



Icon painted by Olga Shalamova 2015

## Congregation of Mark the Evangelist 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Baptism of Jesus 2025C

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.***

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,

***ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.***

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;

***worship the LORD in holy splendor.***

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

***the God of glory thunders over mighty waters.***

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

***the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.***

May the LORD give strength to his people!

***May the LORD bless his people with peace!***

[from Psalm 29]

#### **Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 194     *O love how deep*

## *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.***

Acts 8:14-17

Psalms 119 Hymn 17

Luke 3:15-22

This is the gospel of the Lord.

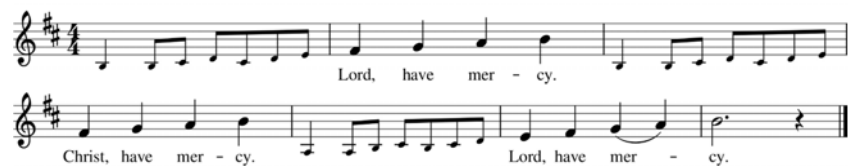
***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **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 Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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 250**      *Christ, when for us you were baptized*

*(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....



\...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 530**     *Now let us from this table rise*

## Word of Mission and Blessing

## Postlude J Pachelbel, *Nun Freut euch*

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

Our email address is:

[enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)

Our website is:

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

## The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

[www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle)

### Iran

Shi'a Islam has been the official religion of Iran since the 16th century, and Shiites form 89 percent of the population; 9 percent are Sunni. While Christians form less than 1 percent of the population, the church has a long history in Iran. The Assyrian Church of the East extended to Persia and beyond, from the 5th to the 7th century. Historically, this small church was called the Church of Persia. A small community still exists in Iran. The largest Christian group is the Armenian Apostolic Church, under the jurisdiction of the Holy See of Cilicia. During the 19th century, Catholic (both Latin and Eastern rites), Anglican and Protestant churches were established in Iran. There is also an Assembly of God church (Pentecostal). After the Islamic revolution in 1978, most newly established church properties were confiscated and educational institutions were limited to Christian education among Christians. During the 1980s the Bible society was banned and the government shut down many newly formed Protestant and Evangelical churches. In the following years the conditions for religious minorities have become more and more difficult.

### Syria

The main Orthodox churches in Syria are the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, which is Arab and uses the Arab liturgy, the Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate (Oriental), and the Armenian Apostolic Church, also Oriental. There are six Catholic rites: Melkite, Armenian, Syrian, Maronite, Latin and Chaldean. The Ancient Church of the East (Assyrian) is also present, and is part of the WCC through its patriarchate in the USA. The main Protestant churches are the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, and the Union of Evangelical Armenian Churches.

## PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

### George Fox, 1624-1691, renewer of society

George Fox was first amongst Quakers, a weaver's son, a revolutionary in his time, who lived in the power of the Spirit of Christ without compromise even to his personal harm. A man who suffered with gladness the often violent retribution of those who saw him as a devil intent on destroying their livelihood, the established church and by extension the state. Irascible for the truth and justice as he saw it, never losing an argument, yet deeply empathetic to those who recognised the error of their ways. A charismatic figure, with a gift for debate and an encyclopedic knowledge of the Bible much loved by his friends and followers.

Born in the small village of Fenny Drayton in Leicestershire, little is known of his early life except that he worked as a shepherd and that he was of a more serious nature amongst his siblings and contemporaries. He particularly stood out in religious matters.

At the age of 19 he went away seeking himself, wisdom and the calling God had laid out for him. He found no comfort from any he turned to, particularly priests and ministers, recognising that they did not possess what they professed. In his searching he became a man of sorrows, often alone and despairing until he realised that all his hopes in men were gone and he had nothing outwardly to help him. Then he had a revelation from his own experience "Oh then, I heard a voice which said 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition', and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy". This was the turning point of his life and also the kernel from which Quakerism would grow. He listened to his inward teacher and gained in truth and power that none could gainsay him. He lived and worked among ordinary people for several years after this gaining a small following.

In 1652 while alone in prayer on Pendle Hill in Lancashire, he had a vision of a great people gathered as sheep under the one shepherd and from this point onwards wherever he went he began to preach as the Lord commanded. Slowly but surely the 'Friends of the Truth', later simply Friends, began to evolve. There was however much opposition and consequently much suffering with assaults, estrangements of goods, imprisonment and even death common amongst these gathering people. George Fox was imprisoned 8 times during his life and he was beaten unconscious on more than one occasion, but he was fearless in these situations and would challenge his attackers to hit him again.

### PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

#### George Fox, 1624-1691, renewer of society [... contd]

Later in 1652, while preaching in Ulverston in Cumbria, Margaret Fell, wife of the local Judge Thomas Fell became a convert and under her patronage and Thomas's protection, the Society of Friends began to grow.

In 1661, George met with Charles II and repeated his declaration to Oliver Cromwell of 1651 that he and all Quakers 'utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatever'. He was attempting to halt the persecution of Friends and this happened eventually. This was the foundation of the Quaker peace testimony.

In 1669, 11 years after Judge Fell's death Margaret married George though they spent little time living together as they were constantly traveling and labouring in the Ministry when they were not in prison.

William Penn said of him "He had an extraordinary gift in opening the scriptures.... But above all he excelled in prayer..... And truly it was a testimony that he knew and lived nearer to the Lord than other men".

*Written by Anthony Buxton, Society of Friends*

## 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 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

George Fox , renewer of society

#### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Iran, Iraq, Syria

#### Lectionary Readings | 19 January 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

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

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