

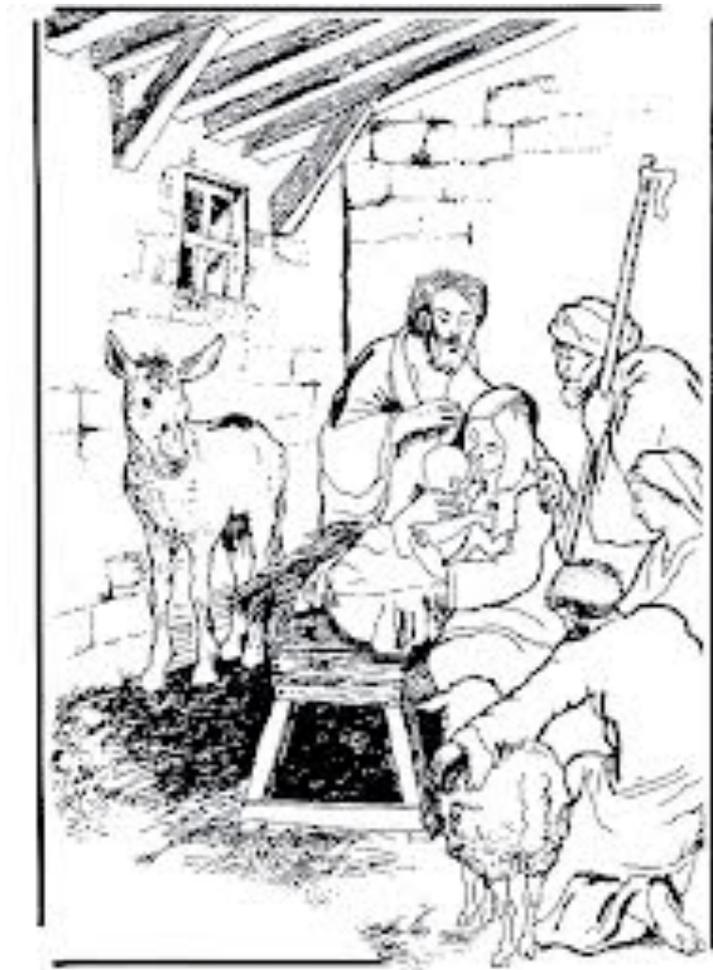
The Diocese of Wangaratta
The Anglican Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
25th December 2013
The Birth of our Lord : Christmas Day



*Wishing you all a most holy and
blessed Christmastide.*



Hymns: 306, 265 (candle), 268, 313, 309



Introit Hymn

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

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 may exchange a sign of peace.

CHRISTMAS Day

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfilment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

[The Fifth candle is lit.]

[All Sing]

*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! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives,
and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,

born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry,
in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God;
**his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us
as it was to his disciples so long ago.**

**Come to us, Lord Jesus,
Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
And lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel:
God with us. *Matthew 1.23*

THE COLLECT

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62. 6-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: 'Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.' Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: 'Say to Daughter Zion, "See, your Saviour comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 97

Response: The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice.

The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice;

Response John McCann

v. 1 The Lord is king: let the earth re - joice.

let the multitude of the isles be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne./R

Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.
His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.
The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth./R

The heavens declared his righteousness,
and all the peoples have seen his glory.
Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in mere idols.
Bow down before him, all you gods./R

Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced,
because of your judgements, O Lord.

For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods./R

The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he preserves the lives of his faithful
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name./R

SECOND READING

Titus 3. 4-8a

A reading from the letter to Titus

When the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

For today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2. 1-20

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, born in a stable because there was no room in the inn; we pray for the homeless, the dispossessed and poverty stricken.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, born away from your hometown; we pray for those away from their families this Christmas; for those for whom the Yuletide brings no joy.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, hunted by Herod; we pray for those in danger, for those who live in war zones and those who are treated unjustly and threatened by violence and abuse.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, forced to flee as a refugee to Egypt; we pray for all refugees in the world and for the situations they flee from; for all who seek asylum and those indention.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, visited by shepherds and wise men; we pray that this Christmas, for the lost and the lonely, those who suffer and live with pain; may this season bring comfort.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, divine healer and bringer of peace; we pray for healing for all those who are ill, and for peace for those nearing death.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Jesus, precious Child of God, born as one of us; we have much to be thankful for; we pray for families that peace, hope and love of you be known and felt around the world, that people may be safe and know the blessings that your birth bestow upon creation.

Loving God of all; **hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, precious Child of God, before whom the Magi laid their gifts, whom humble shepherds worshipped, accept our praises as we celebrate your birth at Bethlehem. On this most holy day grant us that our hearts be so illuminated with the brightness of your one true light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Next Sunday: 29th December 2013 First Sunday after Christmas		
Isaiah 63.7-9; Ps 148; Hebrews 2. 10-18; Matthew 2. 13-23		
Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Combined Service with St Stephens
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

Parish Clergy:

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