Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

Christmas Morning 2021

Bells: https://youtu.be/VEKyPOt0N5Q

| Leader: Jamee | Prep: Jamee | LA: Julie M |
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| Preacher: Jamee | Prayer prep: George | Reader 1: Kristine |
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The Greeting

May Emmanuel, God with us, be born in you.

And also in you. Emmanuel, the Lord is with us.

Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Shout for joy to God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name, and give him glorious praise!
Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
All the earth worships you and sings your praises; they sing praises to your name.'

All: Loving God, today - on this special day - you remind us that you can use anyone and everyone for your purposes. We willingly offer you all that we are and all that we have, choosing to believe that who we are is enough to be used by you. We do this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sentence

LA:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9.2, 6

Centering Prayer

All:

God of wonder, with joy and celebration we gather today to welcome afresh the gift of the child born to be king; Emmanuel, God with us; light for the world and a beacon in the darkness. Jesus Christ is born among us. Jesus Christ is born for us. Let us come to you and celebrate. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

Gift giving God, how mighty you are, how wondrous the gift you have given. Foretold and promised, now born among us:

how blessed we are!

Born to redeem us, to rescue and keep us:

how blessed we are!

Born to transform and take us to glory:

how blessed we are!

Born out of love, born to give love:

how blessed we are!

God incarnate, how blessed we are by your extraordinary being.

God gives to us his Son,

and to those who seek it, forgiveness for their sins.

Go and share the gift,

show the love and know the peace that God gives.

Amen.

Hymn Unto Us

https://youtu.be/DakLXBs4d-s

Preparing for confession

Generous, overwhelming God, in the excitement and joy of this day, we take a moment to reflect and ponder on the immensity of the gift given.

Forgive us if we have belittled the most precious gift of all. Forgive us if we have cast it aside, put it on the back burner, left it packed away since last Christmas with all the tinsel and trappings.

Forgive us for not pondering enough the depth of your giving and sacrifice for us.

As you give to us, so we give to you our sorrow and confession for all that has not been worthy of your name.

Amen.

Introduction to confession

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Silence may be kept.

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All:

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.

The Absolution

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.

Collect prayer

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

All:

God, you remind us that the truest gift is the gift of love. Today, giving and unwrapping gifts, with joy and maybe even disappointment, let us love one another, because love comes from you. And love is the best thing worth celebrating. Amen.

Kids' Time

The 1st Reading is from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 62, Verses 6-12

- ⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
- ⁸ The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

 ¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

 ¹¹ The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.'

 ¹² They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord '; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

¹ The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice: let the multitude of islands be glad.

² Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³ Fire goes before him: and burns up his enemies on every side.

⁴ His lightnings light the world: the earth sees it and quakes.

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before his face: from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness: and all peoples have seen his glory.

⁷ They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings: all gods bow down before him.

8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced: because of your judgements, O God.

⁹ For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth: you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those that hate evil: the Lord guards the life of the faithful, and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.

11 Light dawns for the righteous: and joy for the true of heart.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous: and give thanks to his holy name.

The 2nd Reading is from St Paul's letter to Titus chapter 3 verses 4-8a

⁴ But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Prayer before Gospel

All:

We sing a song today,
a song for all,
of the wonder of your goodness.

Authority resting on the small shoulders of a child
who calls us all
to everlasting peace.

Amen. Amen.

Praise be to you, O God, born among us.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke Chapter 2 beginning at the 8th verse. All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us. 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

Hymn Mary's Boy Child

https://youtu.be/8amHW-xdbzE

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ His Spirit is with us

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving before Intercessions

All praise to you, O God, for Jesus, born for us, not in grandeur, but in humility. All praise to you, O God, for Jesus, a babe laid in a manger and shrouded with love. All praise to you, O God, for Jesus, given in a time of chaos to still the world. All praise to you, O God, for Jesus, who showed us how to live, how to love and how to be. All praise to you, O God, for Jesus, who followed where you led, even unto death. All praise to you, O God, for Jesus, born then and now, for them and us and me. All praise to you, O God, this Christmas Day. Amen.

Intercessions

Lord of All,

We give thanks for this beautiful planet you chose to be born on. Like the star that guided the Wise men, guide us in our stewardship of it and all creation upon it. Humble us to allow each and every form of life to flourish. Fill us with compassion to care for all. Transform fear and hate to love.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

Leader of All,

You showed your vulnerability when you came to us as a baby. Born amongst strangers, guide your church in the way of open hearted acceptance of all peoples, to follow you more nearly; to inspire and bring hope to those lost and without hope: to be at home with everyone, everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Friend to All,

You are always among us and we feel your presence in a smile, a breath of wind, a beam of sunlight. Help us keep connected with each other, see you in each other, watch for signs of frailty and loneliness, support each other when we falter and celebrate joyfully of your presence.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Healer of All,

Help us accept you are always with us in times of pain and hardship and that you bear them with us. We hold before you those we know and love, whom we know you love too and name them in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Keeper of All,
We give thanks for all those we have loved and known, all those who
have known and loved you, and who now rest in your peace that passes
all understanding.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

- · The Diocese of North East India The (united) Church of North India
- The Diocese of The Murray: †Keith Dalby; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Ithaca-Ashgrove: Margaret Wesley, Pam Hynd, Jack Hammer, Kathy Hammer
- Symes Thorpe Residential Aged Care Toowoomba
- All Anglican Schools Business Managers/Bursars and Senior Leaders

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us saying:

All:

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.

A Prayer in the Midst of a Crisis

All: Holy God, who created us for and from love, in this time of social distancing, hold us close in your arms. Comfort those who are afraid, enliven those who are bored, give courage to those who are distressed, and warm those who feel the cold touch of loneliness. Breathe in, with and through us as we walk through uncertainty into a new future knowing that you are with us now and await us there. In the name of Christ the Beloved we pray. Amen.

By the Rev. Canon Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Vice Dean and Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco



Today, in all the demands, we pray for those who are facing a Christmas without someone they love.

God of goodness, hear us and be with us.

Today, in all the delights, we pray for those who are facing a Christmas alone. God of goodness...

hear us and be with us.

Today, in all the celebration, we pray for those who are facing conflicts. God of goodness...

hear us and be with us.

Today, in all the time at tables, we pray for those who are hungry. God of goodness...

hear us and be with us. Amen.

Lighting The Advent Wreath: The Christ Light

LA:

Now is the time for which we have all been waiting. Our Advent wreath will be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle.

The Lord comes in Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to dwell among us.

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are already lit

Good news, you who are weary and heavy burdened! Sing for great joy, you who are tired and weighed down with worry!

For the Lord, our Redeemer, has come to us!

"For unto us a child is given, unto us a Saviour is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders."

With the birth of Jesus, our lives are forever changed. We are transformed by his message of love. We light this candle to represent that Christ is truly the centre of our lives, Emmanuel, light immortal, God is with us.

Thanks be to God.

The Christ candle is lit.

All: God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the light, and focus of our lives. Amen.



A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence

Bringing all that I bring to you today, my thoughts, my feelings, my hopes, the things that have worked out, and the things that haven't, the joys and sadnesses:

I offer them to you, knowing that you will accept everything I bring, because I bring it and offer it to you.

Amen.

Spiritual Communion

The following prayer by Charles Wesley was written especially for the Love Feast and recommended for use at all Love Feasts by both John and Charles Wesley.

All:

Father of earth and heaven,
Thy hungry children feed,
Thy grace be to our spirits given,
That true immortal bread.
Grant us and all our race
In Jesus Christ to prove
The sweetness of thy pardoning grace,
The manna of thy love. 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.

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.

In your Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

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:

All:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son, to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Fraction.

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.



Over Wine or other Spirits

Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, King of the universe.
You create the fruit of the vine;
and in the gift of yourself
you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation
in the blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe.
You bring forth bread from the earth;
and in your incarnation you have given us the bread of life
in the body of your Son Jesus Christ.
As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one
loaf, so gather your church
in every place into the Kingdom of your son.
Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.

Over Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger.

Let this food strengthen us in generosity and charity, that following our Saviour in the way of the cross we may come to the joy of his resurrection.

For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn Emmanuel God with Us

https://youtu.be/mt_xfOutfSQ

Sending Prayer

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All:
Loving God,
today, Christmas Day,
help us to look upon the food we share with thanks,
help us to take joy in the company of our friends and
family,
help us to be thankful for all the gifts with which you
bless us.
In the name of Jesus, who is born in hearts again
today.
Amen.
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The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

<u>Notices</u>

- Next Service: Christmas Evening contemplative prayer at 5pm today
- · Tomorrow, we join in streaming with the Cathedral or observe Sabbath
- Worship resumes next Sunday, 2nd January 2022
- · 'Slow week' for Jamee
- Sr Wendy Beckett celebrated tomorrow

You can offer your gifts online: https://holyhermits.com.au/give



Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ,

Amen.

You can offer your gifts online: https://holyhermits.com.au/give



"Nativity" By Elizabeth Wang