



The Anglican Church of Australia  
Diocese of Wangaratta

**The Parish of Kilmore**  
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook  
**25th December 2016**



**The Birth of our Lord - Christmas Day**

*Wishing you all a most holy and blessed Christmastide.*

**Hymns: 306, 268, 313, 309**



*Introit Hymn*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord, the Emmanuel.

made known on this most holy day be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **The Blessing of the Manger**

Ever-loving Father of us all, you make this day holy with the splendour of Jesus Christ our light; we welcome him as our Emmanuel. We rejoice in the promise of salvation that comes to us in the infant Christ child.

We ask your blessing on this our Christmas manger; may we all be richly blessed by our Lord's nativity in the name of the Father ✠ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## ***Liturgy of the Light***

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light today: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfilment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

**[The Fifth candle is lit.]**

[All Sing]

*O come, O dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives,  
**and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,**  
born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry,  
**in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God;**  
**his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as  
it was to his disciples so long ago.**

Come to us, Lord Jesus,  
**Be born in us this day, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.**  
**May the light of your life be kindled in us,**  
**And lead us to the shining truth,**  
**of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

*The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book*

## SENTENCE

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord. *Luke 2.10–11*

## PENITENTIAL RITE

Jesus, you are the image of the invisible God,  
the first-born of all creation:

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

Jesus, you are God's true child, born of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Jesus, you are Word made flesh, full of grace and truth:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence*

Let us pray together;

**Radiant God, you send your light into dark and shackled lives;  
shine in our hearts and set us free to praise you, now and for ever. Amen.**

As we rejoice in the gift of God's presence with us we sing the hymn first heard by the shepherds. [**The Gloria**]

## THE COLLECT

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 62. 6-12**

[God appoints watchmen to pray day and night for the full restoration of the people of God. Redemption is at hand with the coming of a Saviour and God's people receive a new name.]

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah*

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: 'Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.' Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: 'Say to Daughter Zion, "See, your Saviour comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you will be called 'Sought After', the 'City No Longer Deserted'.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98

[A song of celebration of the God who comes to save God's people, and who comes to judge the earth in righteousness and justice.]

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.**

Andrew Wright

### Response

v. 4b All the ends of the earth have seen the sal - va - tion of God.



Sing to the Lord a new song  
because he has done wonderful things!  
His own strong hand and his own holy arm  
have won the victory!/R

The Lord has made his salvation widely known;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the eyes of all the nations.  
God has remembered his loyal love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation./R

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!  
Be happy! Rejoice out loud! Sing your praises!  
Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—  
with the lyre and the sound of music./R

With trumpets and a horn blast,  
shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!  
Let the sea and everything in it roar;  
the world and all its inhabitants too./R

Let all the rivers clap their hands;  
let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether 9 before the Lord  
because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!  
He will establish justice in the world rightly;  
he will establish justice among all people fairly./R

## SECOND READING

Titus 3. 4-8a

[Paul sets out a credal statement about salvation expressed by rebirth, renewal and justification.]

*A reading from Paul's letter to Titus*

Paul writes, 'When the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have

trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

For today a great light has come upon the earth.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 2. 1-20**

[Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem for the Emperor’s census, and while there Mary gives birth to her son. Shepherds are told by angels about the birth and find the place where the holy family is to be found, telling the story of what they have been told about the child.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*For the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, born in a stable because there was no room in the inn; we pray for the homeless, the dispossessed and poverty stricken.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, born away from your hometown; we pray for those away from their families this Christmas; for those for whom the Yuletide brings no joy.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, hunted by Herod; we pray for those in danger, for all devastated by war, especially the peoples of Syria and South Sudan; for those who are treated unjustly and threatened by violence and abuse, for those traumatised by terror and all who would inflict terror, turn their hearts so all may live in harmony one with another.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, precious Child of God, forced to flee as a refugee to Egypt; we pray for all refugees in the world, and for the situations they flee from; for all who seek asylum and those held in detention.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, visited by shepherds and wise men; we pray that this Christmas, for the lost and the lonely, those who suffer and live with pain; may this season bring comfort.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, divine healer and bringer of peace; we pray for healing for all those who are ill, peace for those nearing death and comfort for those who have requested prayer:

*Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Faye Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Sharon De Battista, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson, Sarah Davidson, John Leonard, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, born as one of us; we have much to be thankful for; we pray for families that peace, hope and love of you be known and felt around the world, that people may be safe and know the blessings that your birth bestow upon creation.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, precious Child of God, before whom the Magi laid their gifts, whom humble shepherds worshipped, accept our praises as we celebrate your birth at Bethlehem. On this most holy day grant that our hearts be so illuminated with the brightness of your one true light, that we too may proclaim your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Most loving God ...

### **Blessing**

To God, who blesses us beyond our imagining, who loves us beyond our dreaming, who forgives us beyond our deserving, who uses us beyond our hoping, who has come to us once more as our Emmanuel, bringing hope, peace, joy and love, be honour and adoration, praise and thanksgiving; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life, be yours now and forever. **Amen.**

**Notice: As from 4th January Christ Church will be closed for renovation. 9am Sunday services are being held at Senior Citizens Club, Sydney Road, Kilmore.**

**There will be no weekday services this week**

<b>Next Sunday: 1st January 2017 THE EPIPHANY</b>		
Isaiah 60.1-6; Ps 72.1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12		
Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

### **Parish Clergy**

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**Hon Associate Priest** Revd Maryann Leonard, 78 High Street, Broadford, 3658;  
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The Clergy wishes everyone  
blessings and peace and

