

**Holy Communion
at St Paul's, Ashgrove
Epiphany 2
19 January 2025**

**When the glass really is Empty
-WWMD?**



John 2:1-11 & Isaiah 62:1-5
Rev Dr Margaret Wesley at St Paul's, Ashgrove

Welcome

Song: Morning had Broken (TiS 156)

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

Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. John 2: 11

[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.**

Lord of lavish celebration,
Joy-bringer,
Spirit of festival:

take our empty glasses
and fill them with new wine
that we might savour the every-day miracles
of your good creation
And long for the day when all will share
In your eternal banquet. **Amen.**

Isaiah 62: 1-5

- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord ,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
- ⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

Psalms 36: 5-10

- ⁵ Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens:
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- ⁶ Your righteousness is like the strong mountains:
your justice like the great deep;
you save both mortals and beasts, O Lord.
- ⁷ How priceless is your love, O God!
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸ They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- ⁹ For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.
- ¹⁰ O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,
and your favour to those who are true of heart.

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

This is a different take on the lavishness of God's generosity. The previous two used food and drink metaphors to speak of God's abundant provision. This one points to the abundance of the Holy Spirit's gifting of each member of every church community. God has called us to a huge mission of making Jesus known. If we think we must do this alone, we will feel depleted and inadequate. When we do this together – where each person contributes as they are able – then we are sufficient to the task. Our glasses are full, indeed!

- ¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says

'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

Song: The Church's One Foundation (TiS 457)

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

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

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

John 2: 1-11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Sermon



Rev Margaret's sermons are all available on her Substack blog. You are welcome to read them there if ever you can't get to Church, or if you would like to go over what she has said again.

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.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who return in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
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: I Heard the Voice of Jesus say (TiS 585)

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.

...and joined us in the eternal song:

**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.**

...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

..in songs of never-ending praise:

**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.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament in remembrance that Christ died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

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.*

God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice on earth.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Announcements

Song: God Give us a Future (TiS 687)

Please remain standing or the blessing

When your glass is empty
And your hope grows dim
And you have nothing to give God but the will to obey,
May you find your emptiness transformed by Jesus
Into wine to share with your community.
And may the blessing of God
Who planted the vine,
Who is the vine
And who nourishes the vine
Sustain you this day and every day. Amen.

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 service!

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

Upcoming events

- Today **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.
- Mon 10 Feb **Book Club**, 7.30pm in the Crypt - All welcome. *The Murders at Fleet House* by Lucinda Riley
- Sun 16 Feb **Confirmation** of Clara and Alex with Bishop Sarah
- Fri 21 Feb **Peace Vigil** 6pm in the Church
- Fri 28 Feb **Quiet Day at St Paul's**: "*Pilgrimage & Spiritual Identity*", Rev Nic Whereat and ANSD
- Sun 2 Mar **Annual General Meeting** after **combined 8.30am** service.

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, Ian and Kirsty, 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).