

## St Matthew's Anglican Church, Cheltenham

### Masses celebrated during Christmas week

Tuesday 26 December – 10am: Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

Wednesday 27 December – 10am: John, Apostle & Evangelist

Thursday 28 December – 10am: Holy Innocents

### Weekly Services



Sunday – 8am Holy Communion

Sunday – 10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday – 10am Mass (not in Jan)



The clergy and staff of St Matthew's wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

May this 'holy day' season be a safe time for you all.

Thank you for all your cards and greetings.



**Parish Office:** 161 Park Road, Cheltenham, 3192

**Phone:** 9583 2205

**Hours:** Wednesday to Friday: 9am to 4pm

**Parish Secretary:** Claire Johnston

**Email:** [stmatthewsanglicanchurch@bigpond.com](mailto:stmatthewsanglicanchurch@bigpond.com)

**Website:** [www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)

## St Matthew's Anglican Church Cheltenham



Corner Nepean Highway and Park Road

Cheltenham, Victoria, 3192

[www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)



## THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRISTMAS HOLY COMMUNION

Christmas Day 2017 at 9am



**Celebrant & Preacher:** Fr Ron White

**Organist:** Mrs Marlene Davies

150 Years of Witness & Service in Cheltenham

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

#### *Introit Hymn*

1. Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.
2. O that birth forever blessed!  
When the Virgin full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bare the Saviour of our race,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.
3. O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
Angel-hosts, his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.



Words: Latin, Prudentius 348-413  
Tr R.F. Davis 1866-1937  
Hymns Ancient & Modern,  
New Standard

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, King of Peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever  
The new light of your incarnate word

gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.  
Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The candle representing the Christ Child, is lit*

God our Father,  
today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son,  
and to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world.

**Lord Jesus, Light of Light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest.**



#### *We sing*

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. God of God,  
Light of Light;  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten not created:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> Century,  
Tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80 and others  
The New English Hymnal

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

*The priest greets the people*

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

*Sentence of Scripture*

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.10-11

**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 two Great Commandments*

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with

all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

*'Lord, have mercy'*

**Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 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 of the Day*

All glory to you, gracious God,  
for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us.  
With the angels, let us praise your name,  
and tell the earth his story,  
that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9.2, 6.7

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

### *We sing*

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.
2. Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Words: Chatterton Dix 1837-98 and Editors  
The New English Hymnal

### *A Reading from the First Letter of John*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4.7-12

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

### *Gradual Hymn*

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  
To you and 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. 'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the world be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth  
Begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate 1652-1715  
The New English Hymnal

*Remain standing for the Gospel Reading*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke  
chapter 2 beginning at verse 8  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

*Christmas Presentation*

*Silence may follow*

*The Nicene Creed*

Let us stand and 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 priest says*

We bring before God our needs and the needs of his world.

### *Response*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

### *Conclusion*

Almighty Lord,

**Hear our prayer,**

**and fulfil your purpose in us,**

**as you accomplished your will**

**in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

### *Silence may be kept*

Let us bring our weaknesses and shortcomings to him, 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.**

### *The Absolution. The priest says*

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 GREETING OF PEACE

### *All stand. The Greeting of Peace is introduced*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,

**and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.**

### *The priest says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### *All may exchange a sign of peace*

### *Offertory Hymn (during which the collection is taken)*

1. Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and mean and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.
5. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him: but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high,  
Where like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

*The gifts of the people having been brought to the Altar:*

Blessed are you, Lord, 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 for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up 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.

In your Word made flesh  
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

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.

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

**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.**

And now we thank you  
for these gifts of bread and wine;  
may we who receive them,  
as Jesus said,  
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread  
and gave you thanks.  
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,  
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup  
and gave you thanks.

Words: Mrs C.F. Alexander 1818-95  
The New English Hymnal

He shared the cup with them and said,  
'This is my blood poured out  
so that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

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

You have gathered us together  
to feed on Christ  
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit  
that we may follow Jesus  
in all we do and say,  
working for justice and bringing your peace  
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 THE COMMUNION

We who are many are one body in Christ,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**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.**

### *The invitation to receive Holy Communion*

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.

### *Post Communion Hymn (please kneel if possible)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words: Anonymous Philadelphia 1883  
The New English Hymnal

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### *The priest says*

God of heaven, dwelling among us,  
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.  
By your grace keep us ever faithful  
to your Word made flesh  
that as his body in the world  
we may bring your presence to all people.

Most loving God,  
**you send us into the world you love.**  
**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage**  
**in the power of your Spirit.**

*Notices and invitations*

*Dismissal Hymn*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye 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 Emmanuel:  
*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.*

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others  
Reproduced with permission  
Together In Song

*The Blessing*

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his Incarnation gathered into one,  
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit  
by whose overshadowing, Mary became the Godbearer,  
give you grace to hear the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The priest or deacon says*

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

From a Prayer Book for Australia. Copyright  
Broughton Publishing 1995



# The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20

Copyright © Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.  
All Rights Reserved



J B E T H L E H E M N G I H K  
 S A F P V T E N C D N Z B H H  
 F H A T Y F S O N B B D Q B J  
 A V E R E P D R K C A M G Z O  
 S S A P N P V U R I B G Q D S  
 E M D B H A E O I Z Y A K H E  
 L B X I C E I C E N S U S L P  
 S Q O H V V R B R O O M G R H  
 I M U R A N R D B S W S A R K  
 Y F E S N C A B S C H I L D R  
 C M A S L V A X F T E I S E G  
 A J H E S Q M E Z I Z L G K P  
 Y T G K Z I T G S C M N W R Y  
 A N G V W E A G J A A S R X G  
 A Z H X Y W Y H M M R S F F C

|        |           |        |           |      |
|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|------|
| SAVIOR | CENSUS    | MARY   | MANGER    | BORN |
| CAESAR | SON       | JOSEPH | MESSIAH   | ROOM |
| CHILD  | SHEPHERDS | ANGEL  | BETHLEHEM | BABY |

