

St James' Old Cathedral

17th May 2026 at 10:00am

Sunday after Ascension

*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 Old Cathedral Voices are a consort choir directed by Alex Ritter.

Today's singers are:

Monika Harris	Yujia Chen	Jenny George
Alex Ritter	Tanum Shipp	
Matthew Crossley	Alex Owens	

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
O God, the King of Glory

The Old Cathedral Voices
H. Purcell (1659-1695)

*O God, the King of Glory,
who hast exalted thine only Son, Jesus Christ,
with great triumph into heaven:
We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us,
and exalt us unto the same place
where our Saviour Christ is gone before us. Amen.*
(BCP Collect for the Sunday after Ascension)

A Sonnet for Ascension Day

Canon Matt Williams

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

Greeting

Lwe Moo San Tay

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn 291 v1,3,5,6 (Easter Hymn 290ii) C. Wesley (1707-88) alt.

Hail the day that sees him rise, *Hallelujah!*

to his throne above the skies; *Hallelujah!*

Christ, awhile to mortals given, *Hallelujah!*

re-ascends his native heaven. *Hallelujah!*

Heaven now its Lord receives, *Hallelujah!*

yet he loves the earth he leaves; *Hallelujah!*

though returning to his throne, *Hallelujah!*

still he calls mankind his own. *Hallelujah!*

Still for us he intercedes, *Hallelujah!*

his prevailing death he pleads; *Hallelujah!*

near himself prepares our place, *Hallelujah!*

he the first-fruits of our race. *Hallelujah!*

There we shall with thee remain, *Hallelujah!*

partners of thine endless reign; *Hallelujah!*

there thy face unclouded see, *Hallelujah!*

find our heaven of heavens in thee. *Hallelujah!*

Gloria in Excelsis

Lwe Moo San Tay

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One;

you alone are the Lord;

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer for The Ministry of the Word

Lwe Moo San Tay

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

Leave us not, neither forsake us

J. Stainer (1840-1901)

*Leave us not, neither forsake us, O God of our salvation.
In thy presence is the fullness of joy.*

*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?
This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven,
shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

*Thou art gone up on high, hallelujah;
Thou hast led captivity captive, hallelujah;
And received gifts for men, hallelujah;
Yea, even for thine enemies,
that the Lord God might dwell among them. Hallelujah, Amen.*

Pss 27.11; 16.12; Acts 1.11; Ps 68.19

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about

all that Jesus began to do and teach

² until the day when he was taken up to heaven,
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit
to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them
by many convincing proofs,
appearing to them during forty days
and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ While staying with them,
he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem
but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

“This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me;
⁵ for John baptized with water,
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit
not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him,
“Lord, is this the time
when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods
that the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,
suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand
looking up toward heaven?

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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

Psalm 110

Lwe Moo San Tay

The Lord said to my Lord:

**‘Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.’**

The Lord commits to you the sceptre of your power:

reign from Zion in the midst of your enemies.

Noble are you, from the day of your birth upon the holy hill:

**radiant are you, even from the womb,
in the morning dew of your youth.**

The Lord has sworn and will not turn back:

‘You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.’

The king shall stand at your right hand, O Lord:

and shatter kings in the day of his wrath.

Glorious in majesty, he shall judge among the nations:

and shatter heads over a wide land.

He shall slake his thirst from the brook beside the way:

therefore shall he lift up his head.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Jamie Keck

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.

²¹ For since death came through a human,
the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human,
²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

²³ But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits,
then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom
to God the Father,
after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

²⁷ For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

But when it says, “All things are put in subjection,”
it is plain that this does not include the one
who put all things in subjection under him.

²⁸ When all things are subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who put all things in subjection under him,
so that God may be all in all.

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

Hymn 295 (Hyfrydol 148ii)

J. Bakewell (1721-1819)

**Hail, thou once despised Jesus,
hail, thou Galilean King!**

**Thou didst suffer to release us;
thou didst free salvation bring.**

**Hail, thou universal Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame,
by thy merits we find favour;
life is given through thy name.**

**Paschal Lamb by God appointed,
all our sins on thee were laid;
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made:
all thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood;
opened is the gate of heaven;
peace is made twixt man and God.**

**Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly host adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side:
there for sinners thou art pleading,
there thou dost our place prepare,
ever for us interceding
till in glory we appear.**

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After Jesus had spoken these words,

he looked up to heaven and said,

“Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son

so that the Son may glorify you,

² since you have given him authority over all people,

to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God,

and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

⁴ I glorified you on earth

by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence

with the glory that I had in your presence

before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known

to those whom you gave me from the world.

They were yours, and you gave them to me,

and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you,

⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them,

and they have received them

and know in truth that I came from you,

and they have believed that you sent me.

⁹ I am asking on their behalf;
I am not asking on behalf of the world
but on behalf of those whom you gave me,
because they are yours.

¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine,
and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.

Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

Sermon

Bridget Chapman

Anthem

The Old Cathedral Voices

Do not be afraid

M. Nelson (b. 1988)

Commissioned for the Old Cathedral Voices. Premiered 20th April 2014.

Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last, and the Living One.

I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever;

and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

Do not be afraid: I am alive for ever. Rev. 1:17b-18

Athanasian Creed Pt 2: On the Incarnation (*All Stand*)

The right Faith is, that we believe and confess:

**that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;
God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds:
and Man, of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world;
Perfect God, and perfect Man:**

**of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting;
Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead:
and inferior to the Father, as touching his manhood.**

Who, although he be God and Man:

**yet he is not two, but one Christ;
One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh:
but by taking of the Manhood into God;
One altogether; not by confusion of substance:
but by unity of Person.**

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man:

so God and Man is one Christ;

Who suffered for our salvation:

**descended into hell,
rose again the third day from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,
he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty:
from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies:
and shall give account for their own works.**

**And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting:
and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.**

This is the Catholick Faith:

which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

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 *Lwe Moo San Tay*

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

Lwe Moo San Tay

Christ has entered heaven itself,
there to appear before God on our behalf.
Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith,
and confess our sins to the God of grace.

**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

Lwe Moo San Tay

(All Stand.)

We are the body of Christ: **His Spirit is with us.**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*During the Hymn which follows,
the Children's Chapel re-join us for Holy Communion.*

Hymn 283 (Christ Lag in T.)

M. Luther (1483-1546)

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
for our offences given;
but now at God's right hand he stands
and brings us life from heaven:
wherefore let us joyful be,
and sing to God right thankfully
our songs of hallelujah. *Hallelujah!*

It was a strange and awesome strife
when life and death contended;
the victory was gained by life,
the rule of death was ended:
stripped of power, no more he reigns,
an empty form alone remains;
his sting is gone for ever. *Hallelujah!*

So let us keep the festival,
our Lord himself invites us;
Christ is the Lamb, the joy of all,
the sun that warms and lights us;
through the glory of his grace
all darkness must today give place,
the night of sin is ended. *Hallelujah!*

Then let us feast this holy day
on the true bread of heaven.
The word of grace has purged away
the old and wicked leaven.
Christ alone our souls can feed,
he is our meat and drink indeed,
faith lives upon no other. *Hallelujah!*

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.

You have highly exalted him,
and given him the name which is above all other names,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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.

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory.

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
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 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 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 it is offered to you.*

During Communion
No Body Now But Yours

The Old Cathedral Voices
A. Anderson (b. 1971)

Premiered at St James' Old Cathedral 30th March 2025.

Andrew Anderson is our composer-in-residence.

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on the world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses the world,
All the world.*

*So look to see who needs Christ's love,
the hungry, the thirsty, the captive, the sick.
Though they may seem far away,
run to meet them where they are,
and use your hands to bless and serve.*

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Author Unknown
(attrib. Teresa of Avila, alt.)

After Communion

Canon Matt Williams

God of glory, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world
to preach the gospel of your kingdom.

Strengthen us who share this meal to continue his mission
by living the good news we proclaim.

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 293 v1,2,4,5 (Darwall)

C. Wesley (1707-88)

**God is gone up on high,
with a triumphant noise;
the clarions of the sky
proclaim th' angelic joys!**

Refrain: ***Join all on earth, rejoice and sing;
glory ascribe to glory's king.***

**God in the flesh below,
for us he reigns above:
let all the nations know
our Jesus' conquering love!**

Refrain: ***Join all on earth, rejoice and sing;
glory ascribe to glory's king.***

**High on his holy seat
he bears the righteous sway;
his foes beneath his feet
shall sink and die away:**

Refrain: ***Join all on earth, rejoice and sing;
glory ascribe to glory's king.***

**Till all the earth, renewed
in righteousness divine,
with all the hosts of God
in one great chorus join.**

Refrain: ***Join all on earth, rejoice and sing;
glory ascribe to glory's king.***

Blessing & Dismissal

Canon Matt Williams

Christ our exalted king pour upon you his abundant gifts
and bring you to reign with him in glory;
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 morning tea
in the conference centre next door
following the service

*Instead of collecting offertories during the service, we gratefully
receive free offerings made at the exit, or by electronic transfers to:*

St James' Old Cathedral

BSB: 013 377

Acc. No.: 008 684 064

*Tax deductible giving to support our music program is also possible
through the St James' Gift Fund:*

Melbourne West ITF Gift Fund

BSB: 013 377

Acc. No.: 526 890 909

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; Lorraine Hedley; Diane and Roger Smith and family; Beverly Stephenson; The Hamilton Family; Jean Ely; Neil Hawthorn; Jenny Swain; Kim Boulton; Tony Billington; Jamie Chisholm; Anne Ellison; Gillian Williams; Yen-Ling Chiu; Warren Mills; Chris & Roselee Jones.

Notices

- This week the Archbishop announced that Archdeacon Megan Curlis-Gibson and Archdeacon Ben Wong will be consecrated bishops on September 19th at 10:30am. Megan will serve as our assistant bishop, and her first service of confirmation and reception will be here the next day.
- Tuesday night Dinner and Bible Study is on at Canon Matt's house. It runs 7pm-9pm and all are welcome: 96 Roden Street, West Melbourne.
- Youth Group is running on Friday nights: 7pm-9pm.
- KYB – a women's bible study – is here on Wednesdays at 10am, studying the gospel of Luke. Please see Diana or Sarah for details.

Contact Details

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