

# Holy Communion

## at St Paul's, Ashgrove

### Advent 4, 2023



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

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

#### ***Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle—The Candle of Love***

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Thanks be to God**

*Fourth candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree*

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace, joy and love you unfailingly offer us.

**Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Fill us with joy to sustain us in difficulty,  
And reveal your love through us.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

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

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

*Light one candle of joy,  
One bright candle for joy.  
Every nation will find salvation  
In Bethlehem's baby boy!*

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

*(TiS 286)*

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1: 53

**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.**

God of impossible love,  
you needed Mary  
to give consent,  
to bear the scandal,  
to carry your word within herself:  
may her courage give hope  
to women and men  
who yearn to sing  
new songs of justice  
and find the world  
a dwelling place for God;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

### **2 Samuel 7: 1–11, 16**

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' <sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' <sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD : Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' <sup>8</sup> Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

### **The Song of Mary (Magnificat, Luke 1: 47–55)**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
**my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,**  
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:  
**from this day all generations will call me blessed.**  
The Almighty has done great things for me:  
**and holy is his name.**  
God has mercy on those who fear him:  
**from generation to generation.**

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:  
**and scattered the proud in their conceit,**  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:  
**and lifting up the lowly.**  
God has filled the hungry with good things:  
**and sent the rich away empty.**  
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:  
**to remember the promise of mercy,**  
The promise made to our forebears:  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

#### **Romans 16: 25–27**

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 1 beginning at verse 26.  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **Luke 1: 26–38**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Sermon - [www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/](http://www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/)

#### **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

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart. *Silence can be observed*

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.**

*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.**

[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.**

...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 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.

God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
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**

*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>

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](https://mycb.link/134847)) or use the envelopes at the back of the church.

**ABM 2023 Advent and Christmas Appeal** - donate online [www.abmission.org/](http://www.abmission.org/) or by using the envelopes available at the back of the church!



## Upcoming events

TODAY

8:30am - a small service, without singing

6pm – Family Service – carols, storytime and a gift for every child

10.30pm – midnight service – carol singing for 30mins before a Christmas eucharist

Mon 25 Dec, 8.30am Christmas Day Family Celebration Service

**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

Baskaran, David (Squire), Bernie, Liam and Mark and their parent, Desley and Bob, Ofa, Rebekah, Clinton, Melissa, Sue J and daughter, Anne, Angela. Those recovering from surgery – Sherilee, Elizabeth T, Caroline M. We give thanks for the continuing restored health of Revd Jack and Sam. We also give thanks for Rev Jack and Rev Kathy in their ministry to several parishes, especially 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](mailto:priest@stpaulsashgrove.org.au), 0424 214 924  
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