

St James' Old Cathedral

4th December 2022 at 10:00am

Second Sunday in Advent

“Bear fruit worthy of repentance”

*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 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 Old Cathedral Voices are a consort choir directed by Jenny George.

Today's singers are:

Jenny George

Spencer Chapman

Julien Robinson

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
Comfort Ye (“Messiah”)**

**Spencer Chapman (Tenor)
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)**

“Comfort ye my people,” saith your God.

*“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.”*

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,

“Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” *Isaiah 40:1-3*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Joel Gillie

(The first two candles are lit.)

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Hymn 199 (Winchester New 45)

C. Coffin (1676-1749)

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out your hand
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**To him who left the throne of heaven
to free mankind, all praise be given;
like praise be to the Father done,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

Greeting & Preparation

Joel Gillie

“Bear fruit worthy of repentance.” *Matt 3:8*

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.**

The Commandments

Joel Gillie

‘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.’

Collect

Joel Gillie

Merciful God,
you sent your messengers the prophets
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Joel Gillie

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

View Me, Lord

C. Wood (1866-1926)

*View me, Lord, a work of Thine:
Shall I then lie drown'd in night?
Might Thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.*

*Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
At thy table pure and white:
They that once Thy mercies feel,
Gaze no more on earth's delight.*

*Worldly joys, like shadows, fade
When the heav'nly light appears,
But the cov'nants Thou hast made,
Endless, know nor days nor years.*

*In Thy Word, Lord, is my trust,
To Thy mercies fast I fly;
Though I am but clay and dust,
Yet Thy grace can lift me high. Amen. T. Campion (1567-1620)*

⁹Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

¹⁰And that is what I did in Jerusalem;
with authority received from the chief priests,
I not only locked up many of the saints in prison,
but I also cast my vote against them
when they were being condemned to death.

¹¹By punishing them often in all the synagogues
I tried to force them to blaspheme;
and since I was so furiously enraged at them,
I pursued them even to foreign cities.

¹²With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus
with the authority and commission of the chief priests,
¹³when at midday along the road, your Excellency,
I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun,
shining around me and my companions.

¹⁴When we had all fallen to the ground,
I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language,
“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?
It hurts you to kick against the goads.”

¹⁵I asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The Lord answered, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

¹⁶But get up and stand on your feet;
for I have appeared to you for this purpose,
to appoint you to serve and testify
to the things in which you have seen me
and to those in which I will appear to you.

¹⁷I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—
to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes
so that they may turn from darkness to light
and from the power of Satan to God,
so that they may receive forgiveness of sins
and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

¹⁹‘After that, King Agrippa,
I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
²⁰but declared first to those in Damascus,
then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea,
and also to the Gentiles,
that they should repent and turn to God
and do deeds consistent with repentance.’

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

Psalm 66:15-19

Joel Gillie

Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.

But God has heard me:
and has heeded the voice of my prayer.

Praise be to God:
**who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.**

Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-20

Mimi Lee

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed,
must not even be mentioned among you,
as is proper among saints.

⁴Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk;
but instead, let there be thanksgiving.

⁵Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person,
or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater),
has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words,
for because of these things the wrath of God comes
on those who are disobedient.

⁷Therefore do not be associated with them.

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found
in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,
but instead expose them.

¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;
¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,

¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery;

but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns

and spiritual songs among yourselves,

singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,

²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Hymn 476 v1, 3-5 (Crimond 16)

C. Wesley (1707-88)

O for a heart to praise my God,

a heart from sin set free,

a heart that always feels thy blood

so freely shed for me:

a humble, lowly, contrite heart,

believing, true, and clean,

which neither life nor death can part

from him that dwells within:

a heart in every thought renewed,

and full of love divine,

perfect, and right, and pure, and good,

a copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart:

come quickly from above,

write thy new name upon my heart,

thy new, best name of love.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-8

Joel Gillie

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.” ’

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair
with a leather belt around his waist,
and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him,
and all the region along the Jordan,

⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for baptism, he said to them,

‘You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance.’

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

Sermon

Canon Matt Williams

Anthem

The Old Cathedral Voices

Wash me Thoroughly

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:

and cleanse me from my sin. Psalm 51:2

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 (*All Sit or Kneel*)

Intercessions

Dr Rachelle Gilmour

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

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.**

Preparation

Joel Gillie

**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 & Greeting of Peace *Joel Gillie*

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness,
and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming,
confessing 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.**

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 Peace *Joel Gillie*

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 children's chapel re-enters the church as this hymn is sung.

Hymn 365 (Horsley 266)

C. Wesley (1707-88)

**Jesus, united by thy grace
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek thy face,
and know our prayer is heard.**

**Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to bear,
let each his friendly aid afford
and feel his brother's care.**

**Touched by the lodestone of thy love,
let all our hearts agree,
and ever t'ward each other move,
and ever move t'ward thee.**

**Up into thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow,
and by thy sacrifice be led
the fruits of love to show.**

**This is the bond of perfectness
thy spotless charity;
O let us, still we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.**

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.

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.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence stand before him
who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

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 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,
including baptised children at their parents' discretion,
are welcome to eat and drink from the Lord's Table.*

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

Special Note about the Common Cup

The Common Cup is available.

Most people are still choosing individual cups in line with health advice.

We therefore offer the individual cups of grape juice first.

*If you do prefer to receive the common cup of wine,
simply decline the individual cups when offered.*

During Communion

The Old Cathedral Voices

O Come Hither (Ps 66:14,17)

M. Greene (1695-1755)

*O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God,
and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul:
God hath heard me, and considered the voice of my prayer.*

After Communion

Canon Matt Williams

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.

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.**

Hymn 192 (Austria 374i)

Anon. Latin 10th C.

**Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!**

**Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise,
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb so long expected
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven.**

**So when love comes forth in judgement,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.**

Blessing & Dismissal***Canon Matt Williams***

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
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)*****Christmas Services in December:**

Sunday 11th at 10am: Children's Christmas Pageant & Luncheon

Sunday 18th at 10am: Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 24th at 11pm: Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Sunday 25th at 10am: Christmas Day Holy Communion

Offertories are no longer collected during services.

We encourage all regulars to plan their giving through direct contribution.

Our bank details are:

St James' Old Cathedral

BSB: 013 377

Acc. No.: 008 684 064

Intercessions

We pray for: Our West Melbourne Community; Haileybury College; Mike Raiter and The Centre for Biblical Preaching; Zoe Creelman (CMS); Chris & Sarah Griffioen and family (OM); City to City Australia; Australian Indigenous Churches; Ridley College; Trinity College; the Overseas Chinese Christian Church; Edith Weaver; Joan Heard; Lola Russell-Dixon; Joy Palmby; Andrew; Ron & Janette Wells; Rod Robertson; Beverly Stephenson; Jill Sculley; Sergio Altin; Hugo Ellis; Richard Fleming; Jean Ely; Wendy & Tony Greenwood.

Notices

- The Parish Christmas Lunch will follow the service on December 11th. Please advise Lisa if you can bring something to share.
- Canon Matt will be away on retreat Monday to Wednesday.
- A big thank you to all those who accepted lay offices at our AGM:
Wardens: David Spriggs; Kevin Neumann; Elizabeth Blades-Hamilton
Parish Council: Lorraine Hedley; Warren Mills; Bei-En Zou;
Micaiah Zwartz; Catherine McGovern
Incumbency Committee: Owen Billington; Bei-En Zou

Contact Details

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