

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
Epiphany 3A | 25 January 2026

The light  
[which]  
will win

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** G F Handel, *Adagio and Allegro from Sonata for Violin and Cembalo in F major, HWV 370*

## *The Gathering of the People of God*

## **Sung Processional** (TIS 100 v.7)

*If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:*

*Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the  
and praise the Spirit, Three in  
O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!  
*And also with you!*

If the LORD is our light and our salvation;  
***whom then shall we fear?***

If the LORD is the strength of our lives;  
**of whom shall we be afraid?**

Come, let us worship the LORD,  
***who is light, salvation and strength.***

ex Psalm 27:12

### Prayer of invocation

## Hymn 361 The day of resurrection

## With the Children

## *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.***

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *Of wisdom and strength*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Word: In Preaching**

*The sermon text will normally be available  
after worship and online*

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

#### **AfterWord: 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!**

#### **Doxology**

Glo - ry to God... and  
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly king,-- al-mighty God. and...

Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you... for your glo-ry.  
Lord Je-susChrist, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer - cy 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. Amen. Amen.

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

#### **Affirmation of Faith: We are a pilgrim people**

*Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia*

***We believe in one God,***

***the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.***

***We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,  
confessing him as Lord***

***to the glory of God the Father.***

***In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,  
the Head over all things,  
the beginning of a new creation.***

***We acknowledge that we live and work  
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection  
and the final consummation of all things  
which he will bring.***

**We are a pilgrim people,  
always on the way towards a promised goal;  
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,  
and we have the gift of the Spirit  
in order that we may not lose the way.**

**We will live and work within the faith and unity  
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
bearing witness to that unity  
which is both Christ's gift and his will.**

**We affirm that every member of the Church  
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.**

**Together with all the people of God,  
we will serve the world for which Christ died.  
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.**

### Prayers of Intercession

### 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.*

### The Visible Word: Eucharist

#### Hymn 145 The king of love my shepherd is

*(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....

...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.*

## Notices

### *The Sending Forth of the People of God*

**Hymn** 548 (tune 332) Eternal light, shine in my heart

#### **Word of Mission and Blessing**

**Postlude** C Saint-Saens, *Finale from Symphony No. 3 in C minor*  
'Organ' (transcribed by Anthony Halliday)

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## 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](https://faithafterfaith.substack.com) for more info. Recent posts include:

- Recent Sermons
- New Theological Fragments (95-192): On theodicy.



#### **FRAGMENT 86**

The proclaimed Resurrection of Jesus is a function of his own particular history within its cultural context, and not a function of nature. The Resurrection is a function — a contradiction — of his history as crucified, and not of his nature as mortal. The problem with the Resurrection is not the proposal that Jesus stopped being dead but that, as one crucified, he is the last person we'd expect God to stop from being dead.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

*See above for more details on these events*

Hotham Mission Executive

Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova

Church Council

Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay

LENTEN STUDIES!

Fri Jan 30, 2.30pm Online

Mon Feb 2, time TBA

Tue Feb 3, 7.30pm online

Fri Feb 6, 11.00am CTM Library

Beginning Feb 18/20 **NEW**

#### **People to commemorate this week**

Simeon & Anna, witnesses to Jesus

#### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye

#### **Lectionary Readings | 01 February 2026**

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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

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