St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese



Advent Carol Service

The First Sunday in Advent

29 November 2026, 4 pm

WELCOME

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral, home church for Anglicans in Melbourne and Victoria. We want to be a place of transformation for our city and church where all people can come to experience and know God's love in Christ Jesus. We are an international community and are delighted that you're here!

THE SERVICE LEADERS

Officiant: The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean; *Preacher*: The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor; The Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, directed by Canon Philip Nicholls, Director of Music.

THE ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Op.67, No.41 – Max Reger (1873-1916)
Mrs Roslyn Carolane, Assistant Organist

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV645 – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Mr Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Please join in singing the hymns and saying the responses printed in bold type.

Please stand as the choir and clergy assemble inside the Processional Doors.
The Choir sings

THE MATIN RESPONSORY

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he, he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he, he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Sarum plainchant, and Anglican chant after Martin Luther (1483-1546)

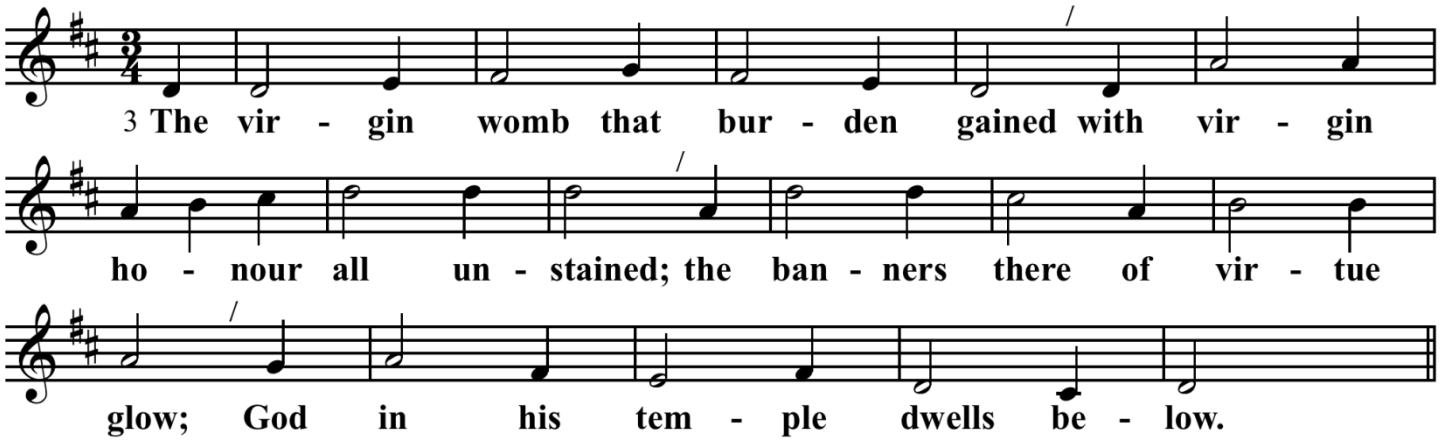
THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The choir alone sings the first two verses of the hymn

1
Come thou Redeemer of the earth
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.

2
Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed
the promised fruit to all displayed.

Please join in singing



4
Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.

5
From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds;
his course he runs to death and hell,
returning on God's throne to dwell.

6
O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

7
Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene
and twilight never intervene.

8
All laud, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

St Ambrose (340-397) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66) and others alt.
Australian Hymn Book 6

THE BIDDING

The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne, concluding with

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40.1-9

Read by Felix Huang, Boys' Head Chorister

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. [2]Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

[3]A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [4]Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. [5]Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

[6]A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. [7]The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. [8]The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. [9]Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

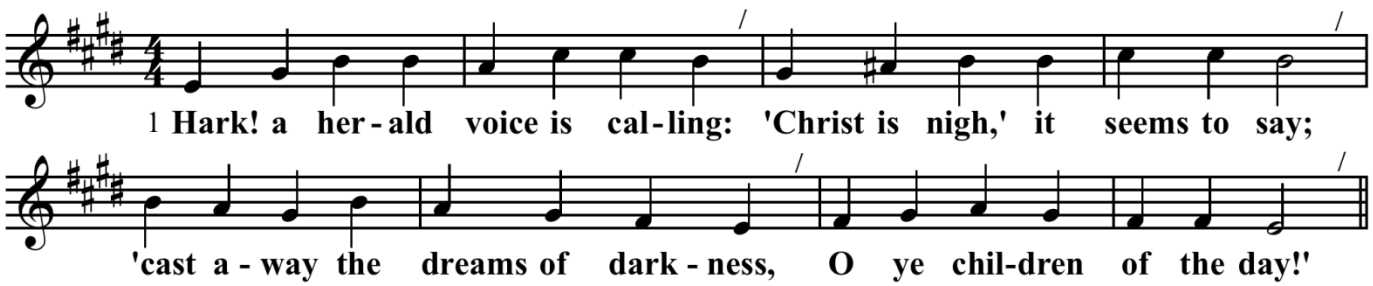
Hosanna to the Son of David – Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the King of Israel; blessed be the Kingdom that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest places;
Hosanna in the highest heavens.

Mark 11.9b-10 & parallels

Please stand to sing

THE HYMN



2
Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3
Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon now from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4
so when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws near,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.

5
Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Trans. Edward Caswall (1814–78)
New English Hymnal 5

Please be seated

THE SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 23.5-6

Read by Susan Hawley, Lay Clerk

A reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. [6]In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

THE CAROL

Veni, veni Emmanuel,	O come, O come, Emmanuel,
captivum solve Israel,	and ransom captive Israel,
qui gemit in exilio,	that mourns in lonely exile here
privatus Dei Filio.	until the Son of God appear.
Gaude! Gaude!	Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.	Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Veni, o Jesse virgula;	O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
ex hostis tuos ungula,	thine own from Satan's tyranny;
de specu tuos tartari	from depths of hell thy people save,
educ et antro barathri.	and give them victory over the grave.
Gaude, ...	Rejoice ...
Veni, veni o Oriens	O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
solare nos adveniens;	our spirits by thine advent here;
noctis depele nebulas,	disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
dirasque noctis tenebras.	and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Gaude, ...	Rejoice ...
Veni clavis Davidica;	O come, thou Key of David, come,
regna reclude caelica:	and open wide our heavenly home:
fac iter tutum superum,	make safe the way that leads on high,
et claude vias inferum.	and close the path to misery.
Gaude, ...	Rejoice ...
Veni, veni Adonai,	O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
qui populo in Sinai	who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
legem dedisti vertice,	in ancient times didst give the law
In maiestate gloriae.	in cloud and majesty and awe.
Gaude, ...	Rejoice ...

Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum (1710); trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66)
Music: ad. 'from a French Missal' by Thomas Helmore (1811-90); arr. Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)

THE THIRD LESSON Haggai 2.6-9

Read by Mrs Janet Bell, Music Foundation Member

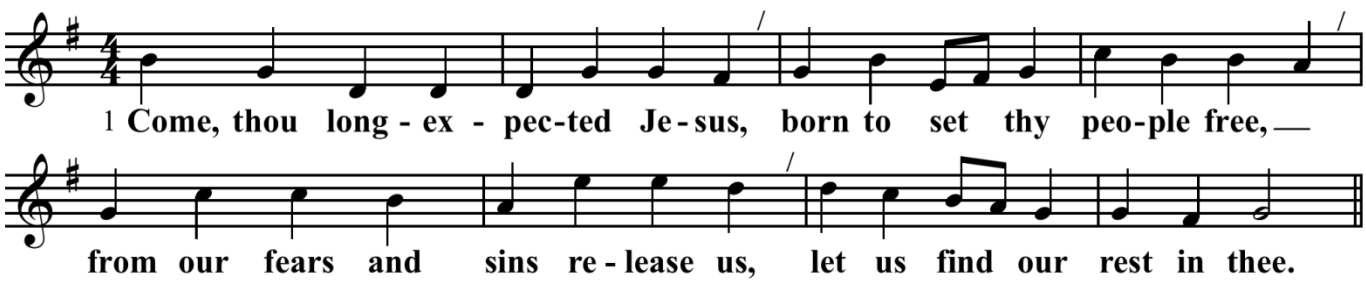
A reading from the Prophecy of Haggai.

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land, [7]and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. [8]The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. [9]The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts."

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing

THE HYMN



2
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3
Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4
By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707–88)
New English Hymnal 3

Please be seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Let all mortal flesh keep silence – Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and stand with fear and trembling, and lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation and to be given for food to the faithful.

Before him come the choirs of angels with every principality and power. The Cherubim with many eyes, and winged Seraphim who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn – Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Liturgy of St James c.5th cent. Tr. Gerald Moultrie (1829-85)

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 35.1-6

Read by His Honour Canon Paul Glass

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus [2]it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

[3]Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. [4]Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

[5]Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; [6]then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

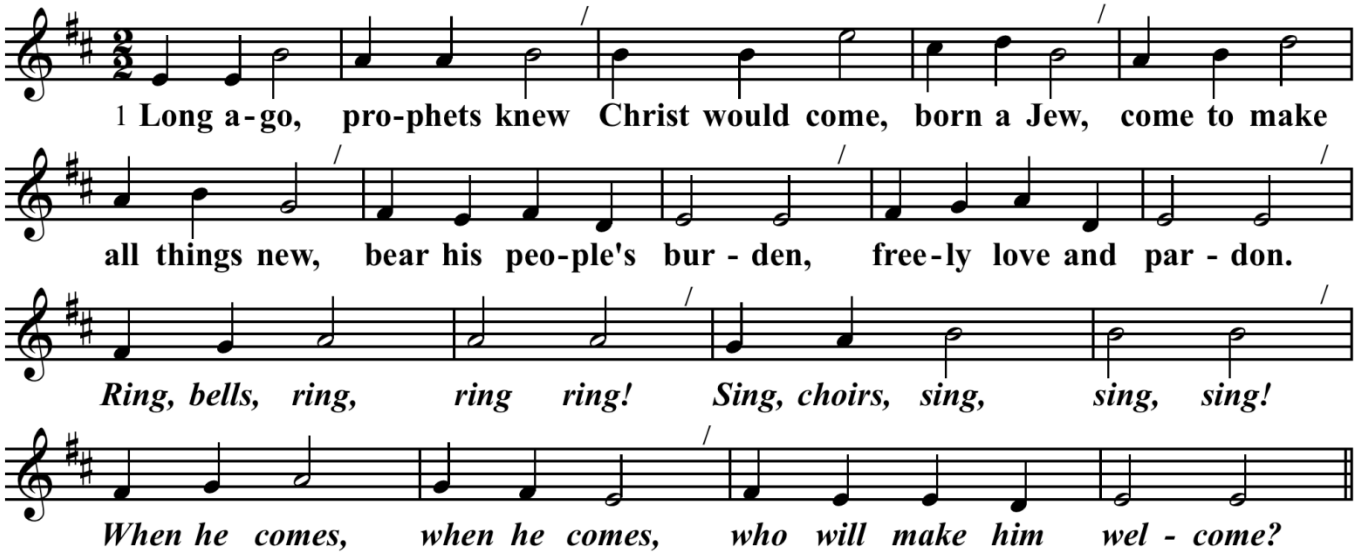
THE ANTHEM

Like as the hart – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea even for the living God:
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night:
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Psalm 42.1-3

Please stand to sing the hymn



2
God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

3
Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

4
Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes:
we will make him welcome.

Frederick Pratt Green (1903–2000)
Together in Song 283
Reproduced with permission

Please be seated

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1.26-35, 38

Read by the Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.

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 forever, 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.

[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.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

THE MAGNIFICAT

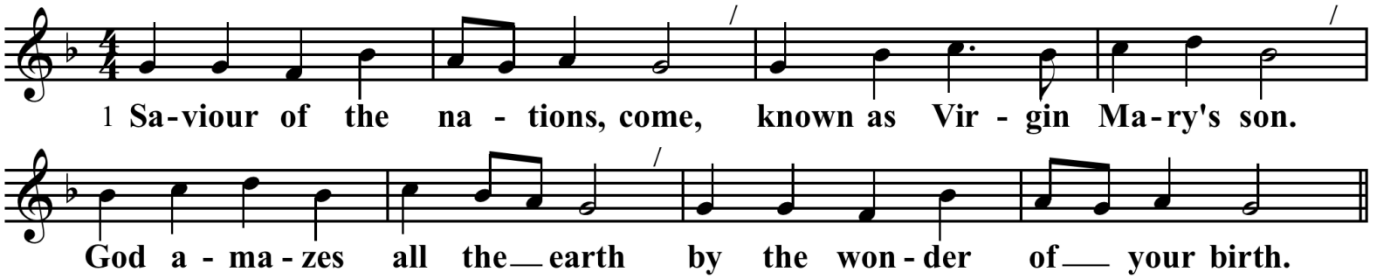
My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Luke 1.46-55
Evening Service in D Minor – Thomas Walmisley (1814-56)

Please stand to sing the hymn



2
No man's seed, no human plan
made the Word of God a man,
but the Holy Spirit's power
gave the womb its fruit, its flower.

3
Mary, when the time had come,
as a virgin bore her son;
in her body was the place
where God set his throne of grace.

4
He who from the Father came
has returned with him to reign.
He who went to death and hell
rose on high, in heaven to dwell.

5
By the triumph that you won —
truly human, yet God's Son —
heal our weak humanity,
let us share your victory.

6
From your manger new light beams,
through the night your glory streams.
Darkness cannot dim your light;
faith keeps shining, always bright.

7
Praise to God the Father sing,
praise to God the Son, our king,
praise to God the Spirit be
now and through eternity.

Martin Luther from *Veni 10edemptory gentium*, St Ambrose
tr. David Arthur Schubert (1942-2008) and others
Together in Song 295
Reproduced with permission

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON The Precentor

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

And I saw a new heaven – Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21.1-4

THE SIXTH LESSON

Mark 1.1-15

Read by the Dean

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

[2]As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
[3]the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

[4]so John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5]And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptised by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. [6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7]He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. [8]I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

[9]In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. [10]And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. [11]And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

[12]And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. [13]He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

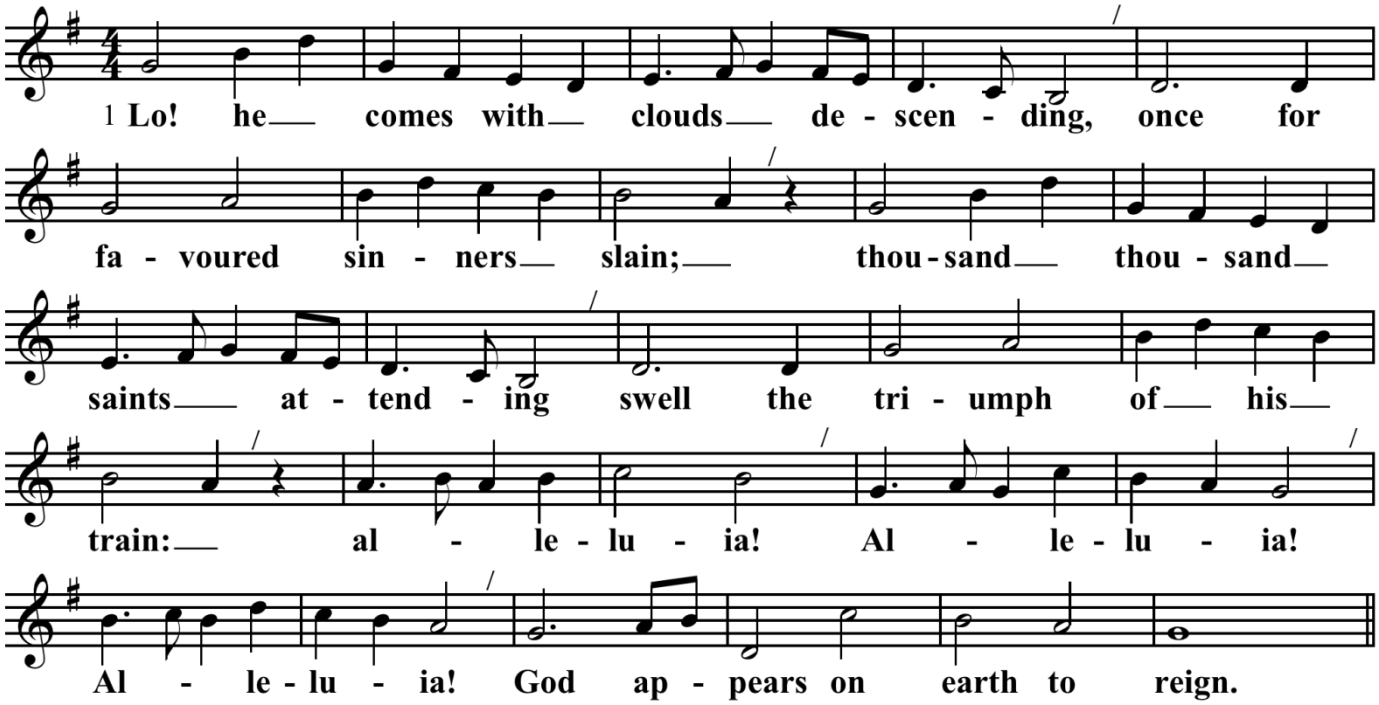
[14]Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God [15]and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Thanks be to God.

THE DISMISSAL HYMN

Please stand to sing the hymn, during which a collection is received for the ministry and mission of our Cathedral.

We rely entirely on your gift. Please be generous.
You can also donate online via our website www.cathedral.org.au/donate
or by EFT BSB: 083-088, Account: 53-728-8315



2
Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, *[three times]*
shall the true Messiah see.

3
Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture *[three times]*
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4
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)
New English Hymnal 9, last verse descant by Richard Lloyd (b.1933)

Please remain standing

THE VESPER RESPONSORY

Led by the Precentor

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed,
tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord,
tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

THE BLESSING

The Dean

We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God:
in the midst of thy temple.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Christ, the sun of righteousness shine on you, scatter the darkness from your paths 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 upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please remain standing for the recession, then be seated for the remainder of

THE POSTLUDE

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel' – Andrew Carter (1939-2026)
Dr Mark Slavec, Sub-Organist

PERMISSIONS Scriptures: *The Holy Bible—New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition,* © 2021 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Hymns are reproduced and are used by permission. All rights reserved. © 2026 The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

OUR ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE

First Nations Justice We are committed to reconciliation and right relationship with First Peoples, and we long to see a more just settlement for all Indigenous people. Our governing body, the Cathedral Chapter, supports the path set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart: Voice, Treaty, Truth-telling and Makarrata (justice). We pay a symbolic annual tribute to the Wurundjeri Lands Council. We also provide resources so that we can listen, learn and yarn together, and we value respectful and informed conversation on this important issue.

Refugee Justice We are explicitly and proudly multicultural, and want to see a strong, supportive and diverse society. We name, condemn and resist racism and any form of discrimination. That's why we campaign for refugees and build public awareness about people seeking asylum. We offer free cultural and language classes and worship in the languages of our congregations. We seek to be a safe place where migrants and refugees can belong, make new friends and rebuild their lives.

Climate Justice We are committed to the care of creation and the renewal of the earth, and we want to see greater and quicker action on the climate crisis. As an inaugural member of Victoria's climate pledge, we are working towards net zero. We use only energy from renewable sources and keep reducing our waste and emissions, and aim to share good-practice models of saving and generating energy.

Safe Kids and Families We will safeguard all people. We strongly condemn any form of abuse—in church, in workplaces or at home—and are committed to keeping children and vulnerable people safe. We want the Cathedral to be a genuinely accessible and safe space to belong and grow. Our staff and volunteers complete safeguarding training and the relevant checks. If you have any concerns about child safety, please ring 1800 135 246 (Kooyoora Professional Standards). If you are facing family violence and need help, please ring 1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT), or 13 92 76 (13YARN) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crisis support.

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 Said 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'