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**ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS**

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**ADVENT 4  
22 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, but this cannot be guaranteed.

## **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](mailto:office@theodores.org) to join our mailing list.

*Please stand if you wish*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN CP 64 "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"**

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.
  
- 2 O that birth forever blessèd,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.
  
- 3 O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

Prudentius *tr* J.M. Neale  
@ 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 4 SP 7

Mary's gift beyond all telling  
we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling,  
born to show the way.  
Who could guess the final story?  
- cross and glory; Easter Day!

Words by Mark Earey  
© 2010 Sing Praise

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

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:  
to you be praise and glory for ever!  
Blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;  
blessed is Joseph who believed and obeyed;  
blessed is Mary who bore your Word made flesh.

**May we share with them in your great work  
of bringing to our world your healing and love;  
through Christ our Light  
who is coming into the world.  
Blessed be God for ever.**

## OPENING SENTENCE

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. (Luke 1.45)

## 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**

Gracious God,  
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through 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.**

*Please be seated*

#### **FIRST READING: MICAH 5.2-5A**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: A SONG OF MARY**

#### **Response: My Spirit rejoices in God my saviour**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:  
from this day all generations will call me blessed. **R**  
The Almighty has done great things for me:  
and holy is his name.  
God has mercy on those who fear him:  
from generation to generation. **R**  
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:  
and lifting up the lowly. **R**  
God has filled the hungry with good things:  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
The promise made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

**SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10.5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in  
sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are  
offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, 'See, I have come to do  
your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it  
is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the  
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you wish*

**GRADUAL HYMN: CP 27 "HARK THE GLAD SOUND!"**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

2 Christ comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst;  
the iron fetters yield.



3 Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and from the treasuries of grace  
to bless the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

Philip Doddridge @ CP 2001

## THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**The virgin shall conceive and / bear a son,  
And they shall name him Em- / manuel.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 1.39-45  
**‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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:*

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: SP 13 "LONGING FOR LIGHT"

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell @ SP 2010

## **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

**Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Luke 1.41b-42)**

## 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 30 "LIFT UP YOUR HEADS"

- 1 Lift up your heads, you mighty gates,  
behold, the King of Glory waits,  
the King of kings is drawing near,  
the Saviour of the world is here.
- 2 O blest the land, the city blest  
where Christ the ruler is confessed.  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
to whom this King in triumph comes.



3 Fling wide the portals of your heart,  
make it a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

4 Come, Saviour, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide:  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on,  
until our glorious goal is won.

Georg Weissel tr Catherine  
Winkworth @ CP 2001

### POSTLUDE: MOORE: DIGNITATE

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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.