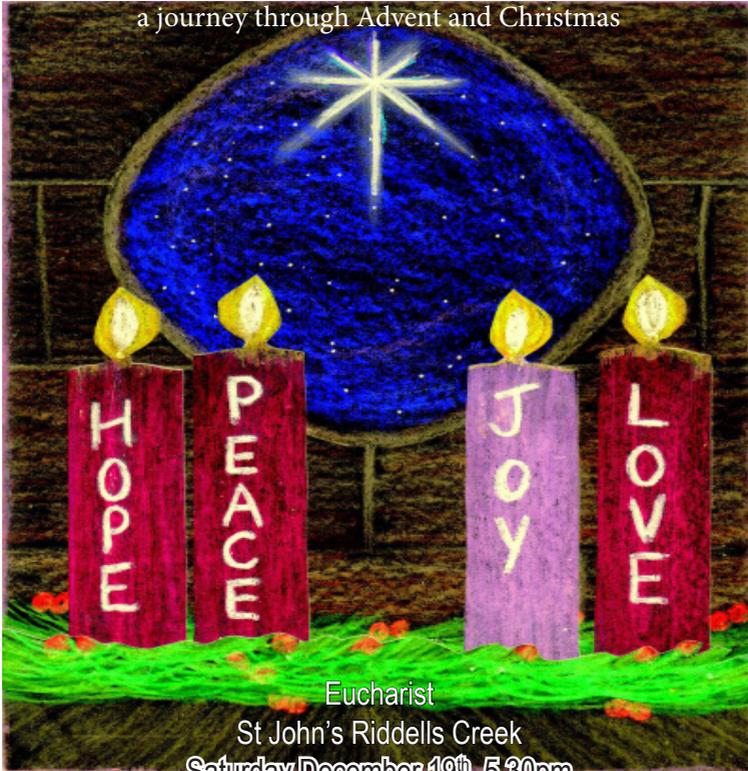




ANGLICAN PARISH OF
GISBORNE

MACEDON | RIDDELLS CREEK | GISBORNE

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS
a journey through Advent and Christmas



Eucharist

St John's Riddells Creek

Saturday December 19th, 5.30pm

Sunday December 20th,

St Paul's, Gisborne 9 am

Church of the Resurrection 10.30 am

The Parish of Gisborne would like to acknowledge that we meet on Kulin Nation country. We pay our respects to Kulin Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to any First Nations people who are present today.

*We acknowledge that Aboriginal sovereignty has not been ceded.
The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.*

Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship. Whether you are a visitor or a regular parishioner of the Anglican Church, you are invited to join us in Holy Communion. Please make yourself known to us and if you would like more information about our community and ministry, then please take a copy of our welcome brochure, visit our website or ask one of our sidespersons.

Today's worship:

This Week:	December 19/20 Advent 4B Romans 16.25-27	Magnificat Luke 1.26-38
Next Week:	December 27th St John's Day	

It is hard to believe that we're about to go into Christmas week. As the year has been a considerable challenge, especially with respect to isolation and lack of travelling, the prospect of being together with family is certainly something that many are looking forward to experiencing. There is also for some, the reality that the isolation from before December 6th will continue. Each of us face manifold differences in our journey. For some, this will be the first Christmas without loved ones being around. It may well bring a sense of loneliness and sadness. No matter how we look at it, Christmas 2020 will be very different.

There was another sense of a long journey that we need to keep in mind. Mary, betrothed to Joseph journeyed, as the Gospel of Luke tells us, to Bethlehem. She was very pregnant. The stable being an only option, she gave birth to a son. Over the next 40 days, the Church will be remembering the emerging story of Jesus and his beginning of ministry. There will be all sorts of wonder and drama along the way.

It is in the birth of that boy that our 'hopes and fears of all the years is born in thee today.'

This Jesus of Nazareth was born so that we can be one with God.

This is the same Jesus that promises that turning to him in faith, hope and love we will find rest for our souls. This is the same Jesus, God-incarnate, who risked all and fully embraced our humanity, even to the point of death.

Even so, his birth was a simple affair.

As we move into Christmas in this rather strange year, may our own journey be one of simplicity as well. May we enjoy the remembrance of the birth of Jesus, and simply enjoy being together.

Texts from A Prayer Book for Australia © Broughton Publishing 1995 Reproduced with permission. Other liturgical material from Common Worship © The Church of England, and Celebrating the Christian Year, Alan Griffiths (2004). Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, NCCA (1990) and is used by permission.

Parish Fire Policy.

If a code red day is declared [this is the most extreme rating] and this occurs on a Saturday or Sunday – then please note that all services and/or parish activities will be cancelled on that day. This policy will also apply during the week and to all our centres. For other fire danger ratings, it is important that everyone follows their own fire plan. Your own fire plan must always take precedence – even if you are on a rostered duty.

The Gathering of God's People

The congregation gather around the table.

The ministers, having already entered stand and call the people to worship.

Come people of God and worship.

Let us together walk the path of peace

God awakens us from our slumber.

Let us all be ready to worship our God.

The community sit in silence. Quietly we meditate.

It may be helpful to close our eyes and listen to our breathing.

A useful phrase may include saying to yourself, "Come, Lord Jesus."

A period of quiet music may be played to bring our minds back into the space that is our community.

The Presider invites all to stand and says:

✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed is our God now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

The Confession and Coming of Light

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,

and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations

into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
✠ forgive your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Fourth Advent Candle is lit:

People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

The Collect of the Day

Faithful God,
you fulfilled your promise
to dwell with humankind
when the Virgin Mary gave her assent
to the message of the Angel.
Let her faith inspire your people

to welcome with joy your coming among us
and make known the mystery of your love to all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who is one with you and the holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

As we prepare to hear God's Holy Word through the Scriptures
open our hearts and minds, Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Ministry of the Word
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 16.15-27

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 ²⁶but 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— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

May your word live in us

and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Magnificat

This hymn or an anthem may be sung

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

TIS 161
Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Mary said: 'I am the servant of the Lord,
let it be with me according to your word.'

Alleluia!

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 1,
beginning at the twenty-sixth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:26 - 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸ 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.

After the Gospel is proclaimed:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking Open the Word

Affirmation of Faith

Where possible, we stand.

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

The Ministry of Prayer

Please kneel or be seated.

Let us pray with confidence in the promise that what we ask in the name of the Lord Jesus will be acceptable to our heavenly Father, saying:
Sustain us Lord with your indwelling Holy Spirit,
for holy is your name.

Give us hope and assurance to those who bear the burden of authority in difficult times. May all who are doubtful and anxious know that the promise of salvation is made to all who will receive it.
Sustain us Lord with your indwelling Holy Spirit,
for holy is your name.

Help us to be worthy of the name of Jesus which we honour in our faith. Number us among those who bear the message of salvation, to be a light to those with whom we live and work.
Sustain us Lord with your indwelling Holy Spirit,
for holy is your name.

Bring new hope and confidence to all who are in doubt and uncertainty. Give peace to the troubled minds that distrust those near to them and bring them new strength in love. We bring to mind those for whom our prayers have been asked.

Sustain us Lord with your indwelling Holy Spirit,
for holy is your name.

We pray for those who have known and believed the message of salvation and now rejoice in its fulfilment. Be merciful to those who in this world were doubtful and did not find perfect trust: make them also sharers of the promise.

Sustain us Lord with your indwelling Holy Spirit,
for holy is your name.

In humble trust we offer our prayers to Almighty God,
through the Name that is above every name:

**God, our deliverer,
in the birth of Christ
your Church has its beginning.
Sustain us, as we await
his glorious coming to fulfil all things
and bring the whole creation to unity in you.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Greeting of Peace

Please stand.

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the sound of this refrain:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who have betrayed and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply shamed before him, deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Sing amen! let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for your own;
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly;
hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

TIS 273
Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt

Preparation of the Table

A collection for the work of the Church is received.

Bread and wine are prepared for our participation as guests at the Lord's Table.

Offertory Prayers

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Bless this table, Lord,
by the coming of your Spirit,
**so that the promises of Christ may be fulfilled
and we may be led into all truth.**

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
 almighty God and everlasting Father,
 through Jesus Christ your Son.
 He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
 whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
 John the Baptist was his herald
 and made him known when at last he came.
 In his love Christ fills us with joy
 as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
 so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
 our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
 And so, with angels and archangels,
 and with all the company of heaven,
 we proclaim your glory,
 and join in their unending hymn of praise:

The Hymn of Praise is said together or led by a Cantor.

**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.**

1 Cantor:
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho _____ ly Lord, God of pow'r and God _____ of might.

2 All:
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho _____ ly Lord, God of pow'r and God _____ of might.

3 Cantor:
 Heav - en and earth _____ are full _ of your glo _____ ry.

4
 Ho-san - na in the high - est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

5 All:
 Ho-san - na in the high _____ est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

6 Cantor:
 Bless - ed is he _ who comes in the _ name _____ of _ the Lord.

7
 Ho-san - na in the high _____ est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

8 All:
 Ho-san - na in the high _____ est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

The Fraction

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.

Cantor:

Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord: you take a way the sins of the
Je - sus, true branch of Jes _____ se's tree:
Key of Da - vid and Day - spring from on high:
De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

7 | 1,2,3. All:

world, have mer - cy on us; have mer - cy on us.

12 | 4. All:

world, grant us _____ peace, _____ grant us _____ peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

All are welcome at his supper. Come

A reminder that during this time of pandemic, communion is administered in one kind only.

At Church of the Resurrection, the anthem No wind at the window.TIS 287 is sung

Post Communion Devotions

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,

and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7.14

With love and compassion,

come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,

come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,

come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,

come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice!...

O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice!...

O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice!...

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!...

TIS 265 Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier
based on Antiphons from 9th cent. or earlier
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt.

The Blessing and Sending Out

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God most loving:
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with you this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude at Church of the Resurrection

David Blackwell, Pentagram I.

SERVICES FOR NEXT WEEK:

Wednesday 10 am Eucharist, St Paul's Gisborne

Christmas Eve

5.30 pm St John's Riddells Creek
(outdoor picnic if fine)

Midnight Mass

11 for 11.30 pm

Church of the Resurrection

Christmas Day

9 am St Paul's, Gisborne

Sunday December 27th

Feast of St John

St John's, Riddells Creek
(outside if fine)

BOOKINGS ARE DESIRABLE

www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au/Emmaus

From Parish Council 13 December, 2020

Mrs Alison Kitching resigned her position of Vicar's Warden and was duly elected the Hon Parish Treasurer.

Mr John Lee Tet accepted the Vicar's nomination to be Vicar's Warden.

Currently, there are two vacancies on Parish Council: Hon Secretary, and one Vicar's appointment.

The meeting expressed to Mr Graham Dickinson our thanks and gratitude for being the Hon Treasurer in what could have been the worst year ever for that role. We are so indebted to Graham's hard work, and Mrs Lyndsey Hamilton's dedication to getting the books done.

Motions of thanks were also passed for Lyndsey's work and Janine Sanders (Gisborne Op Shop).

The following motions were resolved unanimously:

- a. that this Parish Council, whilst saddened at the death of Wendy Ann Lindsay, records our appreciation, admiration and love for her;
 - b. and expresses to James, Scott, Andrew and Sam, and their families, our on-going prayerful and practical support.
 - c. May Wendy rest in peace, and with all the faithful, rise in glory. Amen.
2. Motion of thanks to non-returning members: Tony Woodgate (sabbatical); Janice Murphy (sabbatical), Margarita Caddick, Graham Dickinson.
3. The Parish Council expresses its appreciation to Janice Murphy for her contribution to Parish Council and in particular for her generous volunteer care of the garden and grounds at St John's Riddells Creek.

It also goes without saying, but I will: our thanks to all our volunteers for the wonderful work undertaken in what has been a very trying time. As St Laurence of Rome said: Here are the treasures of the Church. Gems all of you!

A motion was moved at the Annual Parish Meeting, and on advice from the Diocese it was an item for the incoming Parish Council.

That the Anglican Parish of Gisborne discuss the possibility of a gradual transition toward cessation of transacting financial business with Westpac Bank, subject to Diocesan consultation, in view of the bank's governance failing to protect the community from serious crime.

Moved: Janine & Keith McDougall

The issues:

- i. *October 2020: Federal Court upheld AUSTRAC, the financial crimes watchdog's legal action against Westpac, fining the bank \$1.3 billion for 23 million breaches of Anti-Money Laundering Laws (AML) and breaches of the Counter-Terrorism Financing Act, including a failure to report 262 customers linked to child exploitation in the Philippines. ('The Age', 22/10)
- ii. *AUSTRAC Barrister, Wendy Harris, QC, ('The Age', 22/10) reported that Westpac had since made significant investments in bolstering its AML compliance by improving its digital systems and retraining staff.
- iii. October 2020: Westpac put aside \$182 million to compensate customers who were sold incorrect loans, overcharged or provided with poor advice. ('The Age', 27/10)
- iv. *Until 2018, Westpac was a banking correspondence partner of the Euro Pacific Bank (facilitating the Puerto Rican bank's dealings with its Australian customers), the latter institution found by 'Operation Atlantis', the largest international money laundering and tax evasion probe's investigation, to be servicing customers previously convicted of financial and organised crime. ('The Age', 19/10)

The response :

- i. Forgive and forget (he/she that is without sin...)?
- ii. Reward for bad behaviour?
- iii. Good stewardship of God's money?
- iv. Scriptural parallel : (Mark 11: 15-19) : Jesus judges the Temple money launderers. Different context but we, the church are a 'house of prayer'. Do we keep doing business with an institution whose failed governance has facilitated money laundering, a practice judged by Jesus?

The Decision:

After discussion and considering the on-going work by AUSTRAC into the banking sector, this matter is to be discussed further in the June meeting of the Parish Council. It was noted that as the Diocesan accounts and ADF are all underpinned by Westpac, any direct intervention at this point may not be prudent. Whilst awaiting the results of the AUSTRAC findings, this will be again discussed at the later date. It was also noted that the only bank not criticised by AUSTRAC was Members Equity (ME) Bank.

The following motion was then passed:

The Parish Council acknowledges and notes the motion presented to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) by Janine and Keith Mc Dougall in relation to concerns with banking with Westpac. The Parish Council notes the motion and has listed it for further discussion for July 2021, following the full findings of the Banking royal commission and consultation with the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Debra Saffrey-Collins and Mary Duggan were reaffirmed as Child Safety Officers
John Lee Tet was appointed by his fellow wardens to the Incumbency Committee.

Fair Fundraising

Thanks to all those who supported our short-noticed fundraising effort last Saturday at the Kyneton Rotary Market. It was a wonderful opportunity provided by Kyneton Rotary via John Wells for which we are most grateful.

We were blessed with a beautiful morning, provided with a Marquee from Rotary and lots of social interaction as we sold preserves, cakes, plants and Christmas gifts.

We also managed to sell most of the produce donated on the day and the rest was sold at the Church of the Resurrection the following day.

We were alongside Marg Wells and her Craft Stall and very much appreciate her hospitality and friendship as well as her ongoing enthusiastic fundraising efforts for Parish Ministry. Many thanks to Graham Dickinson and Debra Saffrey-Collins who joined me on the set up and early shift and to Chris Clark and Mary Duggan who did the last shift and pack up. We appreciate the efforts of Graeme Millar who collected the EFTPOS machine from the Op Shop and to Fleur Dickinson who so kindly delivered it to Kyneton. Thanks too, to Will Tench and Darren Carr who arrived to support the pack up. We are indeed fortunate to have such willing and supportive parishioners as part of the team.

The funds raised on Saturday/Sunday include considerable presales - \$400 from Marg Wells and my \$185 - a total of \$585, with the overall financial effort being \$1814.10. That should make the treasurer happy!!

Alison Kitching