

St James' Old Cathedral

1st March 2026 at 10:00am

Second Sunday in Lent

Taste and See: 'It Was Good' (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

*Service of Holy Communion from
A Prayer Book for Australia (1995)*



St James' Old Cathedral

Acknowledgement of Country

We worship our creator God on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge them as the traditional and continuing custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Child Safety Officer

We are committed to continuous improvement in a safe culture for all, and especially vulnerable persons. Our parish's Child Safety Officer is Una Ebsworth. Una is an accredited specialist in criminal law. All correspondence and questions relating to safety checks should be forwarded to her at safety@sjoc.org.au

The Old Cathedral Voices

Formed in March 2009 from some of Melbourne's finest choral soloists, The OCV are a consort choir directed by Alex Ritter. Today's singers are:

Maggie Dunleavy	Monika Harris	Eliza Bennetts O'Connor	Lily Flynn
Jenny George	Alex Ritter	Tanum Shipp	
Clyde Saniga	Alex Owens	Andrew Anderson	

The Organ

The present organ was built in 1991 by Australian Pipe Organs, restoring and expanding the 1866 Fincham organ. 2 manuals, 18 speaking stops, 8 couplers. Gt: 8.8.4.4.2.III. Sw: 8.8.8.4.2.III.8. Ped: 16.16.10-2/3.8.4.

The Old Cathedral's organist is David Brown. David undertook studies as an organ scholar at the Universities of Cambridge and St Andrews. He also serves as College Organist for Scotch College.

The Bells

Melbourne's first peal of bells were the six bells hung in St James' Cathedral in 1853, replacing an old ship's bell. Two more were added in 1885. All were cast by Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel Road, London, and are reputed to be the finest ever cast there. They are still rung regularly by a team of volunteers.

Processional (*All Stand*)

The Old Cathedral Voices

This is the Day

O. Parsley (1511-1585)

This is the day which the Lord hath made:

we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Greeting

Bridget Chapman

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins:

whose mercy endures for ever.

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.

Hymn 111 (Iste Confessor)

J. Quinn (1919-2008)

**Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness,
joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,
chanting his praises, come before his presence:
Praise the Almighty!**

**Know that our God is Lord of all the ages;
he is our maker: we are his creatures,
people he fashioned, sheep he leads to pasture:
Praise the Almighty!**

**Enter his temple, ringing out his praises;
sing in thanksgiving as you come before him;
blessing his bounty, glorify his greatness:
Praise the Almighty!**

**Great in his goodness in the Lord we worship;
steadfast his kindness, love that knows no ending;
faithful his word is, changeless, everlasting:
Praise the Almighty!**

The Commandments

Bridget Chapman

‘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 a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Kyrie & Trisagion

Bridget Chapman

Lord Jesus, receive the prayers we offer.

You bore our weaknesses and carried our sorrows.

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy.

You felt compassion for the people,
and went among them doing good.

Christ, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy.

You commanded your apostles to heal the sick in your name.

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy on us now,
and help us in our time of need.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Silence is kept.

Collect of the Day

Bridget Chapman

Creator God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
until they find their rest in you:
teach us to offer ourselves to your service,
that here we may have your peace,
and in the world to come may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for The Ministry of the Word

Bridget Chapman

Heavenly Father,
 give us wisdom and understanding.
As we listen to your Word,
 may we know you better,
 love you more,
 and learn to please you in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering for Children's Chapel

Dr Matthew Champion

We offer an age-appropriate experience of the Ministry of the Word for children, led today by Dr Matthew Champion. They are invited to process out to the conference centre, as the following anthem is sung. They will return in time to join us at Holy Communion.

Childsafe Policy: Children's Chapel is supervised at all times by at least two unrelated adults with current Working with Children Check approvals.

Meditation

The Old Cathedral Voices

The Heavens Declare ("Creation")

J. Haydn (1732-1809)

The Heavens declare the glory of God.

The firmament shows forth the wonders of his work.

And day unto day doth utter speech,

And night unto night doth knowledge show.

The Heavens declare the glory of God,

The firmament shows forth the wonders of his work.

Through all the earth their word goes forth,

*Where is speech or language, there their voice is heard;
ever, ever, ever their voice is heard.*

The Heavens declare the glory of God.

The firmament shows forth his wondrous work.

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-19

Janet Neumann

When God began to create the heavens and the earth,
 ² the earth was complete chaos,
 and darkness covered the face of the deep,
 while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

⁴ And God saw that the light was good,
 and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters,
 and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

⁷ So God made the dome
 and separated the waters that were under the dome
 from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

⁸ God called the dome Sky.
And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky
 be gathered together into one place,
 and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.

¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth,
 and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.
And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth
that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed of every kind
and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.

And God saw that it was good.

¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky
to separate the day from the night,
and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,
¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light
upon the earth.”

And it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day
and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,
¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night,
and to separate the light from the darkness.

And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Hear the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19:1-6

Bridget Chapman

The heavens declare the glory of God:

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

One day tells it to another:

and night to night communicates knowledge.

There is no speech or language:

nor are their voices heard;

Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:

and their words to the ends of the earth.

There he has pitched a tent for the sun:

**which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.**

Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their furthest bound:

and nothing is hidden from its heat.

Second Lesson: Genesis 1:20-2:3

Carol Clark

²⁰ And God said,

“Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

²¹ So God created the great sea monsters

and every living creature that moves, of every kind,
with which the waters swarm

and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

²² God blessed them, saying,

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas,
and let birds multiply on the earth.”

²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said,

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind:

cattle and creeping things

and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so.

²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind

and the cattle of every kind

and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image,

according to our likeness,

and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea

and over the birds of the air and over the cattle

and over all the wild animals of the earth

and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it
and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed
that is upon the face of all the earth
and every tree with seed in its fruit;
you shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air
and to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has the breath of life,
I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw everything that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished
and all their multitude.

² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done,
and he rested on the seventh day
from all the work that he had done.

³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested from all the work
that he had done in creation.

Hear the word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

Hymn 3 v1,4,7 (Lasst Uns Erfreuen) *Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)*

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way, O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show;
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness; O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
 O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Gospel: John 1:1-5

Lwe Moo San Tay

The gospel is written in the first chapter of the Gospel according to John, beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overtake it.

For the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Canon Matt Williams

Anthem (Duet)

Alex Riter & Alex Owens

Be ye sure (Chandos Anthem 1.4)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:

it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves,

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

The Apostle's Creed (*All Stand.*) *Bridget Chapman*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessory Prayers

Jeanette Lawrence

Response:

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus taught us.

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.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Bridget Chapman

Let us pray.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness,

but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much

as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,

so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,

and to drink his blood,

that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Confession

Bridget Chapman

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
confident in God's forgiveness.

**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.**

Absolution

Canon Matt Williams

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 Greeting of Peace (*All Stand.*) ***Bridget Chapman***

We are the body of Christ:

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn 27 v1-3,5 (Mit Freuden Zart) *J. Schutz (1640-90)*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation:
my soul with comfort rich he fills,
and every grief he gently stills:**

to God give praise and glory!

**What God's almighty power has made
that will he ever cherish,
and will, un failing, soon and late,
with lovingkindness nourish;
and where he rules in kingly might
there all is just and all is right:**

to God give praise and glory!

**The Lord will never leave his own,
his chosen generation;
their confidence he will remain,
their peace and their salvation;
as with a mother's hand each one,
he'll ever lead his people on:**

to God give praise and glory!

**So come before his countenance
and leap in exultation;
now gladly pay your due of praise
in joyful celebration.**

**Take courage in the Lord, my heart,
refreshed in him, play your full part:**

to God give praise and glory!

Thanksgiving & Holy Communion

Canon Matt Williams

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night when he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

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.

*All baptised believers in the Lord Jesus Christ
are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.*

*If you need gluten-free bread,
advise the minister at the rail.*

*If you prefer an individual cup of grape juice,
simply decline the common cup of wine when offered.*

During Communion
O Taste and See

The Old Cathedral Voices
J. Goss (1800-1880)

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:

blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints:

for they that fear him lack nothing.

The lions do lack, and suffer hunger,

but those who seek the Lord

shall want no manner of thing that is good. Ps 34:8-10

After Communion

Canon Matt Williams

God of mercy, may we who have shared this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

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.

Notices

Canon Matt Williams

Hymn 557 v1,3-5 (Slane)

J. C. Winslow (1882-1974)

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!

Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!

**Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.**

**Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find;
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.**

**Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.**

**Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if I ever disown you, I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Canon Matt Williams

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven,
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.

Recessional

David Brown (Organ)

*Please join us for a vegetarian lunch
in the Conference Centre next door.*

National Trust Appeal: Roof Replacement

In 2010 a Heritage Review identified the replacement of our slate roof as an urgent work for the next two years.

We have not been able to fund this, and have continued to tolerate regular leaks in the rain, which are damaging other parts of the church in turn.

Parish Council and the National Trust have authorised an appeal. **We are seeking to raise \$500,000** for the full replacement of the slate roof and the restoration of other things which are urgent or best done at the same time. We have engaged Extent Heritage to guide this process and optimise outcomes.

Just before Tony died, Tony and Wendy Greenwood donated the first \$200,000 to this appeal. They hoped to inspire others.

Donations through the National Trust are Tax Deductible. The National Trust take an 8% administration fee.

Please direct Tax Deductible Donations to:

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

BSB: 033000

Account number: 937419

Description: St James Old Cathedral

Please follow up any donations with an email

to both accounts@nattrust.com.au and office@sjoc.org.au

so that we can track donations.

Should we raise more than is needed for urgent works, we are approved to use donations to repay the outstanding loan for the 2011 Tower Restoration.

St James' Old Cathedral

Commitment to Child Safety

Jesus said:

*“Anyone who welcomes a little child in my name welcomes me.
But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble –
it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck
and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.”*

Matthew 18:5-6

As we meet together to worship God,
we seek to honour him by the diligent protection of children.

We are committed to creating a culture of safety for all,
and undergoing regular training to do so.

We seek to normalise routine submission
to Police Checks and Working With Children Checks
for all members of the community.

If anyone sees any behaviour
related to child safety that strikes them as odd,
they should not investigate the matter themselves,
but call the independent Professional Standards Hotline
(Kooyoora Ltd) for expert guidance:

1800 135 246

or our local police (313 Spencer Street, Docklands):

03 8690 4444

Intercessions

We pray for: Our West Melbourne Community; Haileybury College; Mike Raiter and The Centre for Biblical Preaching; Emma Payne (CMS); Chris & Sarah Griffioen and family (OM); Australian Indigenous Churches; Ridley College; Trinity College; the Overseas Chinese Christian Church; Janette Wells; Neil; Diane and Roger Smith and family; Beverly Stephenson; Sergio Altin; The Hamilton Family; Jean Ely; Neil Hawthorn; Lorraine Hedley; Jamie Chisholm; Stuart; Jenny Swain; Kim Boulton; Tony Billington; Ken McAlpine; Anne Ellison; Faye Moses; Gillian Williams; Mavis Payne; Lisa Thompson; Warren Mills; Chris & Roselee Jones; Wendy Greenwood; Sharon Goldby; Owen Billington.

Notices

- Today we begin a special series “Taste and See”, tracing the broad outline of the Christian message in four weeks. A different style of lunch follows each service and is part of the experience. Please stay to eat with us!
- A new Tuesday night dinner & bible study group has begun at Canon Matt’s house: 96 Roden Street, West Melbourne, 7pm-9pm.
- KYB Women’s Bible Study has returned on Wednesdays at 10am.

Contact Details

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