Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

All Saints Day| 1 November 2026

… as it is in heaven

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 D Buxtehude, *Fuga in C*

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!
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

Psalm 34:2-3

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn 47 *Our God, our help in ages past*

Greeting and 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.

First Reading Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-8
TIS 22 *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*
(a cantor sings the verses)

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

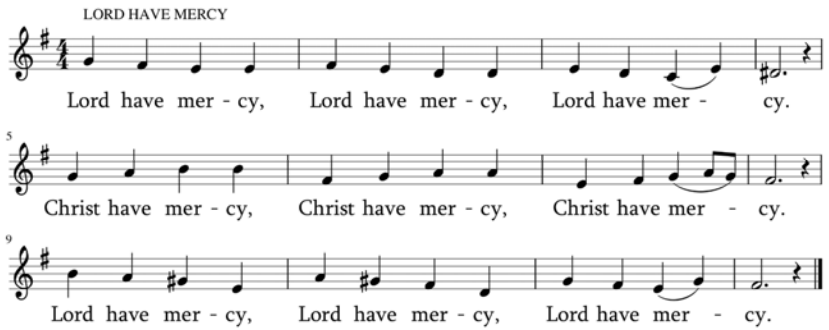
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 mercy; (3x)
Christ, have mercy; (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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 for Life

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 545 *Shout for joy!*

(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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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, hosanna, 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

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

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 455 *For all the saints*

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude J Pachelbel, *Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein*

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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/

People to Commemorate
Soren Kierkegaard, Christian thinker

Kierkegaard was at once a devastating critic and a passionate advocate of Christianity. He was a 19th century Danish thinker, who wrote many books – often with very strange titles – in his own distinctive style and who continues to pose challenging questions to Christians today. Because of his intense focus on the individual person, he is often regarded as the 'father' of modern existentialism.

Born in 1813, he felt deeply the death of his mother, three siblings and his father within a short span of years. He felt that there was a curse on his family on account of a great 'sin' committed by his father. He felt a misfit in the society of his day and is often called 'the melancholy Dane'. He broke off an engagement because he would not involve his fiancée in his unusual life and on his death-bed he would not receive holy Communion from a (Lutheran) pastor, 'the king's official'.

Kierkegaard was fiercely critical of the way Christianity was practised in Denmark, where the Lutheran church was the state church. 'Even the cows in Denmark are Christian!' He could not bear to think that people might live in the illusion of being Christian when they merely 'played' at Christianity. What matters is actually to be a Christian; it is not a system of thought simply to be given intellectual assent.

Kierkegaard attacked the very idea of explaining Christianity. He vigorously opposed the philosophical system of Hegel, both for its grand metaphysical systematising and for offering an explanation of Christianity at a higher level. Kierkegaard's writing was a loud protest against this in the name of concrete existence; this made him one of the forerunners of existentialism. Being based on the 'Absolute Paradox' (that God became human), Christianity is not to be explained. A person responds to it in faith and trust, staking one's whole life on it, like 'swimming in 20,000 fathoms of water'; not by intellectualising it and trying to prove its truth.

Kierkegaard never fails to challenge, even if he is sometimes shockingly over-stated. His style is deeply ironic, often caustic. If he were writing today, he might have said that faith is like bungy-jumping. This doesn't say everything to be said about faith, but it does identify something essential to it.

Christiaan Mostert

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:
On the existence of God, or not seeing red
What is joy?

Dear Lyrebird friends, TODAY we welcome back the members of the Consortium viol consort. You may recall the extraordinary sound of their matched consort of viols, made in Melbourne by luthier Ian Wathcorn. Each of the instruments is a scaled copy of the same original consort bass viol, made by the celebrated maker William Turner in London around the 1650s. Together, these instruments recreate the distinctive balance and resonance of a seventeenth-century English viol consort. The program features music of Purcell, Gibbons, Byrd and others from the 16th and 17th centuries in England. Please note that for this concert, Consortium consists of viola da gamba players Laura Moore, Victoria Watts, Ruth Wilkinson and Laura Vaughan, with Ruth also playing recorders as required. We hope you can join us then! Here is the link for tickets:
https://www.lyrebirdmusicsociety.org.au/november-2026

Christ the King Congregational Lunch – Sunday 22nd November
We will celebrate the end of the church year with a congregational shared lunch. Please let Rod know if you will be attending and what you can bring to share.

CAN Choir Invitation
All abilities welcome, sheet music will be provided; email your interest to Jean Evans: mj.evans@hotmail.com

The choir will be singing on:
Sunday 29 November, 10am (1st Sunday of Advent)
Wednesday 2 December, 10.30am (Carol service at Rathdowne Place)
Wednesday 16 December, 2pm (Carol service at Redmond Park)
Sunday 20 December, 10am (Service of Lessons & Carols) - This is the most significant service for the choir
Christmas Day, 9am (Christmas Day service)

Practice is 9:30am every Saturday, starting from 31st October
Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton

Upcoming Meetings and Events

See above for more details on these events

Discussion Groups	*Wed 7.30pm till mid-Nov*
Church Council	*Tue November 3, 7.30pm Online*
Saturday at the Movies	*Sat November 7, details TBA*
Hotham Mission Board	*Fri Nov 20, 3pm hybrid*
Congregational lunch	*Sun November 22, after worship*

People to commemorate this week
Soren Kierkegaard, Christian thinker
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle
Canada, United States of America
Lectionary Readings | November 8, 2026
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalms 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

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 | www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au