

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona
St Clement's Altona Meadows
O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

24th December 2023 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Wominjeka :: Haere mai

Welcome



8:30am St Clement's ::
10:30am St Eanswythe's
1:00pm Te Wairua Tapu St
Eanswythe's

A warm welcome to our worship today, especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting from elsewhere.

Please do stay to share refreshments at the end of the service.

This booklet contains the full order of service: please join in the parts printed in bold type.

Our parish lies on the country of the Kulin nation. We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

Gathering in God's name

We meet in God's name, as God's people – children of God in all our rich diversity, with all that we carry from the complexity of our lives.

We turn to God in praise and prayer; this includes recalling all that has separated us from God, and claiming the love and forgiveness that is always held out to us.

The Collect then 'collects' these prayers and turns our attention towards the Bible readings which will follow.

INTROIT HYMN 312 Once in Royal David's city
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

A candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

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

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.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND PREPARATION

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.

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

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

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

The priest says:

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect (prayer of the day)

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Opening the Scriptures

FIRST READING

A reading from the Second book of Samuel
2 Samuel(7.1-11,16)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'
But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (89.1-4,19-27)

Lord, I will sing for ever of your loving-kindnesses:
my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.

**I have said of your loving-kindness that it is built for ever:
you have established your faithfulness in the heavens.**

The Lord said 'I have made a covenant with my chosen:
I have sworn an oath to my servant David.

'I will establish your line for ever: and build up your throne for all generations.'

You spoke once in a vision: and said to your faithful one,

**'I have set a youth above a warrior:
I have exalted a young man out of the people.**

'I have found my servant David:
and anointed him with my holy oil.

'My hand shall uphold him: and my arm shall strengthen him.

'No enemy shall deceive him: nor shall the wicked hurt him.

**'I will crush his adversaries before him:
and strike down those that hate him.**

'My faithfulness and loving-kindness shall be with him:
and through my name his head shall be lifted high.

**'I will set the hand of his dominion
upon the Western Sea: and his right hand shall stretch
to the streams of Mesopotamia.**

'He will call to me "You are my Father:
my God, and the Rock of my salvation."

Song of Mary

(Magnificat)

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,**

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed.

**The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.**

God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.

**The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.

**God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.**

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter to the Romans (5.12-28)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN 292 Infant Holy, infant lowly
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring good news to the poor.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (1.26-38)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For

nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

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

SERMON

Let us together confirm the faith of the Church

APOSTLE CREED

**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;
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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

The prayers may include this or another response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer

**God of this ancient land, holy beyond time and place,
you search us out and name us your beloved children.
Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person.**

**Send your Spirit to renew our life,
and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Everyone is invited to turn to those around, and offer a greeting of peace from where you stand. Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the basket/box provided.

Celebrating at the Lord's table

Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.

OFFERTORY HYMN 302 The angel Gabriel from heaven came
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:

...to proclaim the glory of your 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.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:

...we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God, and concludes:

...all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou
**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei**



**i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke āke āke. Āmine.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
We who are many are one body
For we all share in the one bread

**Jesus Lamb of God , have mercy on us.
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

Everyone is invited to share communion or receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a personal blessing, please indicate when the minister comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

**He became poor that we may be rich
loving the world and leaving his throne:
King of all kings and Lord of all lords,
flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone**

(Hymn 721)

*Wild Goose Songs 3,
Love from Below" by permission
Wild Goose Publications*

Going into the world

The Eucharist offers us a way to be renewed, transformed, and blessed: now we take that blessing to share with others, in our words and actions, our hearts and lives.

'The Eucharist never ends – it must be lived.'

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully
and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes 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

DISMISSAL

As we wait our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**In the name of Christ
Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 268 Joy to the world.

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

With Advent Blessings

The season of Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) is a time of preparation and prayer. It is a wilderness time, perhaps best represented by the figure of John the Baptist who announced the coming of the Holy One, and who called upon God's people to repent. As Christmas draws closer, our attention is also drawn to Mary, who followed God's call to a vital role in the Word becoming flesh.

There are two horizons to the waiting and longing which are characteristic of Advent (which simply means 'coming'). Most obviously, we look towards Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. But we also look towards Jesus' future coming in glory, the time when all things will be gathered into God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

The liturgical colour of Advent is purple, reflecting the note of expectancy. We are invited to a deeper awareness of our dependence on God for the healing and redemption of all nations and the whole creation. The fundamental Advent prayer is expressed in the Aramaic word Maranatha ('Our Lord, come').

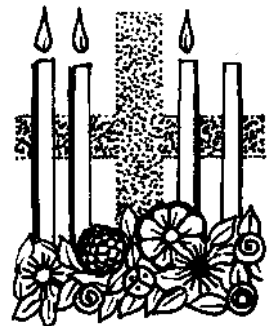
The tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath, week by week, originated in northern Europe in the nineteenth century and has been widely adopted by Christian churches around the world. In the northern hemisphere, Advent falls at the darkest time of year and so the symbolism of light in darkness has a particular resonance. In Australia, the season of Advent leads us towards the longest, brightest days of the year, a different but equally powerful image.

Lord Jesus, come!

Almighty God,
you have made us and all things to serve you:
come quickly to save us,
so that wars and violence shall end
and your children may live in peace,
honouring one another with justice and love;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

epray®



Notices

Appointment of Reverend Kerry Davis:

On behalf of the Wardens Denis Lee, Soon Ghee Yap and Lily Griffin, we have been informed that the Archbishop Philip has appointed;

Reverend Kerry Davis as our Vicar.

Rev'd Kerry and with his wife Vaoa will be joining us in May 2024 we are so pleased to make this announcement and thank you for your pray-full support for the Parish Nomination Committee. (

Empty Christmas Tree Appeal Advent 2023:

A big thank you for the contributions made to our appeal this year. Our efforts are much appreciated.

Tearfund Useful Gifts:

Thank you to all who purchase gifts through our Useful Gift Shop.

We have banked \$1610.00 which is an amazing effort. Many people will benefit through your generosity. Thank you on their behalf !!!

Matthew 25: 31– 40

Blessings to you all. St Eanswythe's Sunday School.

Advent & Christmas Giving Envelopes: Hello everyone. I have received from the Anglican in Development mission requests to distribute their Advent & Christmas giving envelopes for 2023. I would need someone from the parish to supervise or at least overlook the collection of these envelopes. I can place them in the narthex of each worship centre...and you call make your own judgements whether this something you wish to contribute to. Please give this some prayerful thought.

Regards: Dave T



Family Service Christmas Eve 5.00pm at St Clement's

Assistance is needed to present a family service at St Clement's. Many things have come up to make this service in threat of not going ahead. Lily has offered to run this service but she will need assistance. If you are available to help this service to continue please give Lily a call on 0413 065 705.



Planned Giving 2024/25: Pat Baines has decided that this year is her last as co-ordinator of the Planned Giving Programme. We are asking for any interested parishioners to speak to Pat on 9315 7838 or one of the Wardens who would like to take the opportunity to help undertake this important and vital role. You can also email the parish office on parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au.

Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Everyone is welcome as we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
bringing hope and joy for young and old!



Sunday 24 December ~ Christmas Eve
5pm Christmas Family Service (St Clement's)
10:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist (St Eanswythe's)

Monday 25 December ~ Christmas Day
9:30am Christmas Eucharist (St Clement's)

St Eanswythe's, Altona—cnr Queen & Bent St
St Clement's, Altona Meadows—cnr Central Ave & Skehan Blvd

During late December and January our Sunday service times follow a different schedule, details to follow.
www.anglicanaltlav.org.au

For our Prayers This Week

The world and nation:

We pray for the people of Australia facing floods, heavy rains, storms, heatwaves and tropical cyclone Jasper. Keep them all safe in your hands dear Lord.

The Church:

World Council of Churches:

Japan, North Korea, South Korea

For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of the Murray (Bp Keith Dalby, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: St Paul's Cathedral - Christmas Eve Service (Abp Philip Freier);

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglican Overseas Aid – supporting health care and education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Our parish & community: For God's guidance, love and care of our people. Holding our incumbency committee in our prayers as they pray and meditate about our future parish needs.

Those with particular needs at this time:

Denise, Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Toby, Lewis, Christopher, Maria, Kay, Shane, Michael, Anna, John.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Les King (24), Peter Higginbottom (26), Bryce McKinnon (27), Ilija Strinic (28), Arthur Thorton (30)



To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, for those needing prayers now or to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact the clergy or parish office.

Parish Contact List

St Eanswythe's: Cnr Bent & Queen St, Altona 3018 | PO Box 48, Altona VIC 3018

St Clement's: 85-95 Central Ave, Altona Meadows 3028

www.anglicanaltlav.org.au | T: 03 9398 1005 | E: parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Locum: The Rev'd Dave Thompson

M: 0431 041 555 | E: dthompson@melbourneanglican.org.au

Assistant Priest and Maori Minister: The Rev'd Danny McRoberts

M: 0448 841 196 | E: dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Lily Griffin, Soon Ghee Yap & Denis Lee

This Month in our Parish

Sunday 24 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Christmas Family Service,
St Clement's
10:30pm Christmas Eve Service,
St Eanswythe's

Monday 25 December: The Birth Of Our Lord: Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
Combined Service

Sunday 31 December: First Sunday After Christmas

9.30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
Combined Service

Sunday 7 January: Baptism of Our Lord

9.30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
Combined Service

Sunday 14 January: Second Sunday a After Epiphany

9.30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
Combined Service

Sunday 21 January: Third Sunday After Epiphany

9.30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
Combined Service

Sunday 28 January: Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

8.00am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10.30am Holy Eucharist St Eanswythe's
1.00pm Holy Eucharist
0 Te Wairua Tapu Poipiripi
5.00pm Holy Eucharist St Clement's

Keeping in Touch

- ⇒ Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ If you are or have been away for a Sunday, you can see recent pew sheets on our website at www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and livestreamed services.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, you can sign up at anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets

Third Sunday of Advent



Finding Joy in resilience

Twelve long years have passed since Rima* and her family fled their beloved home in Syria as the devastating civil war unfolded. Forced to leave everything behind, they sought refuge in Jordan, carrying with them only the essentials. With your kind gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can support Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, continue to provide vital food packages, hygiene kits, and the long-term support that refugees need to rebuild their lives. **Please give today.**

*Name changed for safety reasons



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Advent & Christmas Appeal 2023

To help train leaders within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander churches & communities to build strong communities.

