

**Holy Communion**  
**at St Paul's, Ashgrove**  
**Christ the King, 2023**



**Christ the King!**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Matthew 25:31-46

St Paul's, Ashgrove

Rev Dr Margaret Wesley

**Song:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed (TiS 275)

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

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

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The righteous will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"...And the king will answer, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
Matthew 25:37,40

**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.**

Destitute King,  
one with the hungry,  
the naked and the scorned:

may our faith be proved  
not in dogma and piety  
but in serving you  
in the last and the least;  
through Jesus Christ, the stranger's Lord. **Amen.**

The annual 16 days of activism against gender-based violence initiated by the United Nations began yesterday, and Christ the King Sunday is the perfect day to pray that the rule of Christ will replace the rule of violence in every place and every relationship:

God of compassion,

In the shadowed corners of our homes, where pain and fear often dwell, we turn our hearts to You, seeking guidance and strength. Grant us the courage to stand as beacons of light, to confront the darkness of domestic violence with love and resolve.

Help us be better bystanders, not turning a blind eye to suffering, but extending a helping hand, a listening ear, and a caring heart. Give us the wisdom to recognize signs of distress and danger, and the empathy to offer support without judgment.

May we be advocates for those who suffer in silence, a comforting presence for those who've been wounded, and a voice for the voiceless, calling for justice and healing.

We pray for the survivors, that they find solace and strength, and for the abusers, that they may seek transformation and rehabilitation.

Guide us in our role as instruments of your peace, and in the face of domestic violence, be agents of change, to nurture safe havens, where love and respect reign supreme.

In Jesus' name, we humbly ask for the courage to make a difference, Amen.

*(by Levon Kardashian - Uniting Church)*

### **Ezekiel 34: 11–16, 20–24**

<sup>11</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup> I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup> I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

### **Psalm 100**

<sup>1</sup> O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:  
**serve the Lord with gladness,  
and come before God's face with songs of joy.**

<sup>2</sup> Know that the Lord is God:

**it is you who made us and we are yours;  
we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.**

<sup>3</sup> We come into your gates with thanksgiving,  
and into your courts with praise:

**we give thanks to you, and bless your holy name.**

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord is good, your loving mercy is for ever:

**your faithfulness throughout all generations.**

### **Ephesians 1: 15–23**

There are some wonderful prayers in the book of Ephesians. This is one of them.

Try praying this prayer regularly for the people you love.

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**Song:** Jesus Christ is Waiting (TiS 665)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 25 beginning at verse 31.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Matthew 25: 31–46**

<sup>31</sup> 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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

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

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

*Silence*

Let us then open our hearts and confess 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.**

**Song:** God of the Poor (TiS 690)

*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*

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 together we sing 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 in remembrance of me.'  
**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

...all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.  
**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 of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he 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 symptoms and free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

Living God,  
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.  
May the power of your love,  
which we have known in word and sacrament,  
continue your saving work among us,  
give us courage for our pilgrimage,  
and bring us to the joys you promise.

**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:** Crown Him with Many Crowns (TiS 228)

*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 9am service!

## Upcoming events

**A REMINDER: November is Goodna Pantry Month!** Please leave donations at the back of the church or drop them off to the office during office hours.

Early in 2024, we hope to re-introduce a **Bible Study group** that meets outside of business hours. Please let Rev Margaret know your availability so we can decide on a day and time.

- Sun 26 Nov, 5pm      **Commissioning of The Rev'd Steven Schwarzrock** at St Clement's, Stafford. Please pray for Stephen and the Stafford parish.
- Sun 10 Dec, 5pm      **Blue Christmas** service. It has been a tough year. Many of your friends will appreciate an invitation to this time of quiet reflection and prayer for peace.
- Sat 16 Dec, 10:30am      Installation of our new **Archbishop**, +Jeremy Greaves, St John's Cathedral.
- Sun 17 Dec              Rev Pam Hynd's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood – this is our **combined service** at 8.30am
- Sat 16 Dec, 5pm      Westside Orchestra **Christmas Concert** – grab your tickets [here](#)
- Sun 24 Dec, 8:30am      As Christmas Eve in on a Sunday, there will be a small service, without singing, at 8:30 along with the usual services in the evening.

**Jubilee Terrace Playgroup** - 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!

**Would you like to get more involved?** If you have any ideas for events of activities you would like to organise at St Paul's, please get in touch with Rev Margaret.

### For your prayers

Cherilee (incapacitating knee injury), Caroline M (thanks for successful shoulder surgery), Elizabeth T (recovery from surgery for a broken ankle), Bernie, Ofa, Rebekah, Clinton, Melissa, Sue J, Anne (Sue's daughter), Angela, Liam. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Revd Jack, Avril and Sam. Please also pray for Rev Jack and Rev Kathy and the Everton Park Congregation, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh

We hold in our prayers Wayne, Noel, Joy and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.

**Please let us know at the office if you would like someone added or removed from our prayer list.**

Parish contact details – Rev Dr Margaret Wesley – [priest@stpaulsashgrove.org.au](mailto:priest@stpaulsashgrove.org.au), 0424 214 924  
Parish Office – [parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au](mailto:parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au), 07 3366 2320



# Blue Christmas

St Paul's, Ashgrove  
5pm, December 10



Time for quiet reflection, to acknowledge all that is not OK in the world and in our experience, and to pray together for peace and healing wherever they are needed.

# Christmas at St Paul's

**December 10**

**Blue Christmas at 5pm**

*It has been a hard year. Take some time for quiet reflection to acknowledge sadness and pray for peace as we enter a season where there can be pressure to feel happy.*

**December 16**

**Christmas Concert at 5pm**

*Christmas entertainment from Westside Orchestra.*

**Christmas Eve**

**Family Celebration at 6pm**

*Carols, Story time, and a gift for every child*

**'Midnight' Celebration, 10:30**

*Carol singing for 30 minutes before a Christmas Eucharist.*

**Christmas Day**

**Family Celebration at 8:30am**

**Find us on the corner of Waterworks Road & Jubilee Terrace in Ashgrove.**

*Love*

*Joy*

*Peace*

