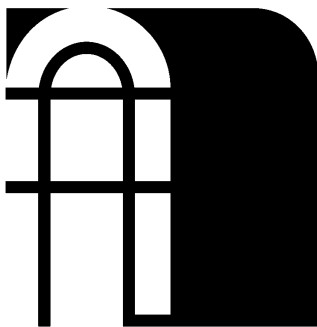


St James' Old Cathedral

4th January 2026 at 10:00am

Epiphany Sunday

*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.

The choir is on leave until school resumes. Solos are sung by Jenny George.

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.

David is on leave. The organ is played by Andrew Anderson.

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

Jenny George (Alto)

Isaiah Service 1: Invitation (Pt 1)

A. Anderson (b. 1971)

Premiere. Andrew Anderson is our composer-in-residence.

This is the first of a set of four songs covering Isaiah 55.

*Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat.*

*Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?*

*Listen, listen carefully to me,
and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food. Isaiah 55:1-2*

Greeting

Bridget Chapman

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

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.

Prayer of Preparation

Bridget Chapman

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 235 v1,3,4 (Iris)

J. Montgomery (1771-1854)

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*come and worship Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

**Wise men, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star:
*come and worship Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

**Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord descending
in his temple shall appear:
*come and worship Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

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.’

Gloria

Bridget Chapman

**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.**

Collect***Bridget Chapman***

Everlasting God, who brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising:
fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all the nations;
through him who is the true light and the bright morning star,
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Peace***Bridget Chapman***

O God, the Father of all,
whose Son commanded us to love our enemies
and to pray for those who persecute us:
deliver them and us from prejudice, hatred, and revenge;
that all people may learn the things that make for peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Canon Matt Williams

We offer an age-appropriate experience of the Ministry of the Word for children, led today by Canon Matt. 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.

Hymn 224 (Antioch)

I. Watts (1674-1748)

**Joy to the World! The Lord is come;
let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing...**

**Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy...**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love...**

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Catherine McGovern

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

He has founded it upon a holy hill:

**and the Lord loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.**

Glorious things shall be spoken of you:

O Zion, city of our God.

I might speak of my kindred in Egypt or in Babylon,
in Philistia, Tyre or Nubia:

each one was born there.

But of Zion it shall be said:

**each and every one was born *there*,
he that is Most High has established her.**

The Lord will record, in writing down the peoples:

each one was born *there*.

And they will sing as they pipe and dance:

‘All my fountains are in you!’

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Mimi Lee

^{3:1}This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus
for the sake of you Gentiles—

²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace
that was given to me for you,

³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,
as I wrote above in a few words,

⁴a reading of which will enable you
to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

⁵In former generations this mystery
was not made known to humankind,

as it has now been revealed

to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,
members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant
according to the gift of God's grace
that was given to me by the working of his power.

⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints,
this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles
the news of the boundless riches of Christ,

⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery
hidden for ages in God who created all things;

¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God
in its rich variety might now be made known
to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose
that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence
through faith in him.

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

Hymn 216 (Stuttgart)

A. Prudentius (348-413)

**Earth has many a noble city -
Bethlehem alone excels:
from it came the Lord from heaven,
come to rule his Israel.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing,
seen in human form on earth.**

**Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
frankincense God to disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaiming,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**

**Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped
at your glad epiphany,
now to you with God the Father
and the Spirit glory be.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 *Bridget Chapman*

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- ¹In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking,
‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.’
- ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him;
- ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:
⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’
- ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men
and learned from them the exact time
when the star had appeared.
- ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
‘Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him,
bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country by another road.

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

Sermon

Rev. Mike Raiter

Anthem

Jenny George (Alto)

Isaiah Service Pt 2: Confession

A. Anderson (b. 1971)

Premiere. Andrew Anderson is our composer-in-residence.

This is the second of a set of four songs covering Isaiah 55.

*Seek the Lord while he may be found,
and call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord,
that he may have mercy on them,
let them return to our God,
for he will abundantly pardon.*

Isaiah 55:6-7

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.**

Intercessions

Daniel Fleming

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

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

Knowing the goodness of God

and our failure to respond with love and obedience,

let us confess our sins, saying together,

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

Rev. Mike Raiter

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.**

Greeting of Peace

Bridget Chapman

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His steadfast love endures for ever.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Remaining in our pews, we greet those immediately around us:

"Peace be with you."

Hymn 221 (The First Nowell)

Anon. English 17th C

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

When they looked 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. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow that star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew night to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three
and reverently, upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain*

Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who brought forth heaven and earth from nought,
and with his blood mankind has bought. *Refrain*

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.

You anointed him as Messiah,
the light of the nations,
and revealed him as the hope
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

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.

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 children at their parents' discretion
are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.*

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

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

Meditation

Jenny George (Alto)

Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

*Three Kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.*

*Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
the Kings are travelling, travel with them!*

*The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.*

*Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
offer thy heart to the infant King.*

After Communion

Canon Matt Williams

God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

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

**As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright:
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore:
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare:
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

**In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light,
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down,
there for ever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Canon Matt Williams

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Recessional

Andrew Anderson (Organ)

PLEASE STAY FOR MORNING TEA
IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE NEXT DOOR
AFTER THE SERVICE

Instead of collecting offertories during the service, we gratefully receive offerings made at the exit, where a tap and go facility is provided. Bank transfers may be directed 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

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; Amodha Ratnayake; Mavis Payne; Lisa Thompson; Warren Mills; Chris & Roselee Jones; Wendy Greenwood.

St James' Old Cathedral in 2026

Many of St James' Old Cathedral's regular ministries are in recess after Christmas until 27th January 2026.

This includes our Friday night Youth Group
and our twice daily zoom prayer services,
and The Old Cathedral Voices.

Children's Chapel will still be provided at each Sunday Service.

Contact Details

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Matt Williams	0403 770 867
Associate Minister:	Rev. Mike Raiter	0425 211 058
Lay Minister:	Ms. Bei-En Zou	0434 899 839
Student Minister:	Ms. Bridget Chapman	0406 320 940
On-Site Manager:	Ms. Lisa Wardell	0417 624 915
Child Safety Officer:	Ms. Una Ebsworth	0400 717 571
Churchwardens:		
Mr David Spriggs		0417 190 319
Ms Elizabeth Blades-Hamilton		0423 100 677

www.sjoc.org.au