

**Holy Communion
at St Paul's, Ashgrove
Epiphany, 2025
5 January 2025**



Song: As With Gladness Men of Old (TiS 314)

Creator God, who lights the path to life for all who seek wisdom,

Turn our gaze from fear, cynicism and competition,
Towards adoration, perseverance and generosity.

**God of wisdom we seek you this day
And every day of the New Year.**

Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

Acknowledgement of Country

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Isaiah 60.1

[Let us pray.]

**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.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Shepherd of Israel
and Light of all Nations,
made known in the gifts
of those who call you by other names
and walk on different paths:
may unjust powers
and the hatred within us
be dismayed by your friendship
and dethroned by your love;
through Jesus Christ, the open arms of grace. **Amen.**

Isaiah 60: 1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
God's glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover your land,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord .

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-12

- ¹ Give monarchs your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the Son of the King,
- ² **That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.**
- ³ Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for their people.
- ⁴ **May he give justice to the poor among the people:
and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ **May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

**10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

¹¹ All kings shall fall down before him:
and all nations do him service.

**12 He will deliver the needy when they cry:
and the poor that have no helper.**

Ephesians 3: 1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Song: Christ, Be our Light (SPHB 7)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 2 beginning at verse 1.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 2: 1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Sermon

Epiphany Stars are distributed with the words: "Take this light to guide you in the new year!"

Silence

Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

**God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,**

**have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**God who made our home,
And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection, A future and a hope,
To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.**

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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.**

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

*The collection bowl will be passed around during this song to support the ministry of St Paul's.
Most members give electronically through their bank, instead. St Paul's bank details are Name:
Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish BSB: 704901 Acc No: 00004420*

Song: The Summons (SPHB 29)

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept all we have, all we give, and all we are,
As we dedicate all to your glory
and the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever

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.

...so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...from all that destroys the hope of peace.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...we rejoice and praise you, saying:

**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 Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...Do this in remembrance of me. '

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

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.

Bread and wine; the gifts of God
for the people of God.
**May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

(NZ Prayer Book)

*Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask).
If you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing (keep your hands
behind your back). You are welcome to kneel at the communion rail. If you prefer to stand, please
stand in the middle section. For the safety of all in the community we ask you to:*

- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from virus symptoms and from anxiety about drinking from
the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the
bread alone.*

...we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped:
so we and all your people will be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

Announcements

Introduction of Confirmation Candidates

Song: Shine, Jesus, Shine (TiS 675)

Please stand and turn to face the back for the blessing

Blessing

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the 9/8.30am service!

Throughout January there will be one service each Sunday, at 8:30am

Upcoming events

- Fri 17 Jan **Peace Vigil** 6pm in the Church
- Sun 19 Jan **Parish Council Meeting**, after morning tea
- Wed 29 Jan **Morning Prayer/Bible Study** resumes at 9:05/9:45 in the Church, followed by celebratory lunch.
- Sat 1 Feb **Practically Spiritual**, 8.30am in the Crypt - a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Talk to Revd Kathy
- Sun 2 Feb **Confirmation Conversation** over morning tea: An opportunity for our confirmation candidates to ask us about the life of faith in the Anglican tradition. Service times return to 7:30 & 9am today.
- Fri 7 Feb **Taize** (6pm in the church) followed by a meal at a local restaurant - please contact Rev Pam or John Hynd if you are interested in joining.
- Sun 16 Feb **Confirmation** of Clara and Alex with Bishop Sarah
- Fri 28 Feb **Quiet Day at St Paul's**: "*Pilgrimage & Spiritual Identity*", Rev Nic Whereat and ANSD
- Sun 2 Mar **Annual General Meeting**

Jubilee Terrace Playgroup – Re-commencing Jan 31, weekly on a Friday from 9.30-11.30am during school terms. \$4 per week to cover cost. Registered Playgroup with Play Matters.

Bible Study and Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning during school terms. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

For your prayers

Cheryl, Anni (Pam & John's granddaughter), Tabi (Jules's niece), Cherilee, Gareth, Ben and family, Ian and Kirsty, Rev Shane, Baby Sal (in palliative care) and his parents Bella and George, Georgia, Sue J, Noel and Wayne. Pray for the continuing recovery of Charlie (Elizabeth S niece) and Sam. We also give thanks for Rev Jack in his ministry to several parishes in the Diocese. Please pray for our friends at LAMB and surrounds, and for the country.

If you would like to donate electronically to St Paul's our bank account details are:

Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish
BSB: 704901
Acc No: 00004420

Contact: Rev Dr Margaret Wesley, margaret.wesley@anglicanchurchsq.org.au, 0424 214 924.
Rev Margaret's non-contact days are Monday and Thursday.
Parish Office, parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au, 07 3366 2320 (open Wed and Fri mornings).