

# A Eucharist for Christmas 2024

9.30 a.m. Christmas Day

St. Michael's, Wangaratta.



## Aboriginal Nativity

Sue Orchison, 2009

### ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYNS

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### *The Welcome and The Greeting*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

At a manger in Bethlehem, with Mary, full of grace:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

In awe of the angels, with shepherds on a hillside:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

By the light of the star, with wise travellers at journey's end:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

On the refugee road into Egypt, with Joseph and his family:

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth!**

### *Hymn: TiS 299*

1. **While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.**
2. **'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind),  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
you and all humankind.**
3. **'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:**
4. **'the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid.'**
5. **Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels, praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:**

6. **'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the world be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin and never cease.'**

Nahum Tate 1652–1715 alt.

*Invitation to Confession*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

*Pause*

We pray together:

**Loving God,  
you have searched us and known us,  
our blindness, our frailties,  
our fears and our selfishness.  
In sorrow we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
and disobeyed your command to love.  
Forgive us, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who became like us  
that we might become like him. Amen.**

*Absolution*

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

*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*

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

**A Reading from The Letter to the Hebrews [1. 1-12]**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
‘You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you’?

Or again,  
‘I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son’?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
‘Let all God's angels worship him.’

Of the angels he says,  
‘He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.’  
But of the Son he says,  
‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’  
And,  
‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.’

Hear the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

*Gradual Hymn*

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.*  
based on Psalm 98

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [1. 1-14]

## **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning.

Everything came into existence through him.

Not one thing that exists was made without him.

He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.

The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.

God sent a man named John to be his messenger. John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light. The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into existence through him. Yet, the world didn't recognize him. He went to his own people, and his own people didn't accept him. However, he gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in him. These people didn't become God's children in a physical way—from a human impulse or from a husband's desire to have a child. They were born from God.

The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.

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

*The Sermon*

*A time of silence will follow the sermon, a time for reflection.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*A Litany for the World*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor,  
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, make the whole world know  
that the government is on your shoulders.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting father,  
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,  
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

*Please stand*

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

Luke 2.14

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*You are invited to share the Peace of Christ,  
with your neighbours*

### *Offertory Hymn*

1. **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.***
2. **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 let us adore him . . .***
3. **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 . . .***
4. **Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
    *O come let us adore him . . .***

5. **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 let us adore him . . .***

Possibly by John Francis Wade c. 1711–1786  
tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802–80,  
William Thomas Brooke 1848–1917 (vv.3–5) and others

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

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.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Father,  
in every place and at all times.

You made us, all the people of the world,  
and everything that is.

You give us the daylight.

Your Word lights up our minds.

Jesus was born among us  
to be light in our darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us

so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,  
but already we laugh with the saints and angels,  
and sing their joyful song:

**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.**

Father, you never forget us or turn away from us,  
even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.



He healed those who were sick,  
cared for those who were poor,  
and cried with those who were sad.  
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks  
in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died,  
while he was having supper with his friends,  
Jesus took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,  
he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:  
"Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all,  
that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Christ is born.**

**The Saviour has come.**

**God is with us.**

So, as we do what he told us,  
we open our hearts to him;  
we remember how he died and rose again  
to live now in us.

Together with him we offer you these gifts:  
in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine,  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,  
and that, sharing your life,  
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise  
through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

*The priest breaks the bread.*

Christ is the bread of Life.

Christ is the Light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us light and life.**

*The Invitation to Communion is given*

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.**

*After Communion hymn*

1. 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.

2. 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.

Polish carol (?13th cent.)  
tr. Edith Gellibrand Reed 1885–1933

Let us pray.

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Final Hymn AHB 227*

1. **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.***

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 in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.**  
*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 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 1707–88  
and others

## THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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