ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona St Clement's Altona Meadows O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



To proclaim God's love and life in Christ: growing in faith \$\psi\$ serving others \$\psi\$ nurturing a common life

19th December 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:45am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 8:45am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Holy Eucharist and Baptism, St Eanswythe's

> Wominjeka :: Haere mai Welcome



A warm welcome to our worship today, especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting from elsewhere.

This booklet contains the full order of service: please join in the parts printed in bold type.

During these times we are all asked to take responsibility for COVID-safe precautions:

- ♦ If you have any symptoms of illness, you should be remaining at home.
- ♦Please use hand sanitiser on arriving and leaving, check in by the QR system, and maintain physical distancing where possible.
- ♦ We are asked to continue wearing masks in larger gatherings or when in close proximity to others.

Our parish lies on the country of the Kulin nation. We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

ADVENT

The season of Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) is a time of preparation and prayer. It is a wilderness time, perhaps best represented by the figure of John the Baptist who announced the coming of the Holy One, and who called upon God's people to repent. As Christmas draws closer, our attention is also drawn to Mary, who followed God's call to a vital role in the Word becoming flesh.

There are two horizons to the waiting and longing which are characteristic of Advent (which simply means 'coming'). Most obviously, we look towards Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. But we also look towards Jesus' future coming in glory, the time when all things will be gathered into God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

The liturgical colour of Advent is purple, reflecting the note of expectancy. We are invited to a deeper awareness of our dependence on God for the healing and redemption of all nations and the whole creation. The fundamental Advent prayer is expressed in the Aramaic word *Maranatha*— 'Our Lord, come'.

The tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath, week by week, originated in northern Europe in the nineteenth century and has been widely adopted by Christian churches around the world. In the northern hemisphere, Advent falls at the darkest time of year and so the symbolism of light in darkness has a particular resonance. In Australia, the season of Advent leads us towards the longest, brightest days of the year, a different but equally powerful image.

Lord Jesus, come!

As the days grow longer and the sun's heat increases, increase our faith, and bring us to worship you by your cradle, at your cross, in your resurrection, and at your glorious coming again with judgement and with mercy. Amen.

(Prayer from Anglican Church of Australia Liturgical Commission)

Gathering in God's name

We meet in God's name, as God's people – children of God in all our rich diversity, with all that we carry from the complexity of our lives.

We turn to God in praise and prayer; this includes recalling all that has separated us from God, and claiming the love and forgiveness that is always held out to us.

The Collect then 'collects' these prayers and turns our attention towards the Bible readings which will follow.

HYMN 268 Joy to the world

(at 8:45 and 10:30: the red hymn book Together in Song is found in the pew in front of you)

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

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND PREPARATION

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The priest says

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The fourth candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

THE COLLECT (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.

Opening the Scriptures

The readings come from different parts of the Bible: different perspectives on the great story of God's presence and purpose among us. In the psalm we respond with the ancient words of prayer of God's people.

The sermon adds to our own reflections on the readings, and then we respond by affirming the faith as handed to us from previous generations.

We bring our prayers for the world and the Church, trusting that all things and all people are in God's hands.

At the greeting of peace, we recognise that God's gift of peace constantly renews our human relationships and forms us as the Body of Christ.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

though you are the least significant of Judah's forces,

one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.

His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.

Therefore, he will give them up

until the time when she who is in labour gives birth.

The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell secure,

because he will surely become great throughout the earth;

he will become one of peace.

(5.2-5a; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE PSALM: MARY'S SONG

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;

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.

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. 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

The promise made to our forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever.

(Luke 1.46-55)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Therefore, when Christ comes into the world he says,

You didn't want a sacrifice or an offering,

but you prepared a body for me;

you weren't pleased with entirely burned offerings or a sin offering.

So then I said,

"Look, I've come to do your will, God.

This has been written about me in the scroll."

He says above, You didn't want and you weren't pleased with a sacrifice or an offering or with entirely burned offerings or a purification offering, which are offered because the Law requires them. Then he said, Look, I've come to do your will. He puts an end to the first to establish the second. We have been made holy by God's will through the offering of Jesus Christ's body once for all.

(10.5-10; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 173 My soul gives glory to the Lord (at 8:45 and 10:30, found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Alleluia.

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honour, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

(1.39-45; CEB)

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church: We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

The response to the prayers is Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer

God of this ancient land, holy beyond time and place, you search us out and name us your beloved children. Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person. Send your Spirit to renew our life, and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Everyone is invited to turn to those around, and offer a greeting of peace from where you stand.

Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the basket/box provided.

Celebrating at the Lord's table

Our offerings of money and groceries remind us that we are called to participate with our lives and livelihoods in the coming of God's kingdom of justice, healing and peace.

In the Great Thanksgiving, the priest voices the prayer of the whole assembly, recalling the mighty acts of God, Jesus' saving death and resurrection, and his last meal with his friends. The prayer calls on the Holy Spirit to make Christ present in our sharing of bread and wine, and to remake us as Christ's body in the world. We respond with the Lord's Prayer, as the crucified and risen Jesus prays anew through us.

Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.

HYMN 288 Not the powerful, not the privileged (at 8:45 and 10:30, found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

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.

The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:

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.

The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God. All join in affirming:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words that Jesus taught us:

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread and says

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.

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. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

This is the Lord's table. All who seek God's mercy are welcome.

Everyone is invited to share communion or receive a blessing: please come forward as indicated and stand at one of the places marked in white. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. If you would prefer not to share communion, please indicate when the minister comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

He became poor that we may be rich, loving the world and leaving his throne; King of all kings, and Lord of all lords, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. (Hymn 721)

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Going into the world

The Eucharist is food for the journey of faith, whatever awaits us as we go out to the rest of our lives. We have been renewed, transformed, and blessed: now we take that blessing to share with others, in our words and actions, our hearts and lives.

'The Eucharist never ends - it must be lived.'

NOTICES

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

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

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.

HYMN 265 O come, O come Emmanuel (at 8:45 and 10:30, found in the red hymn book Together in Song; the final four verses of this hymn are sung unaccompanied)

DISMISSAL

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Material for this service is taken from A Prayer Book for Australia (1995) and Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) and is reproduced by permission.



Each church has a unique online donation link for the Christmas Bowl Appeal: you will receive an individual receipt, and your gift will also be associated with our parish. To donate, visit: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/46652 (You can also donate using envelopes which available at the back of each church.)

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WEEK

Praying together and at home

READINGS

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings beforehand:

Readings for midweek Eucharists: 22nd & 23rd December

Job 17.1-16; Psalm 88; Luke 16.19-26

Readings for Christmas Eve: 24th December

Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 2.1-20

Readings for Christmas Day: 25th December

Isaiah 62.6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3.4-9a; Luke 2.1-20

Readings for next Sunday: 26th December

Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

DAILY PRAYER

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are shared at Eanswythe's through the week: see the back page for times this week.

For our prayers:

<u>The world and nation:</u> For the families and community rocked by tragedy in Devonport this week.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in China, Hong Kong and Macau. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Gippsland (Bp Richard Treloar, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St John's Toorak (Peter French, Keiron Jones).

Agencies supported by our parish: Anglicare Victoria – for prison chaplaincy ministry across the state. <u>Our parish & community:</u> For people under financial strain over this season. For Liam Baran as we give thanks for his birth today.

Those with particular needs at this time: Vivienne, Nalani, Les, Lola.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Dot Kearsley (19), Grace Ngatai (19), Betty Duckmanton (19), Noel Landers (20).

To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, for those needing prayers now or to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact one of the clergy.

If you have a prayer request to be included as we gather regularly for prayer throughout the week, please find the prayer box near the church entrance and fill out a card, or contact one of the clergy.

SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Dear friends,

This COVID journey continues to keep us on our toes! Once again this week, there has been an unexpected easing of restrictions: vaccination requirements have now been removed for worship services. This means that all our services will now be open to all, without any need to provide proof of vaccination.

In some ways this comes as a relief, particularly as it means that we are no longer being required to exclude anyone from sharing in our worship. On the other hand, some may be concerned about a possible increase in risk from this change. And as we are all aware, our wider context includes many concerns and unknowns regarding the spread of the Omicron variant of the virus.

Parish Council's COVID-safe group met during the week to discuss how our parish should respond to these changes. Our ongoing intention is that as many people as possible should feel able to join our services together. We also recognise that, as in the wider community, responsibility for COVID safety is now shifting away from blanket mandates and towards each of us taking individual responsibility for our own and each other's wellbeing.

For the time being, then, we are strongly requesting that masks continue to be worn at services with more than 25 people. This is a simple and established measure to reduce risk, and to make clear that we share a commitment to making our gatherings safe for everyone. It is an important way that we can choose to care for each other at this time.

Of course, we also continue with other measures that are part of this care and responsibility: using hand sanitiser, and keeping some distance where possible. (At St Eanswythe's, chairs will be set out in the Lady Chapel on Sundays so that we can spread out in the church.)

Refreshments are not seen as part of the service and so are still governed by vaccination requirements: it's preferable for all of us to be outside anyway, but to remain inside for refreshments you still need to be fully vaccinated.

Some have asked about returning to sharing a common cup at communion. This is no longer prohibited, but health officials urge against it—so we will continue with our current practice for the time being.

Thank you so much for your patience, understanding and goodwill as we continue to navigate these difficult times together. Clearly the pandemic is far from over, but there is much for which we can be thankful in our current situation. Please don't hesitate to talk with me or a member of Parish Council if you have particular concerns or suggestions about the way forward.

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Meanwhile, of course, our Advent journey will soon bring us to Christmas, and the birth of the one for whom we have waited. I look forward to sharing in our Christmas worship together, through this week.

May these days bring blessings of peace and joy, to you and to those whom you love. Chris

NOTES AND NEWS

for your information and prayers, from around and beyond the parish

Welcome

Today at 10:30am we welcome **Liam Baran** as, together with his parents, we give thanks for his birth and pray for him on the path towards baptism.

Service of lessons and carols

This evening at St Eanswythe's we will have a beautiful service of readings from the scriptures and Christmas music. A tradition that developed about 150 years ago (barely the blink of an eye in church terms!), at this service nine readings ('lessons') encapsulate the story of our faith: the fall of humanity, the promise of redemption, and the birth of our Redeemer in Christ Jesus.

After all that hard vocal work, the service will be followed by refreshments. Why not invite a friend!

All-age nativity services

At these two services this week (6pm Tuesday at St Eanswythe's, and 5pm Christmas Eve at St Clement's), children are invited to come dressed as an angel, shepherd, wise one ... or animal! These services will often bring a number of families who are visiting us—please do share in making them welcome.

Looking ahead—after Christmas

Next Sunday there will be just one service in the parish, at 9:30am at St Eanswythe's.

The following week, on Sunday 2nd January, we then also begin a trial of a new 5pm service at St Clement's—young and old worshipping together in a slightly more relaxed mode. Do join in as we discover together what this may become!

Thank you

A big thank you to all who have donated in recent weeks to the empty Christmas tree appeal, the Ping Pong-a-Thon raising money to combat slavery, and to particular needs in our community. These gifts have been much appreciated and are an important part of our Advent journey.

COME LORD JESUS

Praying together in Advent

Final gathering this Wednesday evening—all are welcome:

22 December, 7-7:30pm (o): Salvation Army Hobsons Bay Corps, Altona



CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES (these details are also available on a separate sheet)

Sun 19th	7:30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols, St Eanswythe's
Tue 21st	6pm	Nativity service for all ages, St Eanswythe's
Fri 24th (Christmas Eve)	5pm 9pm 11:30pm	Nativity service for all ages, outdoors at St Clement's—bring a rug or chair Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
Sat 25th (Christmas Day)	8am 9:30am	Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's Christmas Eucharist, St Clement's
Sun 26th (Boxing Day)	9:30am	Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's (NB There is just one service in the parish for this Sunday.)

All services are now open to everyone. Since some among us are more vulnerable to infection, we ask that at larger services, masks be worn as part of our care and responsibility for each other.

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY 7:45am Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

9:30am Eucharist (combined parish service), St Eanswythe's

5pm Eucharist (a more relaxed service for all ages), St Clement's

Keeping in touch...

- ⇒ Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ If you are or have been away for a Sunday, you can see recent pew sheets on our website at www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit **www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav** for photos, links, news and updates.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, please send your email address to parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Giving...

⇒ Deposits can be made to the parish Bendigo Bank account at any time (BSB 633 000, account number 157 594 722, account name "St Eanswythe's Altona with St Clement's Laverton Anglican Churches"). For pledge giving please include your name or envelope/reference number. For further details see anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

Please send all material for the pew sheet to parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

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Churchwardens:

Lily Griffin Anita McAnda Scott Pitcher

Child Safe Officer:

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

This week in our parish:

Sunday 19th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:45am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 8:45am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 7:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols, St Eanswythe's

Tuesday 21st

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 6pm All-age Nativity Service, St Eanswythe's

Wednesday 22nd

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 11am Nursing home service, St George's 5pm Evening Prayer, St Eanswythe's 7pm Advent ecumenical prayers, Salvation Army Hobsons Bay Corps

Thursday 23rd

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Friday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 5pm All-age Nativity service, St Clements' 9pm Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 11:30pm Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Saturday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 9:30am Christmas Eucharist, St Clement's

Sunday 26th December First Sunday after Christmas

9:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45am St Clement's and 10:30am St Eanswythe's Groups meeting regularly in the parish:

Youth Group: Fridays fortnightly in term time, at St Clement's or online. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse. Altona Tiddlers Playgroup: Tuesdays in term time, 10am at St Eanswythe's. Contact Jan Lee (9398 2993) Clementines Playgroup: Fridays in term time, 9:30am at St Clement's. Contact Louise (9395 5472) Reflective Bible Study: monthly at the Vicarage, first Tuesday evening at 7:30pm.

Mothers' Union: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Thursday at 11am. Contact Sandra Hansen (0410 040 661) **Caritas:** monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Tuesday evening at 7pm. Contact Joan Meiers (9398 1906)