

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Christmas 1C / New Year | December 29 2024

...and our  
whole life  
shall then be  
yours alone.

Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!  
Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those who can't  
join us physically today.

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Prelude** JS Bach, *Gott der Vater wohn' uns bei*

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

**Sung Processional** from hymn 304:

*(We stand to sing the introit during the entry of the scriptures)*

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

### **Call to Worship**

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

Shout with joy to the Lord, all lands,  
***lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.***

Sing a new song to the LORD,  
***for God has done marvellous things.***

*Psalm 98.5, 1*

### **Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 290 Of the Father's love begotten

### **With the Children**

### *The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching*

### **The Testimony of Scripture**

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet  
***and a light to our path.***

Ecclesiastes 3.1-13 *God's gift*

Psalm 8 Lord, what are mortals that you care for them? [PCS 343]

REFRAIN: Organ and cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).

The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

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## TONE

- <sup>1</sup> O Lord our | governor,  
***how glorious is your name in | all the world!***
- <sup>2</sup> Your majesty above the | heavens is praised  
***out of the mouths of babes | at the breast.***
- <sup>3</sup> You have founded a stronghold a-|-gainst your foes,  
***that you might still the enemy and | the av-enger.***
- <sup>4</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,  
***the moon and the stars that you | have or-dained,***
- <sup>5</sup> What are mortals, that you should be mind-|-ful of them;  
***mere human beings, that you should | seek them out?***
- <sup>6</sup> You have made them little lower | than the angels  
***and crown them with glor-|-y and honour.***
- <sup>7</sup> You have given them dominion over the works | of your hands  
***and put all things un-|-der their feet,***

- <sup>8</sup> All | sheep and oxen,  
***even the wild beasts | of the field,***
- <sup>9</sup> The birds of the air, the fish | of the sea  
***and whatsoever moves in the paths | of the sea.***
- <sup>10</sup> O Lord our | governor,  
***how glorious is your name in | all the world!***

Revelation 21.1-6a *The beginning and the end*

For the word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## The Preaching of the Word

There s no written text available of today's sermon; the video/audio is available on YouTube

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

## Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mer - cy.  
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:  
Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

Doxology via TIS 313 v.1

**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!**

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Affirmation of faith:** God is with us

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

*The United Church of Canada,  
General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

### Prayers of the People

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

### *The Visible Word: Eucharist*

**Hymn 497** Let all mortal flesh keep silence

*(If you are able, please 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...)*



*(The prayer continues...)*



*(The prayer continues...)*



*(The prayer continues...)*

## 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

...The gifts of God for the people of God....



...Let us 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.*

***GATHERING:*** *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

*If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.*

## Offering

## Notices

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

**Hymn 617** By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered

## Word of Mission and Blessing

**Postlude** D Buxtehude, *Praeludium & Fuga [in D]*

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

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Our website is:

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**PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE...**

**Josephine Butler, renewer of society**

Josephine Butler was born on 13 April 1828 in Northumberland. Her father John Grey was a strong advocate of social reform and a campaigner against the slave trade. His cousin was Earl Grey, British prime minister between 1830 and 1834.

John Grey's family were members of the Church of England, and strong supporters of the anti-slavery campaign. The Grey children learned early about the horrors of slavery and Josephine's first feminist instincts were aroused by the terrible stories of female slaves made pregnant by their masters and then forced to give up their babies. The girls were educated at home by their mother, and Josephine had only a few years of formal schooling. Despite that, as an adult she was a prolific writer of books and pamphlets, and became a competent speaker of both French and Italian.

The Grey siblings remained close throughout their lives, even when marriage took two of the sisters to live abroad. Their political and Christian commitments inspired them to become involved in a number of philanthropic campaigns, but Josephine was the most dedicated and the most persistent. Her faith was also an overwhelming motivation for all she did – at 17 she had an experience of conversion which led her to prioritise daily prayer and bible study throughout her life.

Josephine married George Butler in 1852. He was an academic with similar political views to her own. Together they had four children but in 1863, their six-year old daughter died. In an attempt to cope with her grief, Butler threw herself into charity work, particularly related to the rights of women. Amongst the issues on which she campaigned was child prostitution. She was part of a group which forced parliament to raise the age of consent from 13 to 16.

*[CONTD...]*

**PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE...**

**Josephine Butler, renewer of society [CONTD...]**

In 1869, Butler began her campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts. These had been introduced in the 1860s in an attempt to reduce venereal disease in the armed forces. Police were permitted to arrest women living in seaports and military towns who they believed were prostitutes and force them to be examined for venereal disease. Butler toured the country making speeches condemning the acts. Many people were shocked that a woman would speak in public about sexual matters. But in 1883 the acts were suspended and repealed three years later.

Butler also took a great interest in women's education. She pressured the authorities at Cambridge University into providing further education courses for women, which eventually led to the foundation of the all-women college at Newnham. She was appointed president to the North of England Council for the Higher Education of Women in 1867.

Butler's writing – promoting social reform for women as well as education and equality – was widely distributed. Her most famous publication 'Personal Reminiscences of a Great Crusade' was written in 1896.

Butler died on 30 December 1906.

*Peter Gador-Whyte*

## NOTICES

### **The Music of the Clock** *Cantus temporum*

Paul Bentley-Angell, Matthew Champion,  
Louisa Hunter-Bradley, Grantley McDonald,  
Daniel Thomson, Quin Thomson

**January 16, 3pm,**

**St Mary's Anglican Church, 430 Queensbury**

**Street, North Melbourne**

**Entrance by donation**



In 1321, St Catherine's monastery in Rouen installed a clock whose mechanical bells played the Advent hymn *Conditor alme siderum* (Dear Creator of the Stars) before the striking of the hour. Over the coming centuries, musical clocks appeared across Europe, crossed the Atlantic to the Americas, and travelled with the Jesuits into Asia. In collaboration with the Australian Research Council project 'The Sounds of Time', this program explores the melodies that were played on these remarkable and innovative devices.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January Services

Jan 5 Peter Blackwood

Jan 12 Peter Blackwood

Jan 19 Rob Gotch

Church Council

Feb 4 (online)

Quarterly Conversation

Feb 7 in DML

Lenten Studies (book details online soon)

Weekly from March 5 / 7

### **People to commemorate this week**

Josephine Butler, renewer of society

### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

Stateless people

### **Lectionary Readings | 05 January 2025**

Jeremiah 31:7-14, 26; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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