



BLUE CHRISTMAS

On the 4th Sunday of Advent

6 pm • 22 December 2024

St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide

St Peter's Cathedral resides on the lands of the Kaurna people. We give thanks for their ancestors and acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country. We are committed to work and pray towards a more just settlement for all Indigenous people and pay our respect to First Nations people with us.

St Peter's Cathedral is a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented faith community.

Officiant: The Right Reverend Chris McLeod

Reflection: The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould

Organist: Andrew Georg

Choir: Festival Statesmen Chorus

Conductor: Jonathan Bligh

Welcome to St Peter's Cathedral as we gather on this evening of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We know that the telling of the story of the Birth of the Christ Child is coming. Our task is a gentle one ... to embrace the waiting.

For many, we approach Christmas hoping to know it a season of joy and hope. For many, perhaps all of us, the joy is woven with the sadnesses of our own lives, the griefs in our families' lives, the struggles of the world in which we live. For some of us, the grief is all we can know at Christmas. And so, at this service of Blue Christmas, we spend time with that grief. We will light candles, we will listen to the music of the organ, we will ponder words of scripture and we will sing hymns.

As we gather this night, may we know that the God of love who was born as a baby in Bethlehem is with us, may we know that the light of God's love shines in the darkness.

Jenny Wilson
Canon Precentor

Please join us in saying the words in bold. All indications for sitting, kneeling, and standing are a guide only: please do whatever is most comfortable for you.

When the handbell rings, please stand as the choir sings, from the West Door

INTROIT

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art*

*A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;*

*Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

*Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.*

*Das Röslein, das ich meine,
davon Isaias sagt,
ist Maria die reine,
die uns das Blümlein bracht.*

*The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;*

*Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren
und blieb ein reine Magd.*

*Through God's great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
And in the dark midnight.*

*Das Blümelein, so kleine,
das duftet uns so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis.*

*This Flow'r whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.*

*Wahr Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.*

*True Man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.*

The officiant says

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners to repentance,
have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, sent to heal those who are burdened in soul,
have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, now seated at the Father's right hand to intercede for us,
have mercy on us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.
Praise the Lord!

Please remain standing and join in singing the hymn

HYMN 79 – O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (FOREST GREEN)

- 1 **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 **O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**
- 3 **How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**
- 4 **O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

WORDS: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

MUSIC: English traditional melody harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

last verse arrangement by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*

Please sit

The Paschal Candle is lit

We light this candle, the candle of Christ's light and life, and symbol of God's presence with us even in the darkness. We remember all who gaze into the night sky with longing and with hope, all who listen for the song of the angels. We pray that this light will also kindle a flame of hope in our heavy hearts.

Other candles are lit

We light this **candle of memory and loss**, inviting Christ's light into our darkness. We remember those we have loved and lost. We acknowledge our sorrow and we look to the light in hope.

We light this **candle of compassion and community** in honour of the hope and support we have received from family and friends who have walked with us. We thank you, Holy God, for your expression of love through them.

We light this **candle of wisdom** as a prayer for the grace to accept what cannot be changed and to move forward even when our hearts are raging against the pain. May we be at peace in Christ's light.

We light this **candle of faith**, believing that even when we feel most alone, you, O Lord, are with us; even when we deny you and run from you, your love never changes. May our faith be strengthened day by day.

All are invited to light a candle at either of the stations on the Nave Platform. There is no hurry. Let your candle burn as a symbol of light and hope.

Please listen reflectively as the choir sings

Music: Gustaf Nordqvist (1886-1949)

Words: Edvard Evers (1853-1919)

Jul; Jul; Strålande Jul (Swedish Christmas song)

*Jul, jul, strålande jul,
glans över vita skogar,
himmelens kronor med gnistrande ljus,
glimmande bågar i alla Guds hus,
psalm som är sjungen från tid till tid,
eviga längtan till ljus och frid!
Jul, jul, strålande jul;
glans över vita skogar.*

*Kom, kom, signade jul!
Sänd dina vita vingar
över stridernas blod och larm,
över all suckan ur människobarm,
över de släkten som gå till ro,
över de ungas dagande bo!
Kom, kom, signade jul!
Sänk dina vita vingar.*

Christmas, Christmas, glorious Christmas
Shine over white forests
The crowns of heaven with sparkling lights
Glistening bows in each of God's houses
A hymn sung time and time again
Eternal longing for light and peace
Christmas, glorious Christmas
Shine over white forests

Come, come holy Christmas!
Wrap your white wings
Around the blood and turmoil of war
Around all the people's sighs
Around all the families who travel to peace
Around the youth's daily lives
Come, come, holy Christmas
Bring your white wings down

THE COLLECTS

Father of all,
we pray to you for those whom we love but see no longer.
Grant them your peace,
let light perpetual shine upon them,
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power,
work in them the good purpose of your perfect will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came among 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

LAMENTATIONS 3:1-3, 19-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's wrath;
he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Please join in the reading of the Psalm, saying the verses in bold type

PSALM 80.7-19

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;
it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.**

Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

**The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.**

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

**They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.**

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

**Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

JOHN 14:1-6

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould

The choir sings

Franz Biebl (1906-2001) *Ave Maria*

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.*

*The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Maria dixit:
Ecce ancilla Domini
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.*

*Mary said:
Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.
Do to me according to your word.*

Ave Maria, gratia plena...

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

*Et verbum caro factum est
Et habitavit in nobis.*

*And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us.*

Ave Maria, gratia plena...

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

*Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

Led by the Right Reverend Chris McLeod

The prayers conclude:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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.**

Please stand to sing

HYMN 84 – SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT! (STILLE NACHT)

**1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!**

**2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!'**

**3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), translated by John Freeman Youn (1820-1885)
Music: Melody by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), arranged by David Iliff (b. 1939)
Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*

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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.

You are invited to listen reflectively to the organ postlude.

Kerensa Briggs (b.1991) Light In Darkness

As you leave the Cathedral, a Retiring Collection will be received in support of the Cathedral's mission and ministry. Cash and digital options are available.

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

The life and work of this Cathedral is made possible through the generosity of individuals like you.



St Peter's
nurturing spirit and mind
CATHEDRAL

Your gift helps us to maintain this iconic building for all people to enjoy, to continue a strong music and liturgy tradition, and to support the mission of the Church. You can donate in these ways:

- ◆ Envelopes and/or cash in the Collection plates or the Donation Boxes around the Cathedral.
- ◆ Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB 705-077 Account Number 00040056 (include your name as reference)
- ◆ Use the Tap & Go machine to make an instant donation.
- ◆ Debit/Credit card: Scan the QR code to be taken directly to our online donation page.

NOTICES

Tea/coffee after worship

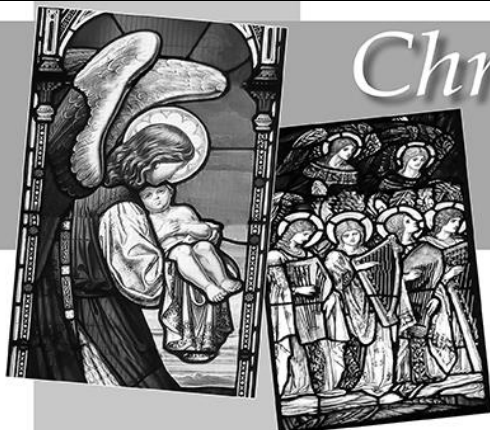
- The Sunday 8 am community offers tea and coffee after the Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month. The next gathering will take place on 5 January.
- The Wednesday 10 am community offers tea and coffee after the Eucharist on the first Wednesday each month. The next gathering will take place on Wednesday 1 January.
- After the 10:30 am Eucharist, tea and coffee is offered weekly, other than on 29 December.

January Worship Schedule

The weekday worship schedule from Christmas to the end of January is according to the "January" pattern with Morning and Evening Prayer said privately, and the Eucharist celebrated on Wednesday at 7:30 am and 10 am (BCP), and Friday at 7:30 am. This pattern will commence from Thursday 26 December until Friday 31 January.

On Sunday 29 December the Eucharist will be celebrated at 8 am and 10:30 am as usual, but there will be no 6 pm service. On Wednesday 1 January, there will be no 7:30 am Eucharist, but the BCP Eucharist will be celebrated as usual at 10 am.

During January, Sunday worship will be at the usual times of 8 am (BCP Eucharist), 10:30 am (Sung Eucharist) and 6 pm (Night Prayer).



Christmas at St Peter's Cathedral

All Welcome

Sunday 22 December 2024

6pm: **Blue Christmas Service**
(Evening service with hymns)

A service for those who are struggling this Christmas.
The simple act of lighting a candle serves to remind us
that the darkness has not overcome the light. (John 1:5)
With Festival Statesmen Chorus and Organ.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday 24 December 2024

4pm: **Children's Crib Service**

Children are invited to come dressed as characters
from the Christmas story.
This service will last approximately one hour.

7pm: **Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**
With the Cathedral Choir, Organ, and Brass

11pm: **The First Eucharist of Christmas**
(Midnight Mass)

Doors open at 10.15pm
With the Cathedral Choir and Organ.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December 2024

8am: **Holy Communion (BCP) with Carols**

10am: **Festal Choral Eucharist**
With the Cathedral Choir and Organ.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For the Church

International

The Church of the Province of Uganda
Primate: Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba

National

Sydney: Archbishop Kanishka Raffel (Cailey)

South Australia

Diocese of Adelaide

Adelaide, St Luke's: Gethzi Asirvatham (Samson), John Magak (Mary), Steve Davis (Lyn)

Diocese of Willochra

Whyalla (Iron Knob, Whyalla): vacant; Anglicare Outreach Centre in Whyalla; TACL (Training Aboriginal Christian Leaders) working with Indigenous People at Port Augusta, Ceduna and the Pitjantjatjara Lands

Diocese of The Murray

For the continuing formation, education and training for ordained ministry: Brenton Dick, Daniel Irvine, Bruce Hicks, Ian Jansse, Des Ackland, Margaret Holt, Carol Cornwall, Rodney Fopp, Rory Westgarth

For the People

We hold before God all those who have asked for our prayers, particularly:

Short Term Prayer: Bruce Williams, Bill Ashman, Francis Brooks, Keith Rayner.

Long Term Prayer: Max Lennard, Chris, Bridie Maxwell, Meredith Chesterman, Vernon Lewis, Pauline Van Buren, Alisha Coe-Fox, Anne Hogben, Helena Fernandez, Cricket Fox, Daniella, Peter Black, Norton & Judy Schenscher, John Hankin, Brooke Garry, David, Christine Chomel, Oliver (WCH), Edna Allison, Jane Mitchell, Garry Weatherill, Helen Scotcher, Fay Ballard, Joseph Burgess (WCH), Charlie Denton.

Those who have died recently, especially Margaret Chittleborough and Phil Fox.

Those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

22nd Daniel Ditmar-Jansse

Kathleen Moyle

Jean Douglas McNicol

23rd Priscilla Mary Gilbert Brown

Fiona Macdonald

25th Walter James Park

Marjorie Wickes

Marian Evans

26th Ross Anderson

27th Avis Irene Milner

Joan Margaret Grotto

28th Harold Sloman

Mieke Catherine Freriks

Jean Charlton

The Cathedral is compiling a database of the lives of those whose names appear on the Year's Mind list. If you have any biographical details of any of the people remembered today, please contact Stuart Langshaw - langshawstuart@gmail.com

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHEDRAL

For some services, the West Doors of the Cathedral are not opened. Please make your way to the northern (carpark) side of the Cathedral and enter through the St Barnabas Porch.

MONDAY 23 DECEMBER	7:30 am Eucharist (Lady Chapel) 9:15 am Morning Prayer (at St Barnabas College) Cathedral closed for visiting
TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE	7:30 am Eucharist (Lady Chapel) 8:45 am Morning Prayer (Dean's Chapel) 4 pm Children's Crib Service 7 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 11 pm Midnight Mass (Doors open at 10.15pm) Preacher – The Archbishop of Adelaide
WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY	8 am Eucharist (BCP) Preacher – The Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold AO 10 am Festal Choral Eucharist Preacher – The Right Rev'd Chris McLeod
THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER ST STEPHEN, MARTYR	10:30 am - 3:30 pm Open for visiting and private prayer
FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST	7:30 am Eucharist (Lady Chapel) 1 pm - 3:30 pm Open for visiting and private prayer
SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Cathedral Closed
SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10:30 am Sung Eucharist Preacher – The Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold AO No Evensong today

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Dean	The Right Reverend Chris McLeod
Canon Precentor	The Reverend Canon Jenny Wilson
Assistant Priest	The Reverend Dr Susan Straub
Assistant Priest	The Reverend Margaret Peel-Shakespeare
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold AO
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Reverend Joan Claring-Bould
Honorary Assistant Deacon	The Reverend Ben Falcon
Cathedral Administrator	Peter Burdon
Cathedral Office	Alice Gent, Robyn Shilcock
Director of Music	Anthony Hunt
Cathedral Organist	Andrew Georg
Dean's Warden	Dr Rijke Mellor
People's Warden	Gerald Lipman