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**ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS**

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**CHRISTMAS 1  
29 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 46 “BEHOLD, THE GREAT CREATOR MAKES”**

- 1 Behold, the great Creator makes  
himself a house of clay,  
in human flesh, our form he takes  
which he will bear for aye.
- 2 Hark, how the wise eternal Word  
as a weak infant cries!  
in form of servant is the Lord,  
and God in cradle lies.
- 3 This wonder all the world amazed,  
it shook the starry frame;  
squadrons of spirits stood and gazed,  
then down in troops they came.
- 4 Glad shepherds ran to view this sight;  
a choir of angels sings,  
and eastern sages with delight  
adore this King of kings.
- 5 Join then, all hearts that are not stone,  
and all our voices prove,  
and celebrate this Holy One,  
the God of peace and love.

Thomas Pestel © 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.**

## WELCOME

## OPENING SENTENCE

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful. (Colossians 3.14–15)

## 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

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

*Silence may be kept*

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, 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.**

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of community,

whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood:

may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked with ours  
that we fail not in loyalty to you,

but make choices according to your will;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 2.18-20, 2.26

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

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

## PSALM 148

### **Response: Praise O praise the name of the Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:  
O praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels:  
O praise him, all his host.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon:  
praise him, all you stars of light. **R**

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heaven:  
and you waters that are above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for he commanded and they were made.

<sup>6</sup> He established them for ever and ever:  
he made an ordinance which shall not pass away. **R**

<sup>7</sup> O praise the Lord from the earth:  
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> Fire and hail, mist and snow:  
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills:  
fruit trees and all cedars; **R**

- <sup>10</sup> Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:  
    creeping things and winged birds;
- <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth, and all peoples:  
    princes, and all rulers of the world;
- <sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens:  
    old folk and children together. **R**
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
    for his name alone is exalted.
- <sup>14</sup> His glory is above earth and heaven:  
    and he has lifted high the horn of his people.
- <sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:  
    of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord. **R**

### **SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3.12-17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

*Please stand if you wish*



## GRADUAL HYMN: CP 75 "WHERE IS THIS STUPENDOUS STRANGER"

- 1 Where is this stupendous Stranger?  
prophets, shepherds, kings, advise!  
lead me to my Master's manger,  
show me where my Saviour lies.
- 2 O most Mighty, O most Holy,  
far beyond the seraph's thought,  
are you then so mean and lowly  
as unheeded prophets taught?
- 3 Oh, the magnitude of meekness!  
worth from worth immortal sprung!  
Oh, the strength of infant weakness,  
if eternal is so young!
- 4 God all bounteous, all creative,  
whom our sins could not dissuade,  
you have come to be a native  
of the very world he made.

Christopher Smart © CP 2001

## THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Arise, shine for your / light has come  
And the glory of the Lord / is upon you.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2.41-52  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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: CP 74 "WHAT CHILD IS THIS"**

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
this, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him praise,  
the babe, the son of Mary.
  
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here  
His love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
All tongues and peoples own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings;  
let every heart enthrone him.  
raise, raise your song on high;  
while Mary sings a lullaby.  
joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

William Chatterton Dix © CP 2001

### **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.

In your Word made flesh  
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

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.

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

**Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3.14)**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of heaven, dwelling among us,  
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.  
By your grace keep us ever faithful  
to your Word made flesh  
that as his body in the world  
we may bring your presence to all people.



## PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,  
**you send us into the world you love.**  
**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage**  
**in the power of your Spirit.**

## BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
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 SP 22 "WHO WOULD THINK THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED"

- 1 Who would think that what was needed  
to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army  
proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

2 Shepherds watch and wise ones wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place a none would reckon  
hosts a holy, helpless thing;  
stabled beasts and bypassed strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

3 Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether  
with such progress we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day

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SP 2010

**POSTLUDE: DANQUIN: NOEL SUISSE**

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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.