

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Advent 1, 2023

Song: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
(TiS 273)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
Whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Advent wreath song

Lighting of the First Advent Candle—The Candle of Peace

...to the healing light of Christ.
**Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

The Advent song is sung (said at 7:30 service).

**Light one candle of hope,
One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope for every heart.
He comes! He comes!**

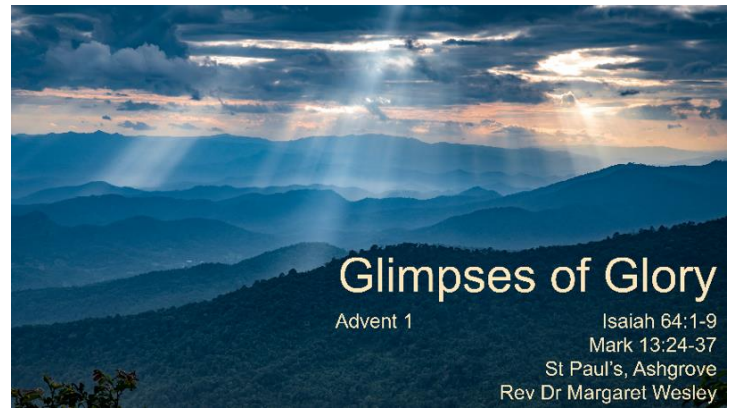
(TiS 286, Used with permission)

Acknowledgement of Country

**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.**

Isaiah 64: 1–9

- ¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,



who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
 We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
 for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
 and do not remember iniquity for ever.
 Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80: 1–7, 17–19

This is a prayer for people standing between great works of God in the past and hoped-for deliverance in the future. Hope is often uncomfortable, as it brings dissatisfaction with the present. There are many Psalms that gives us words to express that discomfort.

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
 you that led Joseph like a flock:
**you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
 shine out in glory;**

² Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.

³ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
**show us the light of your countenance,
 and we shall be saved.**

⁴ O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

⁶ You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
**show us the light of your countenance,
 and we shall be saved.**

¹⁷ Let your power rest on the one at your right hand:
**on that son of man
 whom you made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

¹⁹ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
**show us the light of your countenance,
 and we shall be saved.**

1 Corinthians 1: 1–9

These verses encourage us to be confident in hope as we wait for the full revelation of Christ.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Song: You Who were Rich

You who were rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake became so poor,
Thrones for a manger you surrendered
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
You who were rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake became so poor.

You who are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you.
Immanuel, within us dwelling,
Help us love others as you do.
You who are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you.

You who are God beyond all praising
All for loves sake became a man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by your eternal plan.
You who are God beyond all praising
All for loves sake became a man.

(Mission Praise 700. Used with permission)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 13 beginning at verse 24.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 13: 24–37

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory.

²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that it is near, at the very gates.

³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each

with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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

Sermon - www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/

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

**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.**

Song: Come now Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, now long expected Jesus,
born to make your people new;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in you.
All our strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth you are;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
2. Born your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your victory over evil,
raise us to your glorious throne

(TiS 272, Used with permission)

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

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.

[response]

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.

...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 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.*

...on the day of his coming.

**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: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The love of God was magnified,
With all my worth in him revealed
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
My fear has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus describes my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

(Mission Praise 1072, Used with permission)

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 service!

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: Rev Margaret is writing a prayer and reflection on peace for every day of advent. To receive these by email, subscribe by clicking:

<https://revdrmargaretwesley.substack.com/p/advent-of-peace>

LAST CALL: November was Goodna Pantry Month! If there are any final donations please leave them at the back of the church or drop them off to the office by Wednesday this week.

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.



Christmas Bowl is an appeal run through Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. It gives hope and loving connection between Christians in Australia and people around the world in hardship and suffering! You can **donate online** (mycb.link/134847) or use the envelopes at the back of the church.

ABM 2022 Advent and Christmas Appeal - donate online www.abmission.org/ or by using the envelopes available at the back of the church!



Upcoming events

- 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 25th 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!

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.

PILGRIMAGE - Sat 4th - Mon 6th May 2024 The Cursillo team is planning a pilgrimage, starting at the Anglican Parish of Grovely in Arana Hills, going via Esk and Warwick, and ending in the Boonah/Harrisville area on the Sunday night. This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to a Cursillo weekend. For further information, contact the parish office and your question will be forwarded to the organiser.

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