

18 December 2016

Today's Services

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7.30am—Sung Eucharist

9.00am— Family Eucharist

ST JOHN

T H E B A P T I S T

EST. 1888
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Incorporating ministries with Eastern
Hills Parish

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tuesday	20	8.30am	Morning prayers
Wednesday	21	8.30am	Morning prayers
Thursday	22	8.30am	Morning prayers
Friday	23	10.00am	Eucharist
Saturday	24	6.00pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve		11.30pm	Mid-night Eucharist
Sunday	25	7.30am	Sung Eucharist
Christmas Day		9.00am	Family Service

Welcome!

We are glad you are with us!

Before the service, speak to the Lord in prayer.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

Please take this pew sheet home with you for your prayers in the week

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sentence for the Day:

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel:

God with us.

Matthew 1.23

Hymns: 7.30am Eucharist:-**TIS:** 265, 309, 282, 275.

9.00am Eucharist:- **As One Voice Book 1:** 174, 114, 165, 80

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath -- the candles of **HOPE, PEACE** and **JOY**.

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE**.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we find these words:

"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

-- [Deuteronomy 10:17-19a](#)

From the Gospel of John we hear:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-- [John 13:34-35](#)

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior.

Amen.

The Collect for the Day:

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading Isaiah 7.10-16

Vanessa Hanlon Therese Rein

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19 (verses said alternately between the reader and congregation)

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- 2. before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
3. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 4. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.**
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 17. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**
18. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
- 19. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: : Matthew 1.18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Christmas Brunch and Giving

A big thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas Giving last Sunday.

There was a wonderful response from this congregation resulting in Father John taking 5 very full trolley loads to the needy to be distributed by the Rotary Club and Zillmere Community Centre Christmas Giving Appeal.

The Brunch was also well attended and enjoyed by all. There was a lovely array of food and drinks and many helpers made light work of the clean up.

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh - (Armagh, Ireland): †Ferran Glenfield

The Diocese of North Queensland: †Bill Ray; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

The Parish of Wilston: Julia Van Den Bos, David Pope

Green Hills Anglican Community Caring Ministries

The Springfield Anglican College: Head of College - Steve Croft; Chaplain -

Josie Yarham; Chair of College Council - Barry Kelly; members of College Council

Locally: For all travelling to be with family during this time.

Pray for The Sick: Joel, Jim, Valmai, Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Steph, Kerrie, Ollie, John, Roselee, Esther, Pam D., Linda, Drew, Mark, Kerry, Helena, Audrey, Dawn.

(NOTE: under the Federal Privacy Act, consent of the person you wish to pray for must be obtained. No details of need / illness can be published without consent)

ANGLICAN  **VERSEAS AID**
ANGLICORD

LIFE.
ABUNDANTLY.
FOR ALL.

Pew Reflections: 4th Sunday of Advent

Love is the noblest of virtues. During Advent we reflect on God's love in action. The Christian understanding is that God gives himself to us unconditionally and at great cost. At Christmas, the Saviour Jesus comes as a vulnerable child, as God's gift of love to us. The lowly shepherds are witnesses to the humble beginnings which shake the world. God is motivated by a restless concern to renew his creation, including us. In Solomon Islands, camp fires have a special significance during Advent. The fire is always a communal event offering warmth to all who gather around. "Advent fire is our way of sitting, remembering and praying with those who are homeless, hungry, wounded and have lost their hope. They become the fire in our midst" (Revd Philemon Akao, Anglican Province of Melanesia).

Preparing:

1. Who will you gather with this Christmas?
2. Reflect on the different ways we can show love to others and to creation. How can we help 'give birth to Christ' in the world?
3. How can we offer love in ways that are wonderful and surprising?

18 December 2016 News & Coming Events for your Diary

If you are new to the parish or visiting **Welcome**. Please accept this invitation to stay and join in with us for fellowship and a chat outside after the service, where tea and coffee will be served.

- ◇ Wednesday 21 December: 7.00pm—Advent Study 'Living in the Light'- Church
- ◇ Friday 23 December: 10.00am—Eucharist
- ◇ Saturday 24 December: 6.00pm—Christingle Service
- ◇ Saturday 24 December: 11.30pm—Mid-night Eucharist
- ◇ Sunday 25 December: 7.30am—Sung Eucharist
- ◇ Sunday 25 December: 9.00am—Family Eucharist
- ◇ Saturday 7 January : 9.30am-11.30am– Weightless Quiet Morning—Church

4 Advent Bible Study sessions for the lead up to Christmas 2016.

'Living in the Light'

Wednesday evenings at 7pm

21st Dec.

All are welcome in Church, no need for previous study experience or consistent attendance.



Have you considered Chaplaincy or Spiritual Care?

Do you have a strong faith and free time?

If so, we invite you to enrol in the Certificate of Spiritual Care

at www.chaplaincyacademy.com

Training involves weekly classes, supervised visiting and some weekend seminars.

Training runs February to August.

Enquiries: 32552112 and Rev. Cheryl Selvage: olytrans@hotmail.com



I found this course to be inspiring, challenging and very rewarding.

G.Greenhill (Graduate 2016)

WHAT WE DO

Little Children's Church

Children's church is in recess until school returns.

Knitting Circle:

The knitting circle is in recess until 15 February 2017.

St. John's Guild:

The Guild is in recess until February 2017.

Mah-jong Group:

The Mah-jong Group is in recess until 9th February 2017 .

Cake & Book Stall: (A major fundraiser for the Parish):

Our next cake and book stall will be Sunday 26th February, 2017

Welcoming Visitors to St. John the Baptist, Bulimba

We are getting quite a few visitors to St. John's and there will probably be more during the Christmas-New Year period.

It is important that we make our visitors welcome, introduce ourselves, and assist them with the order of service.

There are many who already do this but it would be great if all who have name tags could wear them so that our visitors identify who we are and seek assistance.

If you would like a name tag ordered there is an order form at the back of the Church and they will be ordered in the new year.

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Day Sunday 25 December 2016

Isaiah 62.6-12;

Psalm 97;

Titus 3.4-8a;

Luke 2(1-7)8-20

ROSTERED DUTIES	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Allan Thomson Roslyn Thomson	Roland Sowerby Laura Bentley
READERS	Georgina Greenhill Susan Rowe	Joanne Wood Laura Bentley
INTERCESSOR	Roslyn Thomson	Michael Smit
DOOR	Lionel Rowe Susan Rowe	Laurie Thomson Michael Smit
TEA / COFFEE	Volunteers	Volunteers
OFFERTORY COUNTER	Allan Thomson Roslyn Thomson	
LITTLE CHILDREN'S CHURCH	School Holidays	
FLOWERS	Dianne	

Weekly Giving : Budget \$1750/Week; Last Week \$1608.40

A deficit of \$141.60