



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



# EUCHARIST CHRISTMAS DAY 2025

*Wominjeka :: Welcome :: Haere mai*

Welcome to our service today as together we celebrate  
The Birth of our Lord  
St Clement's Church  
Altona Meadows 9:30am





## *Christ is Born*

*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, present and emerging.  
We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing.*

# 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.*

## INTROIT HYMN

303 Hark! The herald angels sing

*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

**Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,  
**and now we see you as a newborn child.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

We light this candle for the newborn Christ, reawakening hope and faith—the Word embodied for our time.

**God, as we receive your promise, you are light, you are hope.**

People of God: shout and sing!

Tell the good news of peace on earth. Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All God's people say:

**Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light. All God's people say:

**Amen!**

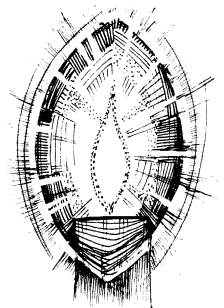
One with us, yet born to save,  
he will show us the way to God.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's love. All God's people say:

**Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**



## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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.**

## THE COLLECT

Good and gracious God,  
who gave us your Son,  
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
the Saviour of all, lying in a manger:  
on this holy morning draw us into the mystery of your love.  
Join our voices with the heavenly host  
that we may sing your glory on high.  
Give us a place among the shepherds  
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,  
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# The Scriptures

## FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah (9.2-7)

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM (96)

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song: sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> **Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name: proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations: and his wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols: it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> **Majesty and glory are before him: beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**
- <sup>7</sup> Render to the Lord, you families of the nations: render to the Lord glory and might.
- <sup>8</sup> **Render to the Lord the honour due to his name: bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- <sup>9</sup> O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- <sup>10</sup> **Say among the nations that the Lord is king: he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved; and he shall judge the peoples with equity.**

- <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad: let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
- <sup>12</sup> **Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them: then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;**
- <sup>13</sup> For he comes, he comes to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

## SECOND READING

A reading from Titus (2.11-14)

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL HYMN

318 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

## THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia.**

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** (2.1-20)

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON





## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and  
fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit. 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*

Holy God,  
**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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

*Everyone is invited to and offer a greeting of peace to others.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

312 Once in royal David's city  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

# Celebrating at the Lord's Table

*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.*

## 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

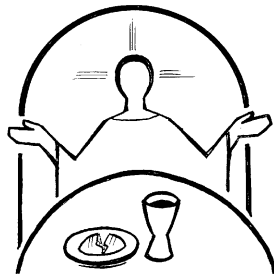
Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**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 forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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 receive communion or receive a blessing. Children who have  
been baptised are welcome to receive communion.  
If you would prefer not to receive communion but to receive a personal blessing,  
please indicate when the minister comes to you.*

WHILE COMMUNION IS RECEIVED, WE SING:

292 Infant holy, infant lowly  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

## Going into the World

*The Eucharist offers us a way to be 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.’***

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN    304 O come, all ye faithful (v 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)  
*(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)*

### BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

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.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



*Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful  
Christmas, filled with the love and grace of  
our Saviour.  
May God continue to bless  
you in the coming year.*