

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME



Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 24th Dec

10.00am Final Advent Service

5.00pm Family service

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th Dec

9.00am

No need to book in, just come! Bring a mask - you need to wear it to sing.

No Thursday Eucharist 31st Dec, 7th and 14th Jan 2021

Recommence 21st January



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This parish is committed to Child Safety and complies with Diocesan and State requirements. This is a shared responsibility of staff and parish. Please see the back of pew leaflet for contact details.

At Worship Today:



Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

9.00 am (Sung Eucharist)

Preaching & Presiding:

Revd Greg

Liturgy Setting:

Missa Emmanuel

Processional:

TIS 264 Hark! A herald voice is calling

Sentence:

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the
captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the
year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of
our God.

First Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus, king of endless glory
Saviour of the world, Saviour of the world

Gospel:

John 1.6-8, 19-28

Offertory:

Christ, be our light

Recessional Hymn:

Darkness lay upon the waters

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Christmas Roster 2020

Christmas Eve 24 December 11pm
Isaiah 9: 2 – 7 Irene Donohoue Clyne
Titus 2: 11 – 14 Ron Ritchie
Luke 2: 1 – 14
Intercessor Val Dyke

Christmas Day 25 December 9am
Isaiah 62:6 – 12 Elaine Fasken
Titus 3: 4 – 8a Sue Retschko
Luke 2: 1 – 14
Intercessor Revd Greg

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28

12 But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; 13esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. 15See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. 16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Gospel Reading: John 1.6-8, 19-28

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from **Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'** 20 He **confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'** 21 And they asked him, **'What then? Are you Elijah?'** He said, **'I am not.'** **'Are you the prophet?'** He answered, **'No.'** 22 Then they said to him, **'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'** 23 He said, **'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ',** as the prophet Isaiah said. 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, **'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'** 26 John answered them, **'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'** 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

THANK YOU

We had a wonderful response to the Special Christmas Appeal for the Monash Waverley CIS and Asylum Seekers Centre. Approximately 50 boxes including individual hampers of various shapes and sizes have now been delivered. The two organisations were most appreciative of your generosity.

They will certainly bring some Christmas Cheer to many people who have been doing it tough throughout this year.

Thank you again from the Social Justice and Mission Group



mainly music

last session on 16th December 2020.

Evening Meditation Gatherings

On the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month meditation sessions are offered, via Zoom, in the Contemplative Traditions of Christian Meditation. The sessions start at 7.30pm but you can enter into the gathering after 7.15pm. Interested parishioners can contact Michael Mosley for more information. The next session will be on Thursday 28th January.

From Your Assistant Curate

Have you had a surprise guest visit you before? Perhaps it was a relative who came from overseas, or a friend dropping in to give you a present. We welcome their visit because they give us a boost and lift, relational joy, love and support from one who cares about us.

As we enter the third week of Advent we reflect on the love that God shows us in Christ Jesus coming to us. How our Lord comes the first time is very different to how he will come again the second time. The most obvious difference is the meek and obscure way Jesus enters our world for first time. He arrives quietly in an animal stable in Bethlehem, perhaps as his parents try to avoid being noticed by a paranoid king. Shepherds attend the birth, traditionally seen as the poor, blue-collar and lowly class of society.

On the other hand, the second advent is announced with grandeur - **1 Thessalonians 4:16** "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, **and the dead in Christ will rise first.**" It is sudden, but it is also universally visible. Christ will return as the conquering hero. This arrival is with fanfare and rejoicing.

The differences between the two are appropriate. For if we know that we can trust in God's promises, and that he promises to set things aright in the world, that he promises to do so at Christ's coming, then we have hope for the second advent. Hope that even as things are far from perfect now, in society, and aspects of our own lives, Christ's second coming will bring about his perfect kingdom. He will return not as a baby escaping persecution, but as a conquering king to restore the world, and his people to fullness in redemptive glory. So this Advent may we prepare well for the 'surprise visit' of a lifetime. Let us look forward with eager anticipation for the fruition of God's love for us, seen most clearly in the return of the Lord Jesus who restores all things to himself.

Grace and peace,

Rev'd Greg

Third Sunday of Advent



The joy of returning home

Today there are more than 60,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. With the civil war over, many wish to return home to live in peace and freedom, and help rebuild their nation. Act for Peace's local partner, with your support, is helping returnees rebuild their lives by providing training and livelihood support to help families earn an income. **Please give today.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

PROCESSIONAL HYMN
TIS 264 'Hark! A herald voice is calling'

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'
2. Wakened by 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 heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.
4. So when love comes forth in judgment,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.

Anon., Latin ? 6th cent tr. Edward Caswall
1814-78 and others

OFFERTORY HYMN
'Christ, be our light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*
2. Longing for peace, our world in troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
3. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Bernadette Farrell

RECESSIONAL HYMN
'Darkness lay upon the waters'

1. Darkness lay upon the waters
and the starless heavens swirled,
as the formless earth awaited
the creating of a world.
Over all the Spirit brooded,
like a patient mother bird,
for the leaping of the morning
at the speaking of a word.
2. In another age of darkness
children stumbled, blind from birth,
as the Word of God, incarnate,
moved again upon the earth,
with the re-creating promise
that the sightless would be healed,
and perceive the new creation
that the light of God revealed.
3. Every soul will sit with darkness,
every eye will long for light,
every heart will lose direction
in the swirling, starless night.
Still the one who speaks the morning
moves beside us on the way;
knowing this we know that darkness
always holds the hope of day.

words: Michael Hudson

Roster

Sunday 20 December Advent 4

Romans 16: 25 – 27 Jenny Brown

Luke 1: 26 – 38

Intercessor Michael Mosely

Sunday 27 December First Sunday after
Christmas

Galatians 4: 4 – 7 John Russell

Luke 2: 22 – 40

Intercessor Graham Dellora

GARDENING GROUP

Next Saturday 19th December, the Garden Group will convene to spruce up the church grounds for Christmas. 9.30 am onwards.

You have a choice -- the Garden outside or the Working Bee indoors.

Many hands make light work !



CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE

Parishioners -- Our empty church has gathered winter cobwebs. If you have even half an hour to spare on Sat 19th Dec, that would be great. Thank You.

Can you spare just one hour?	between 9am and 1pm on <i>Saturday 19th December</i>	
We want to “spruce up” the Church and Parish Centre for CHRISTMAS		Please put your name against any job listed on the notice board
	Please bring whatever cleaning things you will need to complete your job	THANK YOU! (The Wardens)

WHAT IS YOUR FESTIVE FOOTPRINT?

EXPERTS REPORT UP TO A 50% INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD WASTE DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON.

Be mindful of the environment and think about how you are going to dispose of waste and packaging when choosing and buying food, gifts, toys and household items.

FOOD

Think about how many people you are expecting to feed. Create a food plan that includes what you can do with leftovers.



GIFTS

Opt for eco-friendly gifts where possible. Use wrapping that has already served a purpose like gift bags, boxes, pillowcases, and recovered wrapping paper. Food gifts could be wrapped in a tea towel. Avoid using sticky tape, glitter and foil sheets.



WASTE

Avoid excess packaging and recycle what you can. Think about re-gifting unwanted items or donating them to charity.



Please consider your 'Festive Footprint' this Christmas and help to keep our Planet in good shape

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSION GROUP 2020



The Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mount Waverley

383-385 High Street Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. Phone: 9807 3168

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Email: parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au Website: www.stephenandmary.org.au

'Like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley

Priest
(Day off - Monday)

The Venerable Dianne Sharrock

Assistant Curate
(Tues, Wed & Thurs mornings, Fri, Sun)

The Revd Greg Wong

Children's and Families' Minister
(Tues 10.00 am - 3.00 pm, Wed 9.30 am - 2.30 pm, Sun 10.30 am - 12.30 pm)

Lisa Eames

Child Safety Compliance Officer

Elaine Fasken

Covid19 Compliance Officer

Sugan Blanchard

Music Director

Brian Copple

Treasurer

Helen Warren

Office Manager

Katherine Rushby

Churchwardens:

Graeme Dellora

John Foster

Sue Retschko

Parish Council:

Sugan Blanchard, David Bruce, Margaret Crawford, Rowena Ferguson, Judith Gibson, Jennifer Gracie, Nathan Kelly, Sherredan Maher, Helen Warren, Joan West

Pastoral Care Ministry:

Hospital Visiting:

Clergy

Funeral Ministry:

The Vicar

Contemporary Eucharist Contact:

Rowena Ferguson

Spiritual Directors: Cath Connelly
Val Dyke

Prayer Chain contact Margaret Syfret

SERVICES: Sunday 9.45 am
Thursday 10.00 am

Tamil Christian Church services
2nd and 4th Sundays at 4.30pm

Joyriver Chinese Church
Saturdays at 6pm