

**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.**

**Isaiah 9**

Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Christmas Day 2020  
*Christmas Day Proper I Readings*



*Services at MtE are now live-streamed (live broadcast) via our YouTube channel. Cameras are principally directed at the lectern and table/sanctuary but shots will sometimes be taken from the back of the building (generally during hymns and communion).*

#### COVID-19 health measures

- Please wear a mask in the church, unless you have an exemption, have a leadership role, or need to remove it to receive communion. We will join in congregational singing in the service but masks should still be worn during the singing.
- Please observe the usual hand sanitation routines on entering and leaving the building
- Please observe the usual 1.5 meter distance between yourself and others who are not members of your family – whether seated or standing (family groups may move their seats closer together)
- Please see the relevant part of the service order regarding the distribution of the communion elements

## *Preparing for Worship Today*

- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



This morning's service begins with a congregational chant sung as a canon (round). Please have a look below at the "Processional Chant" section before the service begins.



## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Prelude** GF Handel, *Messiah: Pifa*

### *The Gathering of the People of God*

**Processional Chant: Jubilate Deo**

*The Latin 'Jubilate Deo', meaning 'Rejoice in the Lord', is pronounced 'You-bi-lah-tay D-ay-oh'*

*The chant is a round, repeating every four beats; these points are underlined below – feel free to chime in with a new thread whenever!*

*We sing this until the 'Amen' is introduced and repeated – tune in with the Amens until they are brought to a close.*

*After the cantor (Craig) sings through once, join in!*

***Ju-bi-la-té Dé-o! Ju-bi-la-té D-éo: A-llé-lu-ia***

*These words and music are attributed to Michael Praetorius 1571-1621. Public domain.*

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Jubilate Deo!

***Alleluia!***

## Lighting the Christmas Candle

Blessed are you, O Christ, our God;  
***you were before time began,  
and came into the world to save us.***

Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;  
***you shine with the Father's love.  
and illumine the whole universe.***

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;  
***born a child,  
you shared our humanity.***

Blessed are you, Son of David;  
***born to rule,  
you received gifts from the wise men.***

Blessed are you, Son of Man;  
***baptised by John,  
you saved us from ourselves.***

Blessed are you, heavenly King;  
***teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,  
you proclaimed the kingdom.***

With all the voices of heaven  
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.  
***Let heaven and earth shout their praise.***

*The Christmas candle is lit*

The light shines in the darkness,  
***and the darkness did not overcome it.***



## The Preaching of the Word

*The text of the sermon will normally be available after worship and online*

## Prayer of Confession

## Declaration of Forgiveness

*(We stand)*

...hear Christ's word of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God!***

## Doxology Hymn 313 Good Christians all rejoice

1. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
listen well to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today,  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now!  
Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today.

2. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you hear of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this;  
he has opened heaven's door,  
and you are blest for evermore;  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this.

3. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save,  
calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall;  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save.

*John Mason Neale, 1818-66 (alt.)  
Public Domain*

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

## The Nicene Creed *(Said:)*

***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 by the Holy Spirit of 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,  
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 Visible Word: Eucharist*

**LITBIT:** [The Eucharist] is, as some modern Christian thinkers have said, what makes the Church what it really is. For that short time, when we gather as God's guest at God's table, the Church becomes what it is meant to be – a community of strangers who have become guests together and are listening together to the invitation of God.

ROWAN WILLIAMS

### Hymn 317 Love came down at Christmas

1. Love came down at Christmas,    2. Worship we the Godhead,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;    Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,    worship we our Jesus:  
star and angels gave the sign.    but wherewith for sacred sign?

3. Love shall be our token,  
love be yours and love be mine,  
love to God and neighbours,  
love for plea and gift and sign.

*Words by Christina Georgian Rossetti, 1830-94 (alt.)  
Music (tune 'Hermitage') by Reginald Owen Morris,  
1886-1948  
Public domain*

*(We remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)*

### The Great Prayer of 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.***

*(The prayer continues...)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry, ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na - in the high - est!

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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!  
Hosanna in the highest!***  
*(The prayer continues...)*



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

***Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.***  
*(The prayer continues...)*



Bless - ing and hon - our, glo - ry and pow'r are yours for - e - ver and ev - er, are yours for - e - ver and ev - er.

***Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r  
are yours forever and ever,  
are yours forever and ever.***

And so gracious God,  
it is with confidence that we join...

## The Lord's Prayer

*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 people sit)*

## The Breaking of the Bread

Musical notation for 'The Breaking of the Bread' in 4/4 time, featuring four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The key signature changes from one sharp (F#) to one flat (Bb) during the piece.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on  
us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

God becomes as we are  
that we might become as God is.

Let us, then, receive what we are,  
let us become what we receive  
***The body of Christ***

## The Communion

*The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.*

*After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward two rows at a time, and stand in a line before the Table. Please leave a gap at the centre aisle to enable ease of access for all. Consume the bread when you receive it; wine may be received from either chalice or glass. Empty glasses may be placed in baskets at either end of the front row. 'Amen' is an appropriate response to receiving the elements!*

## Prayers of the People

*(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)*

Jesus, hope of all the world, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

## [Offering]

*For the time-being, financial offerings will not be collected from the pews but should be made in the designated offering box as you enter the church. If you miss the opportunity, you can put it in the box after the service!*

## Notices

## *The Sending Forth of the People of God*

### **Hymn 303** Hark, the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

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 Immanuel. *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-88. Tune: 'Mendelssohn' by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy,  
adapted by William Hayman Cummings. Public domain*

### **Word of Mission and Blessing**

### **Postlude** GF Handel, *Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus*

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