

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET



MIDNIGHT MASS

For the Solemnity of the Nativity
of our Lord Jesus Christ

SAINT JOHN'S EAST MALVERN

5 FINCH STREET EAST MALVERN 3145

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Text marked with  is sung to the Setting 'Messa di Gloria' by Giacomo Puccini.

Please stand when the bells are rung

OPENING HYMN

1. *(choir only)*

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. *(choir only)*

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**3. See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

The Crib assembled within the Altar is blessed

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib,
and that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ
was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:

bles ✠ this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy
birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the
fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

**4. Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

**5. Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

**6. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

Translated F. Oakley, Arranged. D. Willcocks

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Jesus said ‘This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

**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.**

♪ Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

The priest pronounces the absolution of sins

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him 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.**

THE GLORIA

♪ Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus
bonae voluntátis.
Laudámus te, benedícimus te,
adorámus te, glorificámus te...

*Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee...*

THE COLLECT

Good and gracious God, who gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger: on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please sit. You may extinguish your candles now if you have not already

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

[9.2-7]

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations:
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Majesty and glory are before him:
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.

Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:
render to the Lord glory and might.

Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:
bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Say among the nations that the Lord is king:
he has made the world so firm
that it can never be moved;
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the trees of the wood
shout with joy before the Lord;

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

[2.11-14]

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Saviour is born for us,
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

[2.1-20]

Glory ✠ to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

The Sermon is followed by a period of reflection

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together stand to 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Please kneel.

Glory to you O God, in your great love for us you have entered our darkness with your great light. You come as our God and yet as a child, help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, for your love is revealed to us in your manger birth. We join with the shepherds to glorify and praise you, rejoicing in your presence among us. Let your church proclaim your glory and your love. Send out pastors and shepherds of your flock in mission and outreach. May they reveal you as the Light to lighten all peoples.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, we come to bow with the shepherds, to kneel with the wise men, to adore with Joseph and to hold you in our hearts with Mary. Bring your peace to the divisions and violence of this world, may the nations come to know that peace which only you can give and may we learn to live together in harmony and fellowship.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, and bring your peace and goodwill to all those who are in need, suffering or hurt this Christmas. Pour out your consolation to those who are sad or lonely, anxious or depressed. Bring health to those who are sick and calm to those who are troubled. We remember especially today from our own community: Ali, Christine, Andrew, Alan, Liz, and Cam.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you O God, as we remember and give thanks for all who now rest in joy and peace with you and have entered into the hope of your everlasting Kingdom, for those who have recently died, Nancy Frusher, and those we hold in our hearts this night. May we, with them, come into your glory to rejoice in your presence and your love.

May they rest in peace: **and rise in glory.**

GREETING OF PEACE

Please stand

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

A collection is taken to support the life and mission of the parish

OFFERTORY HYMN

**1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.
Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah,
God appears on earth to reign.**

**2. Every eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty:
Those who set at naught and sold him,**

Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. The dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransom'd worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture,
With what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea! Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine exalted throne!
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own!
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly,
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley; v. 4 arranged David Willcocks

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

♪ 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.

The priest continues in thanksgiving...

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

The choir sing the Sanctus and Benedictus

♫ Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus ✠ qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest Blessed is he ✠ that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest</i>
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The priest continues with the prayer of consecration...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

♫ **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues...

... we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

♫ **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

♫ **Our Father,
who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

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.

♪ Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

All baptised Christians who seek Christ in this sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion. You are welcome to receive both the consecrated bread and wine. All are welcome to come forward to the altar for a blessing. During the Communion the choir will sing the Motet 'O Heiland reiß die Himmel auf' by Johannes Brahms.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Notices may be given here. The priest prays a post-communion prayer, followed by

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

The priest pronounces this blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

**1. Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright
round the 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,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'**

**3. Silent night, holy night:
wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.**

Joseph Mohr 1792-1848
tr. John Freeman Young 1820-85 alt
TIS 311

The organist plays the Postlude, 'Toccata' by Eugene Gigout

An illustration for a New Year's Eve party. At the top, there are colorful bunting flags in yellow, grey, and pink. Below them are several circular ornaments with orange and white radial patterns. In the center, two champagne flutes filled with bubbly liquid are clinking. The background is dark with stylized fireworks in orange and white, and small stars. A faint, large watermark of a lion's head is visible in the background.

New Year's Eve

DRINKS

IN THE GAZEBO BEHIND
SAINT JOHN'S FINCH STREET

FROM 5PM

ALL WELCOME

WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU