  
(1892 - 1983), published 1928

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 volunteer intercessor required, 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 Vicar*

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 'Hail to the Lord's anointed'

*(at 8am verses 1, 3 & 5 are sung; at 10am verses 1, 2, 3 & 5 are sung)*

Gr. Capo 2   E(D) A(G)   B(A) E(D) C#m(Bm) B(A) E(D) /

A(G) B(A) E(D) C#m(Bm) B(A) E(D) /

F#m(Em) G#(F#) C#m(Bm) B(A) C#m(Bm) G#(F#) /

E(D) C#m(Bm) B(A) E(D) A(G) B(A) E(D)

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to let the captive free,  
and take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with help and mercy  
to those who suffer wrong,  
to raise the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls condemned and  
dying  
were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth;  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go,
- and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
that name to us is love.

James Montgomery 1771-1854 *alt.*  
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#### 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 celebrant 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



**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 musical notation is presented in three systems, each with a 'Choir' part (treble clef, one sharp) and a 'Congregation' part (soprano clef). The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1: Choir and Congregation parts. Lyrics: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. have mercy on us.

System 2: Choir and Congregation parts. Lyrics: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. have mercy on us.

System 3: Choir and Congregation parts. Lyrics: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; 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.*

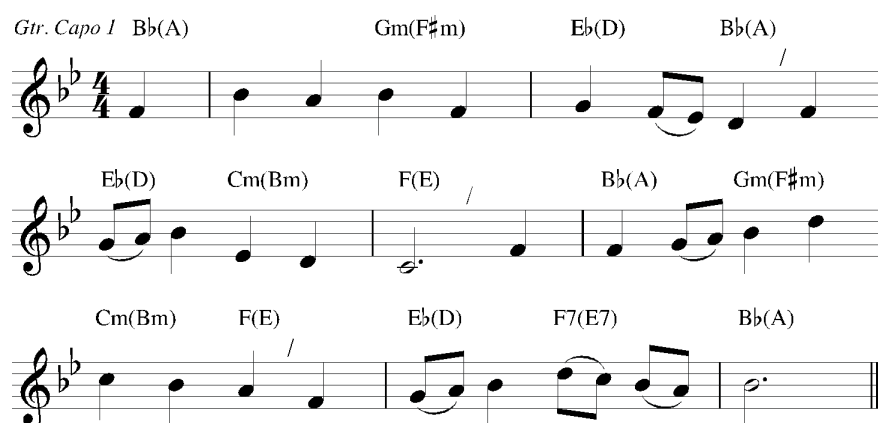
Hail, true Body, born  
 of the Virgin Mary,  
 having truly suffered, sacrificed  
 on the cross for mankind,  
 from whose pierced side  
 water and blood flowed:  
 Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet]  
 in the trial of death!

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,  
 O Jesus, son of Mary,  
 have mercy on me. Amen.

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 'The people that in darkness' (*at 8am verses 1 & 5 are sung*)



1. The people that in darkness  
 walked  
 have seen a glorious light;  
 the light has shined on them who  
 dwelt  
 in death's surrounding night.

2. To hail you, Sun of righteousness,  
 the gathering nations come:

rejoicing as when reapers bear  
 their harvest treasures home.

3. To us a child of hope is born,  
 to us a Son is given;  
 him shall the tribes of earth obey,  
 him all the hosts of heaven.



4. His name shall be the Prince of  
Peace,  
for evermore adored,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the great and mighty Lord.

justice shall guard his throne  
above  
and peace abound below.

5. His power increasing still shall  
spread,  
his reign no end shall know:

John Morison 1750–98 vv. 3–5, and  
compilers vv. 1–2

Harmony  
by permission OUP  
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BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Concerto in a [from BWV 593]

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 please 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**

On Sunday 21 November 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 Jongebreuer (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 **today**) 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.

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to all who offered to help at the working bee on Saturday 4 December at 10am! Your efforts will mean that the church is looking wonderful for Christmas.

### **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](mailto: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.'

### **Commissioning of The Revd Keiron Jones**

On **Thursday 6 January, 7.30pm**, Keiron will be commissioned as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. John's Flinders with St. Mark's Balnarring. The Right Reverend Dr. Paul Barker will lead the service at St. Mark's Balnarring. Parishioners of St. John's Toorak are very warmly invited to Keiron's commissioning. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [stjohnsflinders@bigpond.com](mailto:stjohnsflinders@bigpond.com).

### **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](#).

### **Anglicare Christmas Toy Appeal**

To give to this valuable cause, you can either donate online or call 1800 809 722. Visit [www.anglicarevic.org.au/toy-appeal](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/toy-appeal) for more information. Their 2021 Toy Appeal will operate online this year from September to December.

### **Christmas Bowl 2021**

To donate to the Christmas Bowl Appeal, there are giving envelopes, which are included in the pewsheets. You may also give online; here is the link to our own donation page <https://mycb.link/47109>, or visit [www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

## **The Australian Anglican Church Calendar 2022**

The 2022 edition is now available to order. The link to download the order form is [here](#). Or contact Helen Drummond 0419 897 973 [aachurchcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:aachurchcalendar@gmail.com). Or send completed form to: AACC - PO Box 2676, Cheltenham VIC 3192.

## **Be part of our Sunday Services**

All our ministries are supported by volunteers. The Roster availability form for January and February 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **MUSIC NOTES**

Mozart's beautiful *Ave Verum* is so well known, it's worth looking at where it comes from. Wiki opines: *Ave verum corpus* is a short Eucharistic chant that has been set to music by many composers. It dates to the 13th Century, first recorded in a central Italian Franciscan manuscript (Chicago, Newberry Library, 24). A Reichenau manuscript of the 14th century attributes it to Pope Innocent (variously identified as Innocent III, Innocent IV, Innocent V, or Innocent VI).

### **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:** The Anglican Church of Burundi (Abp Sixbert Macumi, Primate); Theological Colleges, Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Church of the Ascension Springvale (Inpa Eliezer); All Saints' Kooyong - Baptism Service (Abp Philip Freier); St Andrew's Aberfeldie - Pastoral Visit (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Red Door, Caroline Springs - Pastoral Visit (Bp Kate Prowd); St Mark's Emerald - 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 who have died recently, and the families who mourn them:** Margaret Perkins.

**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:** Rosie Creswell; Gwen; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; Mary; Sue; Adrian Hall; Samantha; 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:** John Devine; Jeanette Smith; Margaret Stevenson; Tony Gamble; Patricia Rayson; Millicent Crosby; Catherine Holly; Mary McMahon.

## **In the Church Foyer**

The following pamphlets and newsletters are currently in the foyer:

- *Australian Anglican Church calendar 2022* order forms
- *Imagine* Anglicare Victoria Christmas 2021



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859



# Christmas Services 2021

## **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Sung by the Choir of Trinity College, The University of Melbourne  
directed by Christopher Watson  
Sunday 5 December 5pm

## **Christmas Eve**

Children's Pageant and Nativity Service 6pm

Midnight Mass 11pm

with The University of Melbourne Choral Society under the  
direction of Andrew Wailes and with The Majestic Brass Ensemble

## **Christmas Day**

Holy Communion 8.00am

Holy Communion 10.00am

Tel: 9826 1434

[enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto:enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org)      [www.saintjohnstoorak.org](http://www.saintjohnstoorak.org)

86 Clendon Road, Toorak 3142

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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)*

### **Malachi 3:1-4**

Cyrus, King of Persia, has permitted the people of Israel to return to Palestine. The Temple, gutted in 586 BC, has been restored, but Israel is still a Persian province. People expected that their fidelity to God would be rewarded by (material) prosperity, but life has continued to be hard, so after several decades, they have lapsed into waywardness. It is the ungodly who prosper. In the old days, the king was God's agent, but now (there being no king), the priests have assumed this role. In previous chapters, the prophet has condemned the priests for despising God, corrupting worship and misleading the people.

A "messenger" (v. 1) or angel, God's agent, will come to prepare a way for him. God, long expected, will come to "his temple", to the priests. God's "covenant" with Israel was summed up in the priests. His arrival will be sudden, unannounced. V. 2 implies that when God comes, he will judge the people. (The accused stands to hear judgement.) A *refiner* used the heat of a fire to separate ore into pure metal and slag; a *fuller* cared for newly shorn wool or woven garments by cleaning them, purifying them, with lye. The messenger will "purify ... and refine" (v. 3) the priests ("the descendants of Levi") until they hold him in proper respect. Their offerings, on behalf of the people, will then again be "pleasing to the Lord" (v. 4). God will judge adversely those who deviate from proper moral behaviour and from his ways (v. 5). He will bless all who return to his ways, for he still cares for his people. 4:5 identifies the messenger as Elijah (who ascended to heaven without dying: see 2 Kings 2:10-12); hence the popular belief in Jesus' day that Elijah would return: see, for example, Luke 9:7-8.

### **Philippians 1:3-11**

In the verses following the salutation of the letter, Paul thanks God for the Christians at Philippi, "praying with joy" (v. 4, a pervasive quality of the book), because of their participation ("sharing", v. 5) in spreading the good news, "from the first day", since their conversion. Paul is "confident" (v. 6) that God ("the one") will finish what God has begun among them by "the day of Jesus Christ", i.e. when he returns at the end of the era. Paul is particularly close to the Philippians because they "share" (v. 7) in Christian community, "in God's grace", with him: in suffering, and in defending and confirming the good news. (At his trial, Paul will have the opportunity to defend the gospel and show its power, v. 16). He longs to be with them with deep affection ("compassion", v. 8).

Vv. 9-11 are his prayer for them: may they grow in love of God through knowing more of the Christian reality, marked by keen awareness of its meaning ("insight"), that they may discern the difference being Christians makes ("best"), so that when Christ comes again, they may be ready – having achieved a right relationship with God ("harvest of righteousness", v. 11), through being in and with

Christ, thus augmenting God's "glory", the showing forth of his inherent absolute goodness, and being ideally suited to praising God, rendering him homage, for it.

### **Luke 3:1-6**

As did classical Greek authors, Luke places an event (John's ministry) in the context of rulers, here both secular and religious. (V. 1a gives the most precise dating of the start of Jesus' ministry in the gospels, i.e. 26-29 AD.) "Herod" here is Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great. "Caiaphas" (v. 2), Annas' son, is now high priest but his father retains his prestige (and power). The Greek translated "the word of God came" (v. 2) is the same as in Jeremiah: Luke sees John as continuing Jeremiah's role of announcing judgement at the end of the era and a new pact with God, available to all. John travels throughout the Jordan Valley, preaching return to God's ways and being ethically and spiritually renewed, here (vv. 4-6) expressed through metaphor. (These verses are from Isaiah 40:3-5.) Luke makes one change in the quotation: "his" (v. 4) emphasizes that it is Jesus for whom he prepares the way. To Luke, "all flesh" (v. 6), all people, not only Jews, will have the opportunity to be rescued from sin.



## **THIS SUNDAY**

### **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

## **NEXT SUNDAY, 12th December**

### **8am Service**

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20, read by Lindsay Hosking

Second reading: Philippians 4.4-7, volunteer reader required

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.7-18

Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz

Preacher: The Revd Dr Peter French

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

### **10am Service**

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20, read by Michael Kirwan

Second reading: Philippians 4.4-7, read by Barbara Brown

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.7-18

Intercessor: Keith Beecher

Morning Tea: Jenny Smith & Judy Richardson

Preacher: The Revd Dr Peter French

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones



**ST. JOHN'S  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
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EST. 1859**

**Vicar** The Reverend Dr Peter French  
vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

**Wardens** Mrs Amanda Bagot,  
Mrs Stella Jongebreur,  
Mr Anthony Mannering

### **Parish Council**

Mr Dougal Colhoun, Mr Craig Cooper,  
Mrs Vivienne Brown, Ms Diana Dunlop,  
Dr Jessica Hall, Mr Michael Kirwan,  
Mr Harrison Young

**Assistant Curate** The Revd Keiron Jones  
curate@saintjohnstoorak.org

### **Director of Music/Organist**

Mr Christopher Cook  
accook2001@yahoo.com.au

### **Parish Administrator/Child Safe**

**Compliance** Mrs Sally Robertson  
enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org  
0477 091 492

**Child Safe Officer** Mrs Vivienne Brown

### **Family Safety Officer**

The Revd Keiron Jones

**Sunday School Teachers** Mr Clive Wright,  
Ms Shierly & Miss Jo Patterson

**Archivist** Professor Geoff Quail OAM  
geoffrey.quail@monash.edu