
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**ADVENT 1
1 DECEMBER 2024**



WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. It is good to have you here today and we hope that you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter our church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion and/or receive anointing for healing at the back. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited.

If you do not wish to drink the wine, we invite you to pause briefly before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on Facebook Live. During administration of communion, the camera is adjusted so that no one coming forward is visible online.

HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

We have a Hearing Assistance System available on Wi-Fi, usable with or without hearing aids. Please ask the stewards for assistance.

Please email office@theodores.org to join our mailing list.

Please stand if you wish

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 24 "Come thou long expected Jesus"

- 1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley © CP 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kaurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures forever.

WELCOME

ADVENT 1

1 Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray;
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day.

Mark Earey © SP 2010 Sin

A candle is lit on the Advent Wreath as the priest says:

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
You have called your people through the ages
to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfillment.

**May we be obedient to your call
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.**

OPENING SENTENCE

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.
(Luke 21.28)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KYRIES

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;**

**we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit
you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33.14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25.1-10

Response: Remember O Lord your compassion and love

- ¹ In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:
in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ² Let none who wait for you be put to shame:
but let those that break faith be confounded and gain nothing. **R**
- ³ Show me your ways, O Lord:
and teach me your paths.
- ⁴ Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:
for you are the God of my salvation. **R**
- ⁵ In you have I hoped all the day long:
because of your goodness, O Lord.
- ⁶ Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:
for they are from of old. **R**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions:
but according to your mercy think on me.
- ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord:
T herefore will he direct sinners in the way. **R**
- ⁹ The meek he will guide in the path of justice:
and teach the humble his ways.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:
for those who keep his covenant and his commandments. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3.9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most

earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you wish

GRADUAL HYMN: ESP18 “Precious Wisdom, holy dove”

- 1 Precious Wisdom, holy dove,
give us joy from heaven above.
Be your Church’s living heart,
bringing peace to every part.
- 2 Gather all your children near,
teach us justice, banish fear.
Call your daughters and your sons,
name us with your faithful ones.
- 3 Till the new creation’s birth
brings to love the aching earth,
give us courage for the new,
make us bold in seeking you.

© Elizabeth J Smith

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Seek the Lord while he is still / to be found,
Call to him while he / is still near.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 21.25–38
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁵ Jesus said, ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

²⁹ Then Jesus told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying

that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

³⁷ Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸ And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

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

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Conclusion:

Hear us Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
**who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

Please stand if you wish

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 31 "Lo, he comes with clouds descending"

- 1 Lo he comes in clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia
God appears on earth to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty,
Those who set at nought and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree.
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne!
Saviour, take the power and glory;
Claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley and John Cennick
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PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT 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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross

and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again

in power and great triumph to judge the world,

we may with joy behold his appearing,

and in confidence stand before him

who redeems us from sin and death

and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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 in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

† Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate
So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;
those who have been here often
and those who have not been for a long time;
those who have tried to follow Jesus;
and we who have failed.
Come.

Please stand if you wish

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
(Luke 21.33)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us
with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Let us pray.
**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness
from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes
in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand if you wish

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: CP 590 "The Kingdom is upon you"

- 1 The kingdom is upon you!
the voices of Jesus cries,
fulfilling with its message
the wisdom of the wise;
it lightens with fresh insight
the striving human mind,
creating new dimensions
of faith for all to find.

- 2 God's kingdom is upon you!
the message sounds today,
it summons every pilgrim
to take the questioning way,
with eyes intent on Jesus,
our leader and our friend,
who trod faith's road before us,
and trod it to the end.

- 3 The kingdom is upon us!
Stirred by the Spirit's breath,
we glory in its freedom
from emptiness and death;
we celebrate its purpose,
its mission and its goal,
alive with the conviction
that Christ can make us whole.

Robert Willis © CP 2001

POSTLUDE: BONINGHTON: HYMN PRELUDE ON "WACHET AUF"

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.

The sermon is preceded by a short Children's Talk if there are children present.