



ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MALVERN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 December 2024

*Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you;
after the service, speak to one another.*

8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M.

*The service begins on p. 119 of **A Prayer Book for Australia** (The “Green” or “Blue” book);
seasonal material for Advent is to be found on p. 147*

*Please stand when the bell is rung and as the ministers move to the Advent wreath.
The second candle on the wreath is lit as the following prayer is said:*

Celebrant: Blessèd are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory forever!

**All: Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages,
Blessèd be God for ever.**

Celebrant: Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness for him
who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom.

All: Blessèd be God for ever!

Words: The Archbishops' Council (Church of England)

SENTENCE

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.

Zephaniah 3:16–17

We say together:

**Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.**

Confession and Absolution follow.

During Advent, instead of the Gloria, we say together:

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

COLLECTS OF THE DAY AND SEASON

Almighty God, you sent your Son into a world ,
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility:
that, on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 12:2–6

**Response: Shout aloud and sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him,
‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves,
“We have Abraham as our ancestor”;
for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees;
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit
is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’
In reply he said to them,
‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever
has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they
asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them,
‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’
Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’
He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats
or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,
‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor
and to gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.
For the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Church of Tanzania; The Diocese of Adelaide; Archdeaconry of The Yarra; St Thomas', Werribee; St John's, Healesville; St Paul's, Yarra Glen; Christ Church, Essendon; St John's, Blackburn; St Alfred's, Blackburn North; and St Mary's, Sunbury

For all in need

Ann; Bethany and family; David; Denise; Esther; Helen; Jan; Jane; John; Kaye; Loris, David and all the Goodes family; Ravi; Roma; and Ted.

For the Faithful Departed

We remember those who have died recently: Pam Goodes and whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Elizabeth Ruth Duffield; Lorna Hope Wroughton Fulton; Colin Harris; Gladys Lewis; George Matthews; and Jessica Wakefield.

COMMISSIONING OF MEMBERS OF THE INCUMBENCY COMMITTEE

Vicar: My brothers and sisters, we are all called to be the Body of Christ, the community of the Holy Spirit.
The risen Lord Jesus pours out on his baptized people gifts and graces for the work of the Church.
Today we commission these of our number who have been chosen to represent us on the Diocesan Nomination Committee.
The Nomination Committee, of which our lay representatives are part, is charged to discern who the next Vicar should be.

The Vicar addresses those to be commissioned:

Judy, Leigh and Simon, I now ask each of you to answer before God and in the presence of this congregation:
Will you undertake your task wholeheartedly and faithfully, alive to the joy that Christian service brings?

Those appointed and elected respond:

I will, with God's help, and the prayerful support of others.

Vicar: I commission you as Parish Nominators, a position to which you have been appointed and elected, and assure you of my prayers and support.

The Vicar then addresses the congregation:

People of St George's, you have heard our brother and sisters commit themselves to this ministry.
Will you pray for them, support and encourage them, open yourselves to their leading, and work with them, so that Christ's church in this place may be built up in love?

We will, with God's help.

The Vicar continues:

Let us pray:

Living God, you have called us to be the Body of Christ.

May our parish be a sign of hope in this community.

May all we do, and all we are becoming,

bring praise to your name and draw others to your love.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus,

who came to serve and bring us the fullness of life. **Amen.**

The Vicar concludes:

May God bless you and make fruitful all that you undertake in God’s name. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings next week

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2–5a

Hebrews 10:5–10

Song of Mary

Luke 1:39–45

The Week Ahead

Tuesday	Holy Eucharist at Cabrini Hospital 12 noon. All welcome.
Saturday	THOMAS, APOSTLE AND MARTYR followed by Working Bee

A reminder that the Daily Offices (Morning and Evening Prayer) are prayed in St Martin’s Chapel each Monday – Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively, and can be joined via Zoom at:

Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

NOTICES

Congratulations to all appointed and elected Parish leaders, who will be commissioned for their ministries this morning:

Judy Mallinson (Vicar's appointment), Leonie Bird and Robyn Whitehouse (Churchwardens); David Amos, Ray Lester, Sandra Morgan, Venetia Patchett, Geraldine Powell, Gavin Watson, Judy Wright; Riley Brooks and Meg Winter (Vicar's appointments), (Parish Councillors); Simon Dickie, Leigh Mackay and Judy Mallinson (Wardens' appointment) (Parish Nominators).

We thank God for their willingness to serve in these roles, and please continue to pray for them as they begin their work.

Today at 2:00 p.m., the **Choir of St George's together with Stonnington City Brass** will present a concert entitled *Celebrate Christmas with Brass and Voice*. Tickets (free) can be booked here: www.trybooking.com/CXGPP

A Working Bee to clean the Church in preparation for Christmas will take place **next Saturday December 21 from 9:30 a.m.** Why not come for Morning Prayer before we start the polishing, sweeping and other cleaning? Morning tea will obviously occur!

There is a collection of goods for the **Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project next Sunday 22 December**. This does wonderful work in assisting those waiting to hear of their applications for asylum, and the work continues despite many difficulties. They always appreciate our collections of money, vouchers and food. Please refer to the flyers on the entrance counter for items of particular need.

First Sunday of Christmas, December 29

There will be a combined service on this morning, which will be an opportunity for all in the parish to say "thank you and farewell" to our Assistant Curate, Aaron Ghiloni, and Jodi. Do ensure you are present to mark a sad day for us in one way, but a day also on which to give thanks for all that has been given to us in the past two years.

Please: (1) collect an envelope from the sidespersons' desk in which to offer money towards a 'thank you' gift for Aaron, **or use the tap and go machine**, ensuring you record the date and amount given (no names necessary), so that your gift offering is not caught up with other funds received via tap and go;

(2) let Sandra Morgan know of anything you are willing to bring to a 'brunch' after the service.



Roster for today THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 15 December 2024		Roster for next Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 22 December 2024	
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist		8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-person	Campell Paine	Sides-person	Bryan Elmes
Acolyte	Bryan Elmes	Acolyte	Malcolm Tadgell
Eucharistic Assistants	Bryan Elmes Leigh Mackay	Eucharistic Assistants	Miriam Cherry Betty Renjen
Intercessor	Jenny Robertson	Intercessor	Leonie Bird
Readers	Leonie Bird David Sheppard	Readers	Jenny Weller-Newton Judy Mallinson
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist		10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-persons	Sandra Morgan Ewan Morgan	Sides-persons	Geraldine Powell Grant Rowlands
Acolytes	Andrew Murray Vincent Amos	Acolytes	Pam Felgate Meg Winter
Eucharistic Assistants	Andrew Murray Judy Mallinson	Eucharistic Assistants	Ewan Morgan Clergy
Intercessor	Judy Wright	Intercessor	John Stewart
Readers	Andrea King David Powell	Readers	Robyn Whitehouse Grant Rowlands
Morning Tea	Sandra Morgan Ewan Morgan	Morning Tea	Pam Felgate David Amos
Thursday 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist		Thursday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-person	Judy Wright	for St Stephen, in St Martin's Chapel	
Reader	Judy Wright		

Of your charity, please continue to pray for those in long term need or sickness:
His Majesty the King; HRH The Princess of Wales; Angus; Ann; Geoff; Ivan; Jane; Joan; Sarah;
and Simon.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S, MALVERN

COME CELEBRATE THE PRINCE OF PEACE!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WITH STONNINGTON CITY BRASS

Sunday 15 December at 2pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Children's Service

10:30pm Carols in the Church

**11pm First Communion of Christmas
("Midnight Mass")**

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Traditional Christmas Service



www.stgeorgesmalvern.org

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CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday

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WARDENS

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Judy Mallinson

0414 752 957

Robyn Whitehouse

0409 707 117

CHILD SAFE OFFICER

Leonie Bird

0409 860 026

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of this unceded land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.

