## 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

## 11th December 2022 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, 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. Please do stay to share refreshments at the end of the service.

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

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 282 The voice of God goes out to all the world (at 10:30am only, found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

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.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

### 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 call us to prepare for the coming of your Son: forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you were proclaimed by John the Baptist: help us also to prepare your way.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you speak through the prophets: make us attentive to hear your word.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

#### 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 COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and 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.

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The desert and the dry land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.
They will burst into bloom,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They will receive the glory of Lebanon,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the LORD's glory,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and support the unsteady knees. Say to those who are panicking: "Be strong! Don't fear! Here's your God, coming with vengeance; with divine retribution God will come to save you."

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.

Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing.

Waters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness.

The burning sand will become a pool, and the thirsty ground, fountains of water.

The jackals' habitat, a pasture;

grass will become reeds and rushes.

A highway will be there.

It will be called The Holy Way.

The unclean won't travel on it,

but it will be for those walking on that way.

Even fools won't get lost on it;

no lion will be there,

and no predator will go up on it.

None of these will be there;

only the redeemed will walk on it.

The LORD's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing,

with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and groaning will flee away.

(35.1-10; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

### Thanks be to God.

### FOR THE PSALM

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 mercy,

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

(Song of Mary)

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of James.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

(5.7-10; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### HYMN 284 O bless the God of Israel

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

#### THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. *Those who were blind are able to see.* Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. *Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.* Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me."

When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

"I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

(11.2-11; CEB)

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 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.

## Celebrating at the Lord's table

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.

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.

#### 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.

HYMN 268 Joy to the world (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

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

The ministry of the parish is sustained by our financial giving, either through the offering plate or by direct bank deposit. Groceries are shared in the community in partnership with Laverton Community Integrated Services and the Hobsons Bay Salvation Army.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### 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:

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

(Hymn 706) Words: Taizé Community © 1982 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License 4-728557.

## 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

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song; the last two 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.

### 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 weekday Eucharists:**

(During Advent our weekday readings are exploring some of the traditional "O" Antiphons, calling on the longed-for Messiah in terms drawn from the scriptures. They have been used in Advent since the 8th century and are familiar to us in the hymn "O come, o come Emmanuel". This week: **O branch of Jesse**)

Isaiah 11.1-9; Psalm 82; Matthew 1.1-17

Readings for next Sunday: 18th December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

#### DAILY PRAYER

Morning and Evening Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's during the week: see the back page for times this week. Anyone is welcome to these short services.

### For our prayers:

<u>The world and nation:</u> For an end to slave and child labour, especially in the chocolate, coffee and clothing industries.

### The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Newcastle (Bp Peter Stuart, Asst Bps Charlie Murry, Sonia Roulston, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Abp Philip Freier, Bp Kate Prowd; Holy Apostles Sunshine Braybrook (Paul Priyajayanth).

<u>Agencies supported by our parish:</u> Anglican Board of Mission – supporting ministry among Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our parish & community: For people who

find Christmas a difficult or lonely time.

Those with particular needs at this time: Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Hannah, James, Toby, Johnny Moore.

### The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Jessie Grant (11), Bobby Meiers (12), Peter Elvin (15) and Gordon Geering (15).

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 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

## Advent - Signs of new life

Christmas Tree

A tree is cut down.
It brings the fragrance,
the tranquility,
the beauty of the bush
into the heart of our home.
Having begun its work
it must surely die.

At the turning of the seasons, in the darkness of the winter, new life begins to stir...

First the new shoot shines slowly... slowly... then the first buds appear, bright sign of things to come.

Buds burst forth
In glorious abundance
Filling the world with colour
Filling the world with fragrance
Bees humming in the warm air
Flowers pregnant with new life

The time is full
The flowers have put forth their fruit
The fruit has grown and ripened
Harvest time has come
The tree of light offers abundant fruit
To all who are in need
Falling to the ground beneath the tree
It is collected by all who pass by.

Tree of Life

His state was divine but he did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as we are . . .

Philippians 2:6-7

... a light that shines in the darkness a light that the darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens us all, and he was coming into the world.

John 1:5,9

Mary, Peace be with you.
You have been greatly blessed.
Do not be afraid.
You will become pregnant,
You will bear a son,
You must name him Jesus,
He will be great – the son of God.
See Luke 1:26-38

When the appointed time came
God sent his son, born of a woman, . . .
to enable us to be adopted as God's
daughters and sons.
The proof that you are God's children
is that God has sent the spirit of his Son
into our hearts – the spirit that cries,
'Abba! Father!' Galatians 4:4-6

Richard Hallett

### **NOTES AND NEWS**

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

#### Carols in the Park

This ecumenical community Christmas gathering is back after two years of COVID cancellations, this evening at 6pm.

NOTE THAT THIS EVENT HAS BEEN MOVED INDOORS, to the Salvation Army in Altona (across the road from St Eanswythe's).

### Empty Christmas tree

Donations of non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys may be placed under our empty Christmas Tree for distribution to local charity. Our last collection day will be Sunday 18th December. For queries contact Fred or Alta (St Eanswythe's) or Sandra (St Clement's).

### Tearfund's Useful Gifts

"Buying a gift from Tearfund's Useful Gifts catalogue, helps to fight poverty and build a more just and compassionate world (Tearfund 2022)". Interested? For more information please contact Phillis during morning tea who is partnering with Tearfund by running a shop for the next 2 months.

### Holding the Light service

"Holding the Light" held at St. Peters Eastern Hill was a moving and sad service. Since January this year 40 women lost their lives to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). At the commencement of the service the bell tolled 40 times to acknowledge this. GBV is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. As John Wesley said: "Prayer is where action is". Let us make the most of God's open door to us and pray with faith for gender justice. (from Beryl Brown on behalf of Mothers' Union)



Use the QR code to donate using parish's Christmas Bowl



## **COME LORD JESUS**

### Praying together in Advent

Wednesday evenings in Advent, for half an hour:

14 December, 7-7:30pm: Mary, Help of Christians Catholic Church,

Altona

21 December, 7-7:30pm: St Eanswythe's Anglican Church, Altona



followed by...

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun 11th	6pm	Carols in the Park, GH Ransom Reserve, Altona
Tue 20th	6pm	Nativity service for all ages, St Eanswythe's
Sat 24th	5pm	Nativity service for all ages, St Clement's
(Christmas Eve)	10:30pm	Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
Sun 25th	8am	Christmas Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
(Christmas Day)	9:30am	Christmas Eucharist, St Clement's

### Keeping in touch...

- $\Rightarrow$  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 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

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### The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

### www.anglicanaltlav.org.au

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### Vicar:

The Rev'd Chris Lancaster (Wed-Mon) 0423 199 850 chris.lancaster@anglicanaltlav.org.au

### **Assistant Curate:**

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse (Sun-Fri) 0416 378 748 kathryn.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

### **Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:**

The Rev'd Danny McRoberts
0448 841 196 dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

### **Parish Administrator:**

Edita Abram (Mon & Thu)

#### **Churchwardens:**

Lily Griffin Anita McAnda Scott Pitcher

### **Child Safe Officer:**

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

### This week in our parish:

### Sunday 11th December Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

### Monday 12th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

### **Tuesday-Friday**

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

### Tuesday 13th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 10am Tiddlers playgroup, Breakup picnic 7pm Caritas Christmas Service, St Eanswythe's

### Wednesday 14th

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 11:00am Nursing home service, St George's 5pm Evening Prayer, St Eanswythe's 7pm Ecumenical Advent prayers, Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church

### **Thursday 15th**

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

### Friday 16th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

# **Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's 6pm Ecumenical carols, Salvation Army

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am St Eanswythe's

Groups meeting regularly in the parish:

Youth Group: Fridays fortnightly in term time, at St Clement's. 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)

**Small group:** Tuesday evenings, online or in person. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse. **Reflective Bible Study:** monthly at the Vicarage, first Wednesday 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)