

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Epiphany 3C | January 26 2025

# All

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** J Pachelbel, *O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde Groß*

### *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.***

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
***showing forth his handiwork.***

Their sound goes out into all lands,  
***and their message to the ends of the world.***

*(Psalm 19.1,4)*

Let us join this chorus in the worship of God;  
***We lift our hearts to the Lord.***

#### **Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 100 All creatures of our God and king (vv.1, 4, 5, 7)

#### **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.***

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a ...*the body is one and has many members...*

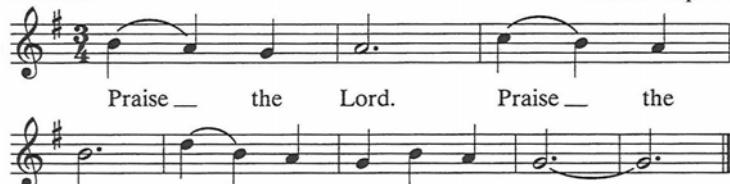
Psalm 19 *The heavens are telling the glory of God*

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

The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE

REFRAIN

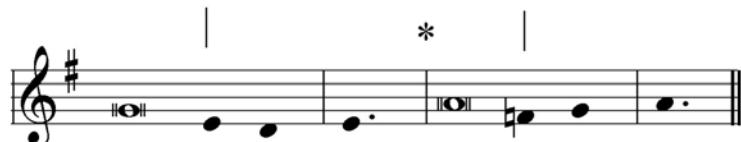
Hal H. Hopson



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

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TONE



Psalm 19

[PCS Tone 3 p343]

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God  
**and the firmament proclaims his | handiwork.**

<sup>2</sup> One day pours out its song to another  
**and one night unfolds knowledge | to another.**

<sup>3</sup> They have neither speech nor language  
**and their voices | are not heard,**

<sup>4</sup> Yet their sound has gone out into all lands  
**and their words to the ends | of the world.**

<sup>5</sup> In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,  
**that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and rejoices as a champion to | run his course.**

<sup>6</sup> It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again,  
**and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

**the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.**

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;

**the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light | to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;

**the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous | altogether.**

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
**sweeter also than honey, dripping from the | honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant taught  
**and in keeping them there is | great reward.**

<sup>12</sup> Who can tell how often they offend?

**O cleanse me from my | secret faults!**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me;

**so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of | great offence.**

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

**O Lord, my strength and | my redeemer.**

REFRAIN

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus at Nazareth, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me'

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

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!**

**Hymn** 468 We are your people

### 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** 506 Author of love divine

(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...)

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!

(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....



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.*

### 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** GG Nivers, *Dialogue*

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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)

### **Cyprus**

Cyprus is an independent republic since 1960. The constitution divided the population into two ethnic communities, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot. In 1963 tensions began to develop which resulted in a rebellion led by the Turkish Cypriot leaders. A United Nations peacekeeping force was established in 1964. In 1974, after a coup d'état staged by the ruling military junta of Greece, Turkey invaded the northern part of the island. As a result, 142,000 Greek Cypriots and 55,000 Turkish Cypriots were displaced, and another 20,000 Greek Cypriots enclaved in the area were gradually forced to leave. In 1983 the Turkish occupied area was unilaterally declared an independent "state", recognized by Turkey only. UN-led direct talks between the two sides resumed in 1999. In 2002 the UN presented a plan for a comprehensive settlement. After further negotiations it was submitted to the people of Cyprus in two simultaneous referenda in 2005. The Greek Cypriots rejected it, the Turkish Cypriots voted in favour. Cyprus was admitted as a member of the European Union in 2005, but without achieving the goal of unity. In the event of a solution, which is still hoped for by all Greek and Turkish Cypriots, there is a provision for the admission of the Turkish-occupied part of the island. The Church of Cyprus is the majority church. There is an Armenian Apostolic Church which is part of the Holy See of Cilicia. The Anglican community belongs to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Latin and Maronite Catholic churches, and several small Protestant and Pentecostal churches are also present in Cyprus.

### **Greece**

Greece was the centre of ancient civilization, which influenced greatly the later European civilizations, both East and West. When the apostles Paul and Timothy brought the gospel to Greece, it was part of the Roman empire, which became the Byzantine empire from where Orthodox Christianity spread to Central and Eastern Europe. Greece was occupied by the Ottoman empire in the 16th century. It won its independence from the Ottomans in 1821, and became a monarchy. The history of Greece in the 19th and the first part of the 20th century was dominated by the national question, i.e. to extend the territory so as to include all Greeks. This policy succeeded before and during World War I in parts of the Balkans, but in Turkey the Greeks

were defeated in 1922 and more than a million were expelled. In turn, 500,000 Turks were sent back from Greece to Turkey. This history explains the still persisting tensions between Greece and Turkey, although relationships have greatly improved. After a period of military dictatorship, democratic elections and a referendum created a parliamentary republic in 1974, and the monarchy was abolished. Greece joined the then European Community (now European Union) in 1981. Its economy has benefitted from the regional aid programmes of the EU. The Greek Orthodox Church is inextricably bound up with the Greek people, nation, state, culture and history. Catholics, Protestants, and Pentecostals represent about 1.5 percent. The largest independent group are the Orthodox Old Calendarists. In recent years, the Greek society has become more and more pluralistic.

### **Türkiye**

Türkiye consists of a small territory in south-east Europe (Eastern Thrace), with the larger part of the country in the Middle East (Asia Minor). The Turks, who were Muslims, arrived in the area in the 11th century and gradually conquered the Byzantine empire, until the fall of Constantinople in 1453. The Turkish Ottoman empire at its height covered the Middle East, south-east Europe and North Africa. It lost most of its territories in the 19th century. Its end was marked by the 1915 genocide of the Armenians, who had been living in Asia Minor for centuries. The empire was dismantled after World War I. The nationalist leader Kemal Atatürk founded in 1923 the Republic of Türkiye within its present boundaries. Türkiye is a secular state, with Islam as the majority religion. It has applied for membership with the European Union. Negotiations began in 2005. The Christians, mainly Orthodox, who were several million at the beginning of the 20th century, are today only a small minority. The Ecumenical Patriarchate, the primary spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox churches, has its see in Istanbul. The Armenians and the Syrian Orthodox, who used to live in the east and southeast of Türkiye, are now mostly concentrated in Istanbul, or have emigrated. Most of the Protestants are expatriates. There are some Turkish Evangelical churches, and Koreans are doing mission in Antakya, the former Antioch. Although religious freedom is guaranteed by the constitution, the churches experience restrictions. The theological faculty of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on the island of Halki, has been closed by the authorities since 1971.

## NOTICES



**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7, 11.00** -- in the library at [the Centre for Theology and Ministry](#).  
(Some parking *may* be available onsite, but plan to park in the surrounding streets, just in case...). **Catch a coffee at the CTM cafe before the meeting** (although coffee not allowed in the library), **and then stay for lunch afterwards!**  
More info:  
[www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)

### THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Hotham Mission Executive	Fri Jan 31, 3:00pm <b>NEW</b>
Church Council	Tue Feb 4, 7:30pm (online)
Quarterly Conversation	Fri Feb 7 11:00am
Hymn-learning session after worship	Sun Mar 2 <b>NEW</b>
Lenten Studies (see website for details)	Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7

### People to commemorate this week

Agnes of Rome, martyr

#### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye

#### Lectuary Readings | 02 February 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

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

**Contact:** Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

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

[www.hothammission.org.au](http://www.hothammission.org.au)

[www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au)