



All Souls' Church

The Anglican Parish of St Peters



Christmas Eve

Family Service

We acknowledge the Kaurua people as the traditional owners of this land; we respect their spiritual relationship with Country, and we honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome

We welcome everyone to this special service of celebration.

All Souls Parish

All Souls' Church is a parish of the Anglican Church, in the Diocese of Adelaide. We have been part of the St. Peters community since 1883.

Our Mission: Nurturing hearts, souls and friendships by creating space for contemplation, connection and community

Administration of Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion and/or receive a blessing at the front of the altar.

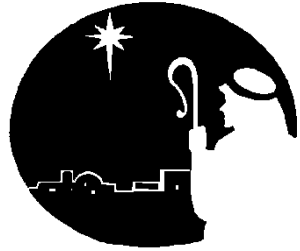
Intinction (dipping) of the bread into the wine is not permitted.

Partaking of the wine from the common cup is optional.



Carol: Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a Mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by.
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.



Welcome and Introduction

May the light, love and grace of the Christ child
Be with you all

All: And also with you.

Lighting the Christmas Candle

(1 pink and 3 purple candles are lit first.

The Advent Candles of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love)

Now we light the last candle to remember the birth of Jesus Christ which we celebrate this Christmas.

(The white candle is lit)

Holy God help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in his light and to share the good news of your love. **Amen.**



Children's Segment *(Near the crib)*

Song: "Beaudy God" All sing this chorus:

Beaudy God, thank you for all you have done
You've made this life worth living, you've given us your Son.
Beaudy God, Ripper! You've shown us the way,
To live our lives more fully with you every day.
Beaudy God!

Saying Sorry

My sisters and brothers, not out of dread and fear but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need carry no longer.

Silence to reflect

All: Eternal God, in everything we see, in everyone we meet, your presence is around us, and we thank you. But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another, when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us.

*God forgives you
Forgive one another
Forgive yourselves
And be at peace. Amen*

Gospel reading: Luke 2, 1-20

The Birth of Jesus Christ

It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule to say that everyone's name must be put on a list. This was the first time that all the people were counted while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone travelled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.

So, Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of King David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because there was no room in which to stay.

Shepherds Hear About Jesus

That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very afraid. The angel said

to them, “Don’t be afraid. I have some very good news for you – news that will make everyone happy. Today your Saviour was born in David’s town. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box.”

Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying,

“Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him.”

The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other: “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about.”

So, they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box. When they saw the baby, they explained what the angels said about this child. Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them. Mary continued to think about these things, trying to understand them. The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising and thanking God for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.



– Easy-to-read Version

Talk/Sermon/Presentation

Carol: Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,
I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is night.
3. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.



The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

All: His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Donations will be collected during this next Carol:

Carol: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.
3. To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
4. The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
And in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of Angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song.
6. All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'



Offering prayer

We thank you for nativity scenes, signs of your presence with us. We thank you for Christmas trees, signs of joy and generosity. We thank you for simple gifts of bread and wine, money and kind.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Christmas Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With all our hearts

We praise you, faithful God.

In the beginning,

You called light to shine in darkness,

And made all life flourish.

You chose us in love,

Guided us by your presence and

Blessed us with your holy law.



You spoke an eternal word

In a human voice

In Jesus of Nazareth,

Son of Mary, Son of God.

He called, and people followed,

He set us free to live for you

And praise your holy name.

He laid down his life

For the world he loved,

And broke the chains of evil and death.

Then you raised him up

To lead your people into life.

On the night before he died,

Jesus gathered with his friends

To share a meal and wash their feet in service.

He took bread,
Blessed and broke it.
He gave it to them saying:
“Take and eat. This is my body.”

He took a cup of wine and blessed it.
He shared it saying:
“Take this and drink it
With the promise of forgiveness.
Whenever you do this,
Remember me”.



Now Holy God,
Unite us in your Spirit
With the faithful around the world,
As we remember your great gift
To us in the birth of Jesus
Our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

Invitation

Friends, we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ, God who came to us in human flesh, as a helpless baby. The first people invited to see this were poor shepherds but an angel proclaimed to them: “A Saviour has been born to you.” So, we come, like those shepherds, to witness and receive God’s amazing grace and love.

Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who feel you have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

All are welcome to receive Communion

Carol: Silent Night (During/After Communion)

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon Virgin Mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

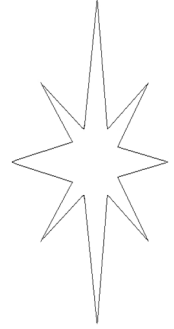


3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



Carol: The First Noel (During/After Communion)

1. The first noel the Angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.*
2. When they look-ed up they saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Chorus*
3. This star drew nigh to the north-west,
Over Bethlehem it took it's rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place that Jesus lay. *Chorus*
4. Now let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who has made heaven and earth from naught,
And with his blood salvation brought. *Chorus*



Prayer after Communion

God of heaven, living among us,
Thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace help us to remember
Your presence in us and with us
Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
That we, as his body in the world,
May bring your presence to all people. **Amen**

Response

**All: Son of God, Child of Mary,
Born in a stable at Bethlehem,
Be born in us again
That through us the world may know
The wonder of your love. Amen.**

Notices

Blessing

May Christ, our infant Saviour,
Give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds,
The reverence of the worshipping sages,
And the humility and love of the holy family.
May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you, and those
you hold dear, This Christmas and always. **Amen.**

Sending out

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

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of Angels:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
2. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with ho-ly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
Chorus
3. Sing choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God,
In the highest:
Chorus



References

- *Easy-to-read Version (ERV)* by the World Bible Translation Center
<https://www.biblegateway.co>
- Communion Liturgy, Iona, 2020
- *Hymns* from *Together in Song*, 1999, Harper Collins , CCLI 204355

*Thank you for joining us in worship this Christmas.
Do come again - we are here every Sunday.*



<http://allsoulsstpeters.org.au>; P.O. Box 331, Stepney 5069