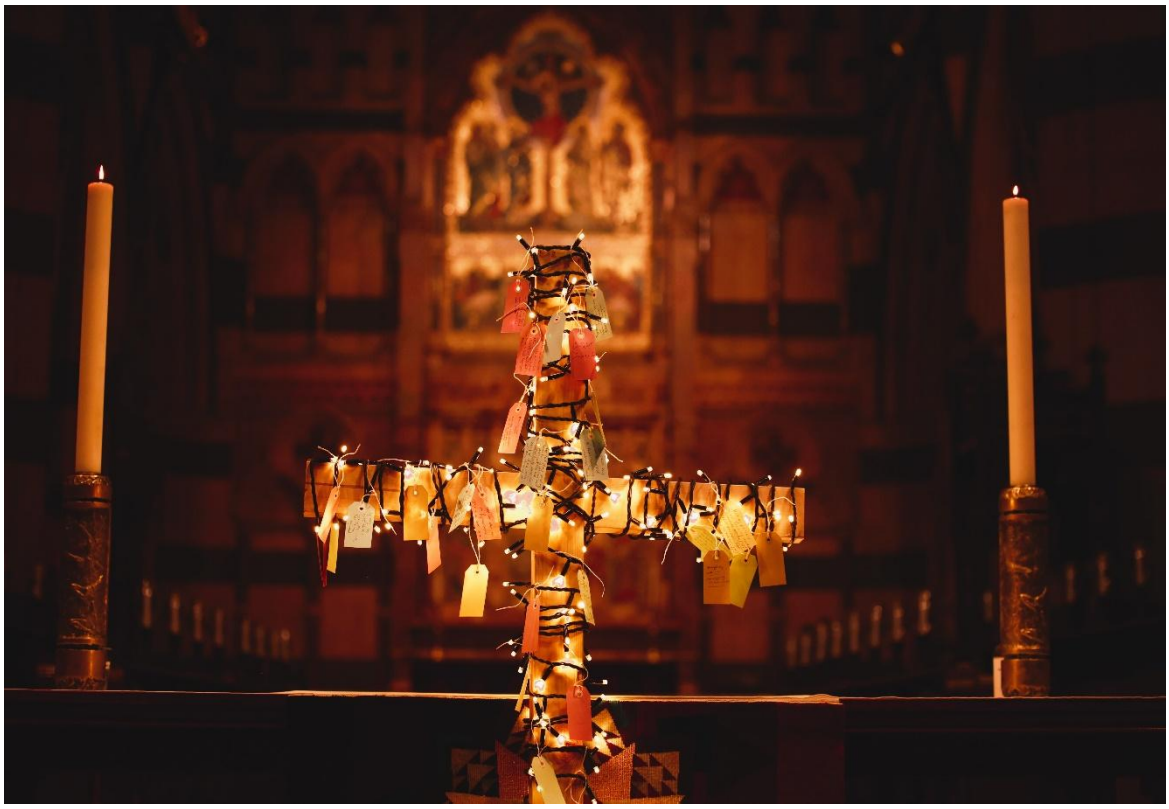
St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne

GATHER AT ST PAUL'S 6pm



Sunday 29 November 2026
The First Sunday of Advent

President: The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Brian Rosner, Ridley College

Welcome to Gather at St Paul's

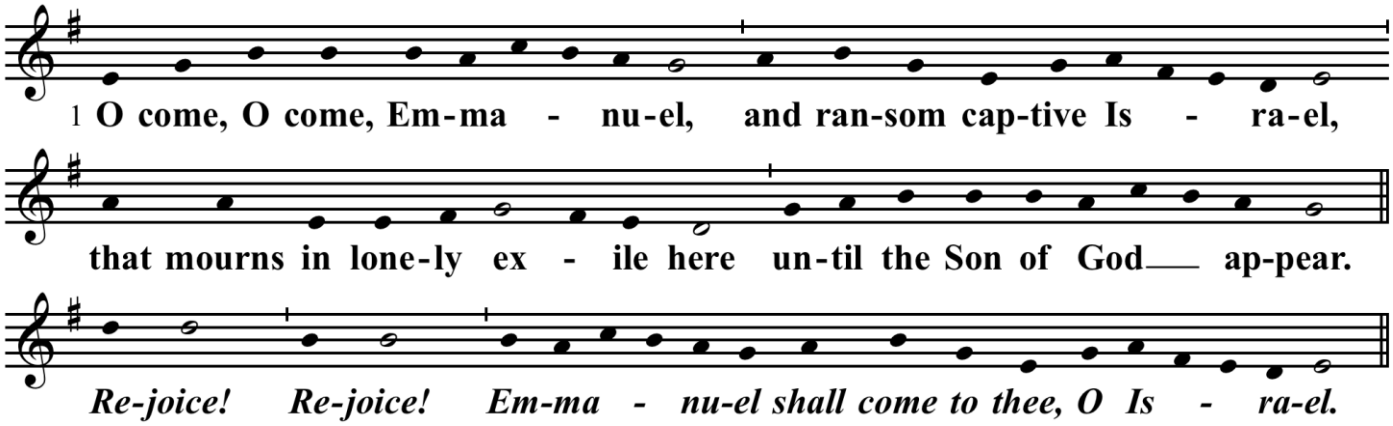
Please stand as the clergy enter

The Greeting and Acknowledgement of Country

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

We meet this evening on lands that were taken, not ceded,
the sovereign country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.
We give thanks for their ancestors, acknowledge the ongoing right
and responsibility of their elders to care for this country,
and we pay our respects to all First Nations people with us this evening.

The Gathering Hymn – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



2
O come, O come, thou Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! …

3
O come, thou 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! Rejoice! …

4
O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! …

5
O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! …

trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66) alt.
Australian Hymn Book 193

The Lighting of the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

The first burning candle reminds us of the plan of God, through the ages, for all people to come to him, walking in his light, to praise his name for evermore.

After the candle is lit the following prayer is said.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born to be our king: enable us to walk in your light as your people and to your glory. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Preparation

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 Absolution

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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.

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.**

The Collect for the Day

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Bible Reading

Isaiah 1.1-9

Read by Chris Blake

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

[2]Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth,
for the Lord has spoken:
I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.
[3]The ox knows its owner
and the donkey its master's crib,
but Israel does not know;
my people do not understand.

[4]Woe, sinful nation,
people laden with iniquity,
offspring who do evil,
children who act corruptly,
who have forsaken the Lord,
who have despised the Holy One of Israel,
who are utterly estranged!

[5]Why do you seek further beatings?
Why do you continue to rebel?
The whole head is injured,
and the whole heart faint.
[6]From the sole of the foot to the head,
there is no soundness in it,
only bruises and sores
and bleeding wounds;
they have not been drained or bound up
or softened with oil.

[7]Your country lies desolate;
your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence
aliens devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.
[8]And daughter Zion is left
like a booth in a vineyard,

like a shelter in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.
9If the Lord of hosts
had not left us a few survivors,
we would have been like Sodom
and become like Gomorrah.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 12

Please join in saying the verses printed in bold

Help, Lord, for there is not one godly person left:
the faithful have vanished from among the children of Adam.
Everyone tells lies to their neighbour:
they flatter with their lips, but speak from a double heart.
If only the Lord would cut off all flattering lips:
and the tongue that speaks so proudly!
They say 'By our tongues we shall prevail:
our lips are our servants—who is lord over us?'
Because of the oppression of the poor, because of the groaning of the needy:
'I will arise', says the Lord, 'and set them in safety from those that snarl after them.'
The words of the Lord are pure, as silver refined in a crucible:
as gold that is seven times purified in the fire.
You will surely guard us, O Lord: and shield us for ever from this evil generation,
Though the ungodly strut on every side:
though the vilest lord it over the children of Adam.

Please stand

The Gospel Reading

Luke 12.35-48

Read by Geoff Dyall

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

39"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was

coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. [40]You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

[41]Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" [42]And the Lord said, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? [43]Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. [44]Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. [45]But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, [46]the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. [47]That slave who knew what his master wanted but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted will receive a severe beating. [48]But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

For the Gospel of the Lord: **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon

Please be seated

The Revd Canon Dr Brian Rosner, Ridley College

The Nicene Creed

Please stand

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

Please sit or kneel

The Peace

Please stand

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

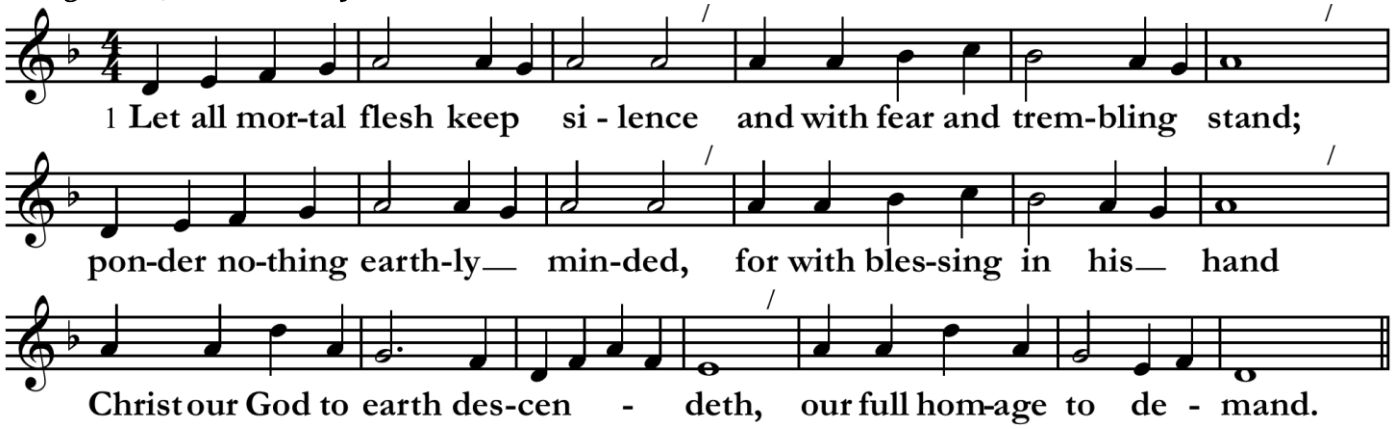
Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with the people next to you and remain standing for

The Offertory Hymn – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

A collection is received. We rely entirely on your gift. Please be generous. If the ushers can't reach you, please use the donation towers around the Cathedral, donate online via our website www.cathedral.org.au/donate using the QR code, or by EFT BSB: 083-088, Account: 53-728-8315



King of kings,
yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords
in human vesture –
in the body and the blood –
he will give to all the faithful
his own self
for heavenly food.

Rank on rank
the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard
on the way,
as the Light of light
descendeth
from the realms
of endless day,
that the powers of hell
may vanish
as the darkness
clears away.

At his feet
the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces
to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice
they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high.

Liturgy of St James, tr. Gerald Moultrie (1829-85)
Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard 256

The Prayer Over the Gifts

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God forever.**

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.

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.

We thank you that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence stand before him who redeems us from sin and death and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

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:

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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ 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.'
After supper he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
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.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own language,

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., 我們在天上的父..., **Πάτερ ἡμῶν...,** हे हमारे स्वरगिक पिता..., **Otče Náš..., Lạy Cha chúng con..., E to matou Matua...,** 天の父よ ..., **Ama namin..., Göklerdeki Babamız...,** Отче наш ..., **Bapa kami...,** பரமண்டலங்களிலிருக்கிற எங்கள் பிதாவே..., **Baba yetu ...,**
ای پدر ما که در آسمانی،... الَّذِي أَبَانَا...، ہمارے اے...،

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 and Sharing of the Bread

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.**

The Invitation to Communion

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.

The Prayer after Communion

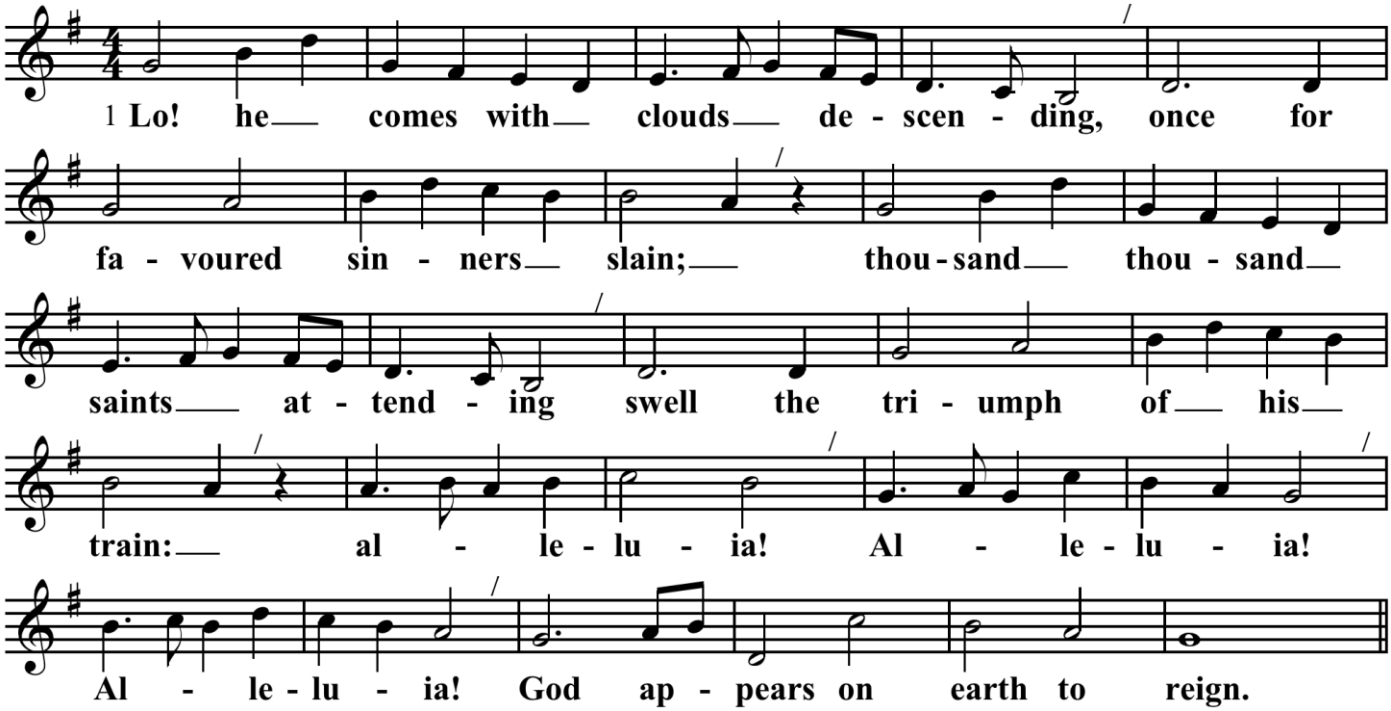
Please stand

God for whom we wait, we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we joyfully await your Son, keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.

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. Amen.

The Notices

The Dismissal Hymn – Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



2

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia, *[three times]*
Alleluia. Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley (1707-88) and John Cennick (1718-55)

The Blessing and Dismissal

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before you path and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; 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.

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PRAY WITH US

FOR THE WORLD We pray for all affected by domestic and family violence, that they might find safety, healing and support, and that we work towards a society free from violence, where all are treated with dignity and equality; as Victorians prepare to vote, may polling be peaceful, voters be guided by wisdom and discernment, leaders serve with humility, compassion and accountability; families facing rising living costs, housing pressures, unemployment and financial hardship, may governments and communities respond with compassion, ensuring no one is forgotten or left behind; safe rescue of all workers still trapped in the flooded mine in Indonesia; those killed and injured in the Cairo crash, grieving families and everyone affected find comfort healing and strength.

FOR THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Abp Andrew Chan).

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN CHURCH Mission Agencies: Anglican Board of Mission; The Bush Church Aid Society; Church Missionary Society; Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia.

FOR THE DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE Colleges: Trinity College (The Revd Professor Russell Goulburne), Janet Clarke Hall (Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan), Ridley College (The Revd Canon Dr Rhys Bezzant); Benetas.

FOR OUR CATHEDRAL Our Licensed Lay Ministers; Flower Guild; Bellringers; Servers; Welcomers; Guides; Chaplains; and Story Tellers.

FOR THOSE IN SICKNESS OR NEED Stephen Ames, Rowena Armstrong, Cynthia Balderstone, Chris Carolane, Cecilia Cheng, Margaret Davis, Ken and Robyn Dusting, Cecilia Francis, Glen Gersch, Noelene Horton, Greg Hurworth, Gaye Loughrey, Esme Mitchell, John O'Donnell and family, Selina Ong, Skipper family, Vinson family, Lesley and Ray Way, Sally Yuge, and all those struggling with mental health challenges, addictions, loneliness, and despair that they would find hope, support, and the healing love of Christ.

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK

29 November	Frank Woods (Bishop, 5th Archbishop of Melbourne) 1994
2 December	Charles Perry (1st Bishop of Melbourne) 1891
	Frances Perry (Bishop's wife, Founder Royal Women's Hospital) 1892
	George Langford (Lay Canon, Benefactor) 1942
	Frank Crean (5th Deputy Prime Minister of Australia) 2008
4	Albert McGill (Lay Clerk) 2025
5	Dame Elisabeth Murdoch (Benefactor) 2012

NOTICES

We are delighted you have joined our service If you have any questions and would like to speak to a staff member, please phone the Cathedral office 9653 4333. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a Welcome Card available from the back of the Cathedral, so we can keep in touch with you.

Bible Studies Anyone who has attended the 11.45am Bible study this year is welcome to join us for lunch this Sunday 29 November at Flora Indian Restaurant, 238a Flinders St, Melbourne. Everyone can choose from the menu and pay for their own meal. We'll leave together from the Barbara Darling Room after morning tea. We've already made a booking but if you would like to come, speak to John Morshead, Sue Hawley or Canon Peter MacPherson.

Advent Carol Service, Sunday 29 November, 4pm A traditional service of Advent Lessons and Carols, at which the Precentor will preach.

Gather Service, Sunday 29 November, 6pm Our guest preacher is the Revd Canon Dr Brian Rosner, former principal of Ridley College and a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. His latest book is *Wilderness as a Theme in Biblical Theology* (Kregel, 2026).

Lunchtime Concert, Tuesday 1 December, 1pm: Lucas Cai (Cello) 14-year-old Lucas Cai, a Music Scholar studying cello with Rachel Atkinson, presents a program featuring J.S. Bach's Cello Suite No. 3, Kats-Chernin's *Wild Rice*, and works by Beethoven. Holding AMusA (cello) and LMusA (piano), both with Distinction, Lucas is a prize-winning chamber musician and principal orchestral cellist. He will be joined by Nathaniel (violin), Weibo (piano), and acclaimed pianist Dr Leigh Harrold.

Holding The Light, Tuesday 1 December, 5.10pm An annual ecumenical service in memory of victims of domestic violence, at which Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria will light a commemorative candle. The speakers are Pastor James Wunderlich, and artist and campaigner Sherele Moody whose "She Matters" mural, commemorating Australian women and children lost to domestic violence, is currently exhibited in the Transept Gallery.

Every Body Belongs, Thursday 3 December, 12.15pm The Dean leads a special service of Holy Communion for International Day of People with Disability, prepared by Diocesan Disability Inclusion Consultant Virginia McDonald.

Summerfest Market A festive market with dozens of stallholders in partnership with the City Square Precinct, located in the Cathedral car park. Our 2026 charity fundraising partner is Destiny Rescue. Dates are Sat 28 Nov, Sat 5 Nov, Sat 12 Nov and Fri 18 Dec – please note car parking will not be available on these days.

Summerfest Concerts, Saturday 5 December, 1pm: Helen Ling (Soprano) An acclaimed Melbourne soprano presenting a charming program of Christmas carols and songs from *My Fair Lady*. **2pm: Hamish Gould (Countertenor) and Jenny Lu (Piano)** Christmas songs by Kate Lawson Gould and arias from Handel's Messiah.

Get to Know You There will be two "Get To Know You" sessions on Sun 6 Dec at 9.15am and 11.45am (instead of the usual Bible studies). At each, the Dean will interview a number of people about their Christian faith. It is fascinating and so encouraging to hear how God is at work in different people's lives, so do come along. In the David Penman Room after morning tea.

Alpha 2027 We are planning to start an Alpha Course in May 2027. It is likely to run on Sunday afternoons. Thank you to those who have expressed interest in being on the leadership team. We are still looking for more leaders. Please talk to Canon Tim Watson or Canon Peter MacPherson if interested.

READ THE BIBLE WITH US

You may like to use these readings, which the Cathedral Clergy and staff use for daily prayer, as part of your personal devotions throughout the week.

Mon: Ps 72; Mark 4.1-20
Tues: Ps 74; Mark 4.21-41
Wed: Ps 77; Mark 5.1-20
Thurs: Ps 78.16-38; Mark 5.21-43
Fri: Ps 80; Mark 6.1-13
Sat: Pss 82, 84; Mark 6.14-29

Next Sunday: Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mon 30 November *St Andrew, Apostle and Martyr*	12.15pm Holy Communion 2.30pm English Conversation Class 5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English
Tues 1 December	12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Lunchtime Concert: Lucas Cai (Cello) 5.10pm Ecumenical Holding The Light Service
Wed 2 December	12.15pm Holy Communion 7pm Penleigh and Essendon Grammar Carols Service *(Open to school community)*
Thurs 3 December	12.15pm Holy Communion for International Day of People with Disability 5.10pm Choral Evensong 7pm Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar Carols Service *(Open to school community)*
Fri 4 December	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong 7pm Trinity Grammar Carols Service *(Open to school community)*
Sat 5 December	12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Farsi Fellowship کلیسای جامع پولس رسول ملبورن پذیرای فارسی زبانان عزیز می باشد و جلسات پرستشی به زبان فارسی، هر هفته شنبه ها ساعت ۱۲:۱۵ ظهر برگزار می شود. 6pm City on a Hill Carol Service
Sun 6 December *Advent 2*	8am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*) *Preacher: The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate* 10am Choral Eucharist *Preacher: The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate* 1pm Mandarin Service 下午 1:00, 中文普通话崇拜 *Preacher: The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate* 4pm Choral Evensong *Preacher: The Revd Canon Denise Nicholls* 6pm Gather at St Paul's Sung Eucharist *Preacher: The Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor*

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2026

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
First Sunday of Advent
4pm Advent Carol Service

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
Third Sunday of Advent
4pm Christmas Carol Service

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER
Christmas Eve
3pm Children's Christmas Service
6pm Christmas Carol Service
9pm First Eucharist of Christmas
11pm Midnight Mass

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER
Christmas Day
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Choral Eucharist
1pm Mandarin Christmas Service

'For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us'

