



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL • GRAFTON

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds



Christmas Day 2018

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of Christ the King, commonly referred to as *Christ Church Cathedral*.

The Cathedral stands on the traditional lands of the Bundjalung nation. We acknowledge and pay our respect to their elders past and present, as well as to indigenous people with us today.

You are sharing in worship from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, which stands in the long Anglican tradition of 'common prayer' in which people, choir and clergy offer God and each other the best of ourselves ('our souls and our bodies') for the common good. We seek the peace and well-being of our nation, and especially our local community.

We are delighted that you are here on this special morning: please come and worship with us again.

Whether you are Anglican, from another Christian Church or from another faith tradition, you are warmly welcome to take part in the service. If you want to find out more about the Christian faith, please make yourself known to a member of the clergy after the service.

The service today includes a celebration of the Eucharist during which there will be an opportunity for people to receive Holy Communion. Communicant members of other Christian churches are invited to receive the Sacrament here today, as their own conscience allows. Everyone is welcome to come for a blessing, even if not receiving the consecrated Elements.

The Cathedral is open every day. Free WIFI is available in the Cathedral and throughout our gardens.

You are always welcome to use the Cathedral and its grounds for prayer and reflection, and we encourage you to make this House of Prayer a place of pilgrimage and prayer for our City.



Visit our web site for the latest news and information

www.graftoncathedral.org.au

GATHERING AND PREPARATION

Mass setting: St Thomas Mass (David Thorne)

Entrance Hymn: Good Christians all rejoice (TIS313)

**Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
listen well to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today.**

**Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door,
and you are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this.**

**Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.**

John Mason Neale, 1818–66 *alt.*

A Sentence of Scripture appropriate to the day.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

The president greets the people.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All And also with you.

A minister uses this Invitation to Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Malachi 4.2

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president gives the absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Hymn of Praise (Gloria in excelsis)

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.

All Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

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.

All Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

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.

All **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.**

The Collect for Christmas Day

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence

All glory to you, gracious God,
for the gift of your Son,
whom you sent to save us.
With the angels, let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe rejoice, and proclaim your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from Old Testament

[Isaiah 62:2–12]

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Hear the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.

- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols
and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.
- 11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

Sequence Hymn: Away in a manger [TIS318]

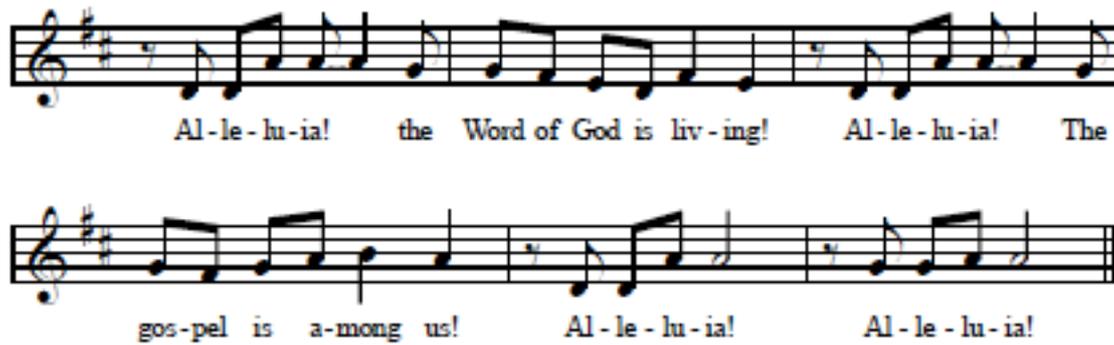
**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Anonymous.

The Gospel



[©Richard Bruxvoort, 2004. Used with permission of the composer.]

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. [2:8–20]

All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**All We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**All We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Litany for the World

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.
Wonderful counsellor,
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.
Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
make the whole world know
that the government is on your shoulders.
Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.
Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.
Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Almighty Lord,
All hear our prayer
and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Together we say the Cathedral Prayer

Living and eternal Christ,
bless the ministry of this Cathedral
as a place of pilgrimage and prayer.
May our doors always be open to pilgrims,
may our hearts always be open to one another,
and may our minds always be open to new truth.
Draw us deeply into the mystery of your life,
your death, and your resurrection,
now and always. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

The Greeting of Peace is introduced with these words.

At the Saviour's birth, the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest,'

All 'And on earth peace to all in whom God delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory hymn: While shepherds watched (TIS299)

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground;
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all humankind."**

**"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:"**

**"The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing cloths,
and in a manger laid."**

**Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**"All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease!"**

Nahum Tate, 1652–1715

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table and this prayer is
said.*

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

In your Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

By his death on the cross,
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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:

**All 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.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.'

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever. Amen.**



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

The president breaks the bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The president elevates the consecrated elements and calls the people of God to the Table of Jesus.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Holy things for holy people.
Broken things for broken people.

All the children of God have a place at God's Table.

Anyone who would normally receive Holy Communion in their own Christian tradition is welcome to receive the Sacrament with us here today.

Those who prefer to receive a personal blessing from the priest rather than Holy Communion are invited to come to the Altar and simply cross their arms in front of them so the clergy know their desire.

Gluten-free wafers are available on request.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The president says

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Final hymn: Joy to the world (TIS268)

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and make the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and, wonders, wonders of his love.**

Isaac Watts 1674–1748 alt.

The Blessing

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Organ Postlude: *Christmas Postlude* – R Eather

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It began on Christmas Day 1949, when a minister named Rev Frank Byatt in Victoria placed a simple empty bowl on the table before him. He humbly asked his friends and family to contribute what they felt the cost of the meal had been. Rev Byatt asked that they consider their own good fortune in being able to share a Christmas meal together in comfort and safety. And he invited them to share God's blessings of love and friendship in the form of a gift to help people who had fled the horrors of World War Two and were suffering as refugees.

This invitation to Australian Christians to stand by men, women and children living through conflict and displacement is, sadly, more important than ever. For the first time in history, there are nearly 60 million displaced people in the world who need our help.

The Christmas Bowl appeal is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!

Today, we invite you to share the joy of your Christmas with a brother or sister in urgent need around the world. **Please give a gift today to provide food, shelter and support.**

Thank you for sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

CALL: 1800 025 101
VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188