

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON

EUCCHARIST
FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE
2023



St Eanswythe's Church, Altona
10:30pm

Welcome to our worship tonight as we celebrate Christmas together.

Please join in saying together the words printed in bold type, and in singing the hymns.

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).

During the service, a collection will be taken up
for the **Christmas Bowl Appeal**.

For over 70 years, the Christmas Bowl Appeal has brought together churches across Australia, to share God's love through practical action in the world.

This year is already shaping up to be one of the toughest in recent memory. With the cost of living rapidly increasing for many of us, both here at home and abroad, there is much uncertainty about the future. The impacts of the climate crisis, rising inflation and the ongoing war in Ukraine are all contributing to growing food scarcity for many communities already uprooted by conflict and disaster around the world. This global food crisis is now pushing millions to the brink of famine with families in urgent need of food, care and lifesaving support.

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl today will help to support these communities affected by conflict and disaster, around the world.

Christmas Bowl giving envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the pews.

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.

HYMN

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

Amen.

The hymn continues:

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him...

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him...

last verse over the page...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
‘Glory to God, glory in the highest’:
O come, let us adore him...

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.
And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

E te whānau a te Karaiti, i te mea kua hara tātou,
whakatata mai ki te hohou i te rongou.
(Family of Christ, because we have missed the mark, come closer to receive forgiveness.)

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

God our Father, tonight the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love.

**Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in the world.
Glory to God in the highest!**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to God's 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.**

THE COLLECT

Good and gracious God,
who gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Saviour of all, lying in a manger:
on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host
that we may sing your glory on high.
Give us a place among the shepherds
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Opening the Scriptures

The readings come from different parts of the Bible: different perspectives on the great story of God's presence and purpose among us. In the psalm we respond with the ancient words of prayer of God's people.

The sermon adds to our own reflections on the readings, and then we respond by affirming the faith as handed to us from previous generations.

We bring our prayers for the world and the Church, trusting that all things and all people are in God's hands.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,

the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us,

and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace

for David's throne and for his kingdom,

establishing and sustaining it

with justice and righteousness

now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

(9.2-7)

For the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

O sing to the Lord a new song: sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name: proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations: and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols: it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Majesty and glory are before him: beauty and power are in his sanctuary.

Render to the Lord, you families of the nations: render to the Lord glory and might.

Render to the Lord the honour due to his name: bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Say among the nations that the Lord is king: he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved; and he shall judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad: let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them: then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

(96)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

1. Child in the manger,
infant of Mary;
outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
on him fall.

2. Once the most holy
child of salvation
gentle and lowly
lived below;
now, as our glorious
mighty Redeemer,
see him victorious
over each foe.

3. Prophets foretold him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold him
on his throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all their praises;
happy for ever
are his own.

*Words: Mary Macdonald (1798-1872)
tr. Lachlan Macbean (1853-1931) alt*

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Kua whanau hoki he tamaiti ma tatou, kua homai he tama ki a tatou.

(For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.)

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

2.1-20

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrolment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped

him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your saviour is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

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

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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 OF THE PEOPLE

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

The response to the prayers is

Lord of all,
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.**

Celebrating at the Lord's table

At the greeting of peace, we recognise that God's gift of peace constantly renews our human relationships and forms us as the Body of Christ.

Our offerings of money and groceries remind us that we are called to participate with our lives and livelihoods in the coming of God's kingdom of justice, healing and peace.

In the Great Thanksgiving, the priest voices the prayer of the whole assembly, recalling the mighty acts of God, Jesus' saving death and resurrection, and his last meal with his friends.

The prayer calls on the Holy Spirit to make Christ present in our sharing of bread and wine, and to remake us as Christ's body in the world. We respond with the Lord's Prayer, as the crucified and risen Jesus prays anew through us.

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.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

This holy night the angels sang, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.’

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.

HYMN

*(During the hymn an offering is taken up for the **Christmas Bowl Appeal**; alternatively, please consider making an online donation—see inside front cover for details.)*

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93) alt

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:

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:

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. All join in affirming:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi

Our Father in heaven

Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.

Sacred be your name.

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

May your chiefly rule come

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai

May it happen as seems good to you

ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

on earth as it is in heaven.

Hōmai ki a mātou āianei

Give us now

he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

our bread for this day.

Murua ō mātou hara,

Cancel our sins

Me mātou hoki e muru nei

as we also cancel now

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

those of the people who sin against us.

Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;

Do not let us be led into enticement,

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

But make us have life out of evil.

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,

Yours also the chiefly rule, the strength,

me te korōria,

and the glory.

Āke āke āke. Āmine.

Ever and ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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 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.

This is the Lord's table. All who seek God's mercy are welcome.

Everyone is invited to share communion or to receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. All the communion bread will have wine added to it, but if you also wish to drink from the common cup then please remain and it will be brought to you. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a blessing, please indicate when the priest comes to you.

Haungu te po, tapu te po
Marino, marama
Ko te whaea me te tama
Tama tino tapu rawa
Moe mai i te marie
Moe mai i te marie.

Haungu, tapu te po
Ka kite ngā hēpara
Te korōria o te rangi
Mē ngā ahera Hareruia
Kua whānau te tamaiti
E Ihu te Karaiti.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, our Saviour, is born!
Christ, our Saviour, is born!

Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright,
round the virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!';
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848),
tr John Young (1820-85) alt*

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all;
swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds
keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true;
thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

*Words: Polish carol
tr Edith Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933)*



COMMUNION HYMNS

Going into the world

The Eucharist is food for the journey of faith, whatever awaits us as we go out to the rest of our lives. We have been 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 of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world we may bring your presence to all people.

**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

1. Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

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.

*We wish you a happy and joyful Christmas,
and a deep trust in God's blessings in 2024*

Everyone is welcome to join us for our summer services

Sundays

31st	December	9.30am	St Eanswythe's
7th	January	9:30am	St Clement's
14th	January	9:30am	St Eanswythe's
21st	January	9:30am	St Clement's
28th:	January	8.30am	St Clement's
		10.30am	St Eanswythe's
		1.00 pm	O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi (St Eanswythe's)
		5.00 pm	St Clement's

Mid week

Wednesday	31st January	9.00am	St.Clement's
Thursday	1st February	10.00am	St.Eanswythe's

For further details visit
www.anglicanaltlav.org.au