



The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist Christmas Day 2025

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.

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 Leon Boellman's Priere a Notre Dame

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional Chant: Jubilate Deo

The Latin 'Jubilate Deo', meaning 'Rejoice in the Lord', is pronounced 'You-bee-lah-tay Day-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 sings through once, join in!

Ju-bi-la-té Dé-o! Ju-bi-la-té D-éo: Al-lé-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 Christ candle is lit

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

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 304 O come, all ye faithful vv1,2,5-7

With the Children

Hymn 318 Away in a manger

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

ForeWord

Word: The Testimony of Scripture

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

John 1.1-18 *Flesh as Word*

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Word: In Preaching

LitBit: Preaching from the Scriptures is less a problem of interpreting the Bible than it is the challenge of interpreting the world.

AfterWord: 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

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.*

Offering

Today's "Open Plate" offering – cash gifts not in the congregation's offering envelopes – will be forwarded to the Christmas Bowl appeal of Act for Peace: www.christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 305 Let earth and heaven combine

(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...)



(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

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.

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.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 303 Hark, the herald angels sing

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude Sigfrid Karg-Elert, *Nun danket alle Gott*

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Normal service times in January	NOTE Jan 18!
CAN will join MtE at the CTM for Sunday worship	Sun Jan 11, normal service
MtE will conduct a combined worship service at CAN, 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton	Sun Jan 18, 10.00@CAN
Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova	Mon Feb 2, time TBA
Church Council	Tue Feb 3, 7.30pm online
Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay	Fri Feb 6, 11.00am CTM Library