

The Anglican Parish of Gisborne



Christmas
Sung Eucharist
2019
Christmas Day 9.00 am
St Paul's Gisborne
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 speak to one of our welcomers or visit our website anglicanparishgisborne.org.au.

From the Parish Priest

As the time arrives for us to gather as one body to remember the birth of our Lord, it is good for us to be here, and to allow ourselves to enter into the joyous peace that only Jesus can bring to the world. Often, we overlook the need for quiet and reflection at this time of year. Today, let the busyness of the past few weeks, and all the preparations for this Holy Feast give way to the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Please also be mindful of not only those in our community who find this a difficult time of year, but also, those living in areas where there is much hardship. I commend to your generosity the Christmas Bowl appeal.

To those of you who will be travelling during this holiday time, I wish you a safe journey and a time of renewal and refreshment. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to our worship this Advent/Christmas season.

A joyful and blessed Christmas to you all.

Fr Dennis

Christmas Day

Growing enough to eat

Your gift can provide farmers in Zimbabwe with seeds and training so they can grow enough food for their families. Please give hope this Christmas. **Give to the Christmas Bowl appeal.**

Thank you for your support!

FRECALL 1800 025 101
www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795

Christmas Bowl

Please give as generously as you can. You can place your donation in the Christmas Bowl at the back of the church or place it in an envelope also available from the back of the church or you can use the envelope to send your donation directly to the Christmas Bowl.

Presider at 9 am Fr Dennis Webster

The words printed in bold type are said or sung by the people.

The bell rings and we stand for the Introit hymn

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Isaac Watts 1674—1748 alt

Gathering in God's Name

✠ 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.

The Presider welcomes the people

**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 prayer of the day is said by the Presider

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

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

The people sit for the reading from the scriptures

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

After the lesson

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The following response is said or sung

Response : Today is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless the Lord's name. *Response*

Proclaim God's mercy day by day.
Tell the Lord's glory among the nations,
and wonders among the peoples. *Response*

Let heaven and earth rejoice and be glad,
the sea and its creatures thunder praise,
the land and its fruit show forth its joy.

Response

Let trees and forests shout for joy
at the presence of God, for the Lord is come,
at the presence of God who rules the earth.

Response

Second Lesson Titus 3.4-8a

After the lesson

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The people stand and sing the Gradual hymn

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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
their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.**

Phillips Brooks 1835-93 alt.

All stand for the Gospel Reading.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Luke 2.8-20

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking Open the Word

Fr Dennis Webster, Vicar

Affirmation of Faith

Let us stand and 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

The people may stand or sit for the prayers

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Intercessor	For your love and goodness
People	we give you thanks, O God.

At the conclusion of the prayers the intercession book may be placed on the altar as a sign of our prayers being offered as we pray:

Almighty Lord,
hear our prayer
and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

Silence may be kept.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Father God,
we are sorry
for the things we do and say and think
which make you sad,
and for not thinking of others
before ourselves.
Please forgive us,
and help us to love you and other people
more and more. Amen.**

The Presider pronounces God's forgiveness

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

The Greeting of Peace

All stand for the Greeting of Peace with these words

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince 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.

All exchange a greeting of peace

An offertory hymn may be sung during which the gifts of the people – bread, wine, and alms are collected and brought forward

Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all you 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.

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 in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the new born King.

Hail! The heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son 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 need die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.

Charles Wesley 1707 –8 and others
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47

The gifts of the people are presented

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.
With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.
Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**Heavenly child,
born as one of us yet still one with God,
bless us and our gifts we share
to the greater glory of your Holy Name. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing

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.

We offer our praise on this Holy Day

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever-living God.

You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away from you, and our love failed,
your love remained ever steadfast.

You made a covenant to be our God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

The Story of Jesus begins

In the fullness of time
you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ
to be our saviour,
and at his birth the angels sang
glory to you in the highest
and peace to your people on earth.

Therefore with the angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

The Sanctus and Benedictus is sung

**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!**

God is with us:

Blessed are you, merciful God,
and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem
and there found no room,
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem
and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,
so, by the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

With this bread that we bring:

As your Word became flesh,
born of woman on that night so long ago
so on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

With this cup that we bring:

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

United to God and one in love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We remember Jesus:

And so, in remembrance of his birth,
his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and exaltation,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice.

We pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and our celebration:
may these gifts of bread and wine
be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Make us one with him and with each other,
and one in service to all the world,
until the day of final glory comes
and we feast at his heavenly banquet
with all your saints for ever.

The Doxology

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, heavenly Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**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.**

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

The Sending Out of God's People

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

The people sing the post-communion hymn

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
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!*

**True God of true God, Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:** *O come ...*

**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 ...*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God, glory in the highest':** *O come ...*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:** *O come ...*

John Francis Wade c.1711-1786

The Presider gives the blessing over the people

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 with you this day and for ever more. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sundays in the Holidays:

December 29	10 am	Church of the Resurrection
January 5	10 am	St John's, Riddells Creek
January 12	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne
January 19	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne (post Bric'a'brac)
January 26	10 am	Church of the Resurrection

CODE RED DAYS: no services. Please implement personal fire plan.

Wednesday	10 am	
January 22 and 29		St Paul's, Gisborne
January 8		Church of the Resurrection
January 15		St John's Riddells Creek

Archbishop Philip's 2019 Christmas Message

Our journey to Christ-mas, if it is well made, is to travel in God's time from the promise to the fulfilment. We start at the beginning, on Advent Sunday, with the promise of God. This is a promise that exceeds our expectation and arises not out of our worthiness but out of our need. This is the "sacred time" beginning of the journey. Unlike the linearity and measuredness of our usual reckoning of time, sacred time erupts into our ordinariness when we stop, pray and worship the God and Father of all. It comes into our life when we read Scripture as revelation to be received rather than as a puzzle to be solved. Sacred time calls us into the sharper anticipation of history reaching its fulfilment in the new heavens and the new earth when the Lord returns.

From the perspective of our usual grasp of time we can see the clarity of connections between Jesus' world and ours. Ever since Mesopotamia became the cradle of civilisation nearly 5000 years ago there have been conflicts and war in that region. And ancient Israel suffered in particular. The Bible chronicles the impact on God's people of the powers of the day, great and small. Whether Babylonians, Assyrians, Egyptians or Romans, moments of peace were soon overtaken by invasion and dispossession. Yet it was into this cauldron of trouble that God chose to place the hope of humanity as a helpless infant, Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem.

God's time and our time come together in the birth of Jesus. They seem like opposites yet come together in the birth of the Messiah in a remarkable way. In our time, we recognise the similarity. Our entry into the world that Jesus shares seems ordinary because we've all come into the world in this way. It doesn't matter who we are or what we will become, this same beginning is shared by all. In Jesus' birth it is also truly extraordinary because this act of God's vulnerability is unprecedented in human history before or since. God was showing through the birth of his son that everything was risked, with the benefits only accruing to people like us. Jesus also promises that as we share his birth so we are also able to share his death and his life in eternity.

"People like us" were certainly there at the time. Faithful Mary and Joseph, raging Herod, marvelling shepherds, the persistent sages from the East. All of them share something in common with us too. At our best and at our worst, the gift of Christmas is present for us in our time as much as theirs. Risking all and changing everything about what it means for us to have a life renewed in Christ is God's gift to us then and now. If you are tired of the ordinary, make your Christmas a little more extraordinary this year. Reflect on what the Father of all Creation was doing through the birth of Jesus, enter the mystery of his life at a service of Christmas worship. Sing some Christmas carols with your friends and family, go to the core of the gift in its simplicity and awesomeness. Slow down and read the Bible and let it speak to you to your situation and to your world. Let the Scriptures speak to you through the Spirit.

Praise God this Christmas and every Christmas,
for on that day is born the hope of the nations, Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

Have a blessed Christmas.

+Philip Freier



PARISH DIRECTORY



The Anglican Parish of Saint Paul's, Gisborne,
with Church of the Resurrection, Macedon
and Saint John's, Riddells Creek

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Associate Clergy: The Rev'd Jeff Berger

The Venerable Alan Hughes

The Rev'd Graham Snell

The Rev'd David McMillan

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Mary Duggan

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