

24 DECEMBER 2017 TODAY'S SERVICE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.30AM—SAID SERVICE

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888

ANGLICAN CHURCH

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY	24	6.00pm	Christingle
SUNDAY	24	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY	25	7.30am 9.00am	Sung Eucharist Family Eucharist
SUNDAY	31	8.30am	Eucharist

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in our worship today. We are happy to join with you in fellowship. If you are here for the first time, or would like to be more involved in our parish please make yourself known to one of the welcomers, or clergy. You can also complete one of the green cards on the table near the main door, to give us your contact details if you would like a call, or to be on our parish contact list. You can put the card in the collection plate or hand it to a welcomer. We hope you will join us for coffee after the service. The green cards can also be used for updating your contact details if you are already a part of our parish.

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. *Luke 1. 32-33*

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 Saviour.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: Prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1ST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7.1-11,16

June Parker

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Psalm 89. 1-4, 19-27 (verses said alternately between the reader and congregation)

1. I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

2. I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

3. You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

4. "I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations." '

19. Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: 'I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

20. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

21. my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

22. The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

23. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

24. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

25. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

26. He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

27. I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth

2ND READING: ROMANS 16. 25-27

Sarah Davies

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1. 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

24 December 2017 News & Coming Events for your Diary

- ◇ **Tonight :Sunday 24 December: 6.00pm-Christingle**
- ◇ **Tonight: Sunday 24 December: 11.30pm—Midnight Eucharist**
- ◇ **Monday 25 December: 7.30am—Sung Eucharist**
- ◇ **Monday 25 December: 9.00am Family Eucharist**
- ◇ **Saturday 30 December: 10.00am-12.30pm—Sacred Ground Holy Space**
- ◇ **Sunday 31 December: 8.30am—Eucharist—one service only**
- ◇ **Sunday 7 January: 8.30am—Eucharist—one service only**

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- ♦ **The Diocese of Yola - (Jos, Nigeria):** †Markus Ibrahm
- ♦ **The Diocese of Tasmania:** †Richard Condie; Assistant Bishop †Chris Jones; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

- ♦ **The Parish of Nerang:** Charles Holmes, Joy White, Ross Burnett, David Cox
- ♦ Anglicare SQ Sunshine Coast Community Services
- ♦ **Anglican Schools Australia Management Committee and Member Schools:** President - Peter Laurence

Locally: All caring for the sick in our hospitals and at home.

Pray for The Sick: Joel, Jim, Valmai, Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Steph, Kerrie, John, Roselee, Esther, Linda, Drew, Kerry, Helena, Audrey, Dawn, Kirby Family, Chris, Stephanie.

(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)



The Fourth Sunday of Advent– Sunday 24 December 2017

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Psalm 89.1-4, 19-27; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

Those who attend worship this morning will experience a nine months' time shift between this and the Christmas Eucharist. Let the reverberation of Mary's words carry you through the rest of this day as you make ready for your celebration of Christmas. 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

Take a deliberate time out to pray this afternoon – seek out a quiet space.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Text: Fr Atsushi Shibaoka

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th Christmas Eve

8.30am – Said Service

6.00pm—Christingle Service, a very special way to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Very family orientated. (the children love it.)

11.30pm—Mid-night Eucharist

December 25th Christmas Day

7.30am—Sung Eucharist

9.00am—Family Eucharist

December 31st

8.30am- Eucharist

January 7th

8.30am- Eucharist

No Friday Eucharist until 12th January

January 14th

7.30am – Sung Eucharist

9.00am –Family Eucharist

The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day Monday 25 December 2017

Isaiah 62.6-12;
Psalm 97;
Titus 3.4-8a;
Luke 2. 1-20

ROSTERED DUTIES	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'S	Allan Thomson Roslyn Thomson	Roland Sowerby
READERS	Ann Winfield Don Hann	Therese Rein Renee Coffey
DOOR	Stuart Winfield	Laurie Thomson
TEA / COFFEE	Volunteers	Volunteers
TEEN CHURCH	School Holidays	
LITTLE CHILDREN'S CHURCH	School Holidays	
FLOWERS	Dianne & Judith	

WEEKLY GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for your weekly givings are at the back of the Church. They start on 1st January 2018 and go through to Christmas Day 2018.

These are excellent for those who do not have direct giving set up, but wish to contribute to our ongoing ministry on a weekly basis, even if you are away.

We do not keep a record of who takes what envelopes so your giving can remain between you and God.