



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



EUCCHARIST CHRISTMAS EVE 2025

Wominjeka :: Welcome :: Haere mai

Welcome to our service as together we celebrate
The Birth of our Lord
St Eanswythe's Church
Altona 11:00pm



During the service, a collection will be taken up for the
Christmas Bowl Appeal.

For over 70 years, the Christmas Bowl Appeal has brought together churches across Australia, to share God's love through practical action in the world.

This year has been tough for many households. With the cost of living increasing, both at home and abroad, there is much uncertainty about the future. The impacts of the climate crisis, rising inflation and ongoing conflicts are all contributing to growing food scarcity for many communities around the world. These crises are pushing many to the brink with families in urgent need of food, care and lifesaving support.

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl today will help to support these communities affected by conflict and disaster, around the world.

Christmas Bowl giving envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the pews.

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

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns forever. **Amen.**



The hymn continues:

True God of true God, Light of light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him...

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him...

last verse over the page...

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him...

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

E te whānau a te Karaiti, i te mea kua hara tātou,
whakatata mai ki te hohou i te rongo.
(We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body).

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Ma te Atua e muru o koutou hara; kia mau te rongo.
(God forgives us; be at peace).

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.**

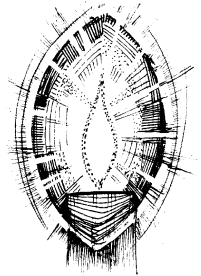
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

God our Father, tonight the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love.

Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us.

Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in the world.

Glory to God in the highest!



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 night 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)

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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)

- ¹ O sing to the Lord a new song: sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name: proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations: and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols: it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and glory are before him: beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Render to the Lord, you families of the nations: render to the Lord glory and might.
- ⁸ **Render to the Lord the honour due to his name: bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- ⁹ O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- ¹⁰ **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.**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad: let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
- ¹² **Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them: then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;**
- ¹³ 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)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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 299 While shepherds watched their flocks by night
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

He rongo pai tenei me te hari nui ki te ao katoa. Nonaiane hoki i whanau ai he Kaiwhakaora mo tatou, ko Karaiti, te Ariki.

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)*

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ ¹⁵ 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.’ ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ 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

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 of all,
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

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

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Everyone is invited to share a greeting of peace with others.

OFFERTORY HYMN

316 O little town of Bethlehem

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

*(During the hymn an offering is taken up for the **Christmas Bowl Appeal**; alternatively, please consider making an online donation—see inside front cover for details.)*

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

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka waiata tātou

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi

Our Father in heaven

Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.

Hallowed be your name

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

Your kingdom come

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai

Your will be done

ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

on earth as is in heaven

Hōmai ki a mātou āiane

Give us today

he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

our daily bread

Murua ō mātou hara,

Forgive us our sins

Me mātou hoki e muru nei

as we forgive

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

those who sin against us

Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;

Save us from the time of trial

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

And deliver us from evil

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,

Yours is the kingdom, the power

me te korōria,

and the glory.

Āke āke āke. Āmine.

For ever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

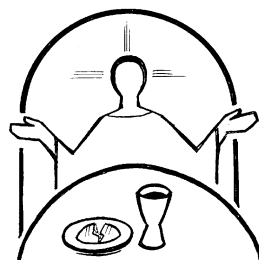
We who are many are one body,

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

SILENT NIGHT

Haungu te po, tapu te po
Marino, marama
Ko te whaea me te tama
Tama tino tapu rawa
Moe mai i te marie
Moe mai i te marie.

Haungu, tapu te po
Ka kite ngā hēpara
Te korōria o te rangi
Mē ngā ahera Hareruia
Kua whānau te tamaiti
E Ihu te Karaiti.

Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright,
round the virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!';
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, our Saviour, is born!
Christ, our Saviour, is born!

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848),
tr John Young (1820-85) alt*

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love you, Lord Jesus: look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Words: Anon

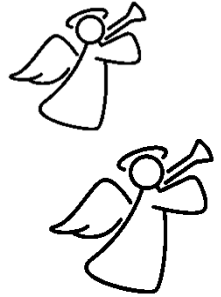
Going into the World

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

303 Hark! The herald angels sing
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.
Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.
Amen.

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.