

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Epiphany of the Lord | 4 January 2026



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 N Gigault, *Prelude & petite fugue*

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

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

Hymn The first nowell – Tis 301 (verses 1-2)

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you! Rod Mummery

And also with you!

The Word of God is made flesh,
we gather in praise.

The Love of God is born among us,
we gather in adoration.

The Mystery of God is revealed,
we gather in thanksgiving.

Let us worship God:

Prayer of Invocation

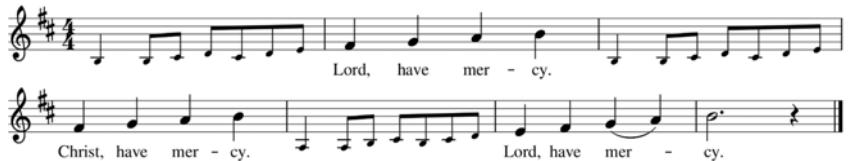
Eternal God, we praise you that the light of your love, justice and peace has dawned in our world through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. We praise you for gifting us your Spirit, through whom you draw us into the faith, hope and love of Christ, crucified and risen. We praise you for revealing the mystery of your self-giving love that gives life to the world. Be present now through Word and Sacrament, that we may worship you in Spirit and in truth. With Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Hymn The first nowell – Tis 301 (verses 3-6)

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



Welcome

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.

Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Neil Champion

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Preaching of the Word 'home by another way'

*The sermon text will normally be available after worship and online
A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching*

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the good news of Jesus Christ, and we confess our struggle to embrace it. We confess:

that the mystery of your promise is hidden by the will to power;
that the light of your gospel is shaded by the darkness of fear;
that the gift of your grace is diminished by pride or privilege.

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

Gracious God, forgive us and shine Christ, crucified and risen, upon us. By your Spirit, reveal him in our lives through relationships of humble love and sacrificial service. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

The apostle Paul reminds us that, through the gospel, all people have become sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus, who declares to us the words of grace:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God!

Doxology

Glo - ry to God_ in the high - est and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly king, al-migh-ty God. and_

Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you_ for_ your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sins of the world: have mer - ey on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone_ are the

ho - ly one, You a - lone_ are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,

Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo-ry of_ God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

Peace sentence and Seasonal Peace

The apostle declares that the mystery of Christ has been revealed – those outside of the Jewish Law have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in God's promise in Christ Jesus.

In faith, let us celebrate this promise as we greet each other:

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 Intercession

John Langmore

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

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. We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God forever.

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn Let us talents and tongues employ – Tis 537

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

The Invitation

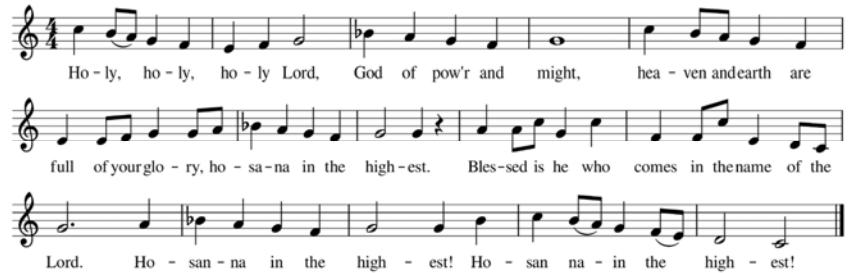
Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

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:



***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!***

(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 joy,
who shares food with sinners.

Christ is the cup of life,
who revives the faint-hearted.

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

Father of all, we give thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Anchor us in this hope that we have grasped; so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to proclaim your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn As with gladness men of old – Tis 314

Word of Mission and Blessing

May the God who has graced our wine and bread breathe into you the life of Christ crucified, that you may, with him, in him, and through him, abide in the peace that passes all understanding, And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Postlude V Lübeck, *Praeludium & Fuge*

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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/>

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

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

FAITH AFTER FAITH

Craig publishes weekly on *Faith after Faith*, a Substack site. You can subscribe to receive email updates of recent posts (avoid the paid subscription invitations!). Use the QR image here to check in, or see faithafterfaith.substack.com for more info. Recent posts include:

- Recent Sermons
- New Theological Fragments (90-94): Divine absence and the Incarnation.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Normal service times in January
CAN will join MtE at the CTM for Sunday worship
MtE will conduct a combined worship service at
CAN, 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton
Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova
Church Council
Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay

NOTE Jan 18!
Sun Jan 11, normal service
Sun Jan 18, 10.00@CAN
Mon Feb 2, time TBA
Tue Feb 3, 7.30pm online
Fri Feb 6, 11.00am CTM Library

People to commemorate this week

George Fox, renewer of society

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine

Lectionary Readings | 11 January 2026

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

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

www.hothammission.org.au

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