



Icon painted by Jo Zephyr 2018

Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Christmas 2/Epiphany 2025C
5th January 2025

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

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude J Pachelbel, *Toccata*

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

May the kings of Tarshish

and of the isles render him tribute,

May all kings fall down before him,

all nations give him service.

For he delivers the needy when they call,

the poor and those who have no helper.

He has pity on the weak and the needy,

and saves the lives of the needy.

[Psalm 72:10-13]

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 310 *Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72

Refrain



Matthew 2:1-12

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

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

Prayer of Confession

...Just so, gracious God, have mercy on us...



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



The Peace

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

The Nicene Creed

***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.***

Prayers of the People

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

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 526 *Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us*

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Invitation

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...)

...And so we praise you
with the faithful of every time and place,
joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation
in the eternal hymn:



(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

Christ is the bread of Resurrection,
new life for all.

Christ is the cup of salvation,
wounded for our healing.

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



The musical notation is for a hymn in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The lyrics are: '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.'

...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.

Post Communion Prayer

Offering

(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 314 *As with gladness men of old*

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude G-G Nivers, *Recit de Cromhorne & Grand Jeu*

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

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

Journey of the Magi

TS Eliot

'A cold coming we had of it,/Just the worst time of the year/For a journey,
and such a long journey;/The ways deep and the weather sharp,/The very
dead of winter./And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,/Lying down
in the melting snow./There were times we regretted/The summer palaces on
slopes, the terraces,/And the silken girls bringing sherbet./Then the camel
men cursing and grumbling/And running away, and wanting their liquor and
women,/And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,/And the
cities hostile and the towns unfriendly/And the villages dirty and charging
high prices:/A hard time we had of it./At the end we preferred to travel all
night,/Sleeping in snatches,/With the voices singing in our ears, saying/That
this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,/Wet, below the snow
line, smelling of vegetation;/With a running stream and a water-mill beating
the darkness,/And three trees on the low sky,/And an old white horse
galloped away in the meadow./Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves
over the lintel,/Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,/And feet
kicking the empty wine-skins,/But there was no information, and so we
continued/And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon/Finding the place;
it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,/And I would do it again, but set
down/This set down/This: were we led all that way for/Birth or Death? There
was a Birth, certainly,/We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and
death,/But had thought they were different; this Birth was/Hard and bitter
agony for us, like Death, our death./We returned to our places, these
Kingdoms,/But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,/With an alien
people clutching their gods,/I should be glad of another death.

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Egypt

Egypt was the cradle of one of the world's great civilizations. An empire grew up around 3200 BC in the Nile valley, and a series of dynasties ruled Egypt for the next three millennia. The last dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 BC who in turn were replaced by the Greeks, and later the Romans. The Arabs introduced Islam and Arabic in the 7th century and ruled Egypt until it was taken over by the Turks in 1517. Britain seized control of the country in 1822. Egypt recovered full sovereignty after World War II, and became a republic in 1952 under President Nasser, who nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956. Another major milestone was the construction of the Aswan dam in Upper Egypt, which was finished in 1971. Egypt fought three wars with Israel in 1956, 1967 and 1973, before it signed the Camp David peace agreement in 1978. It is the most populated country in the Arab world. It struggles with huge economic problems and social inequalities. Egypt was Christianized as of the first century and Alexandria was one of the main centres of the early church. Islam is the majority religion, but the Coptic Christians still form a sizeable minority. The Copts are the descendants of the ancient Egyptians. Besides the Coptic Orthodox Church, there is also the smaller Greek Orthodox Church of Alexandria. Anglican, Catholic and Protestant-Evangelical and Pentecostal churches have come into being in the 19th and 20th century, mostly - but not only - among the Copts. The Fellowship of Evangelicals in Egypt is affiliated with the WEA.

Jordan

Jordan is a Muslim nation, but it embraces the region traversed by Jesus in his earthly journeys, where Jacob wrestled with the angel, the mountain from which Moses saw the Promised Land, and the country of Ruth. The majority of Christians are Greek Orthodox, but there are sizeable Armenian, Latin, Greek Catholic and Anglican communities and some small but thriving Protestant groups. Christians enjoy freedom of worship and have contributed greatly to education and social service.

NOTICES

AKBAR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Akbar, the Iranian asylum seeker supported by this congregation since his release from (illegal) detention in 2013, continues to live in Australia with no visa, no work rights and no legal status. Thanks to his generously/privately funded North Melbourne gardening 'work', and the regular financial contributions of some of our congregation members he enjoys some financial independence. He has recently overcome an accommodation 'crisis' with practical assistance from these sources. Akbar is included in our prayers of intercession on the first Sunday in each month.

Rosalie Hudson

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 12 Peter Blackwood

Jan 19 Rob Gotch

Church Council

Quarterly Conversation

Lenten Studies (book details online soon)

Feb 4 (online)

Feb 7 in DML

Weekly from March 5 / 7

People to commemorate this week

Gladys Aylward, Christian pioneer

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine

Lectionary Readings | 12 January 2025

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

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www.hothammission.org.au

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