



The Anglican Parish of Glenelg

a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community
growing in faith and love.



CHRISTMAS 2023 JESUS CHRIST IS BORN



Priest's Message

Do you feel there are too many problems in the world at present to celebrate Christmas wholeheartedly? Perhaps we need to return to the origin of the word "celebrate" which means to "perform publicly the appropriate rites." In our services we will perform the Christmas rites re-telling Jesus' nativity and praying for our world. At its heart, the story of the nativity has much to say to our world struggling with violence and war.

Indeed Jesus was born into a country occupied by a foreign power and shortly after his birth, his family had to flee as refugees to another country. This was how God chose to act in the world. Not with jolly festivities, but into the very midst of our struggles and difficulties. This *is* the message of Christmas. Jesus is the one called "Emmanuel – God with us". Not just with us when we celebrate happily (and there are certainly times for that) but also, and indeed especially, with us at times when there are difficulties.

The above image is an arresting one showing a nativity scene in a Lutheran church in Bethlehem. Reverend Munther Ishaq explained it like this: *"Usually it's Jesus in the manger surrounded by the shepherds, surrounded by the Holy Family, Joseph and Mary, and the Magi who came from the East. Here we wanted to say that it is as if they are looking for Jesus in the midst of the rubble. We wanted to send a message to the world. A message that while the whole world is celebrating Christmas in festive ways, here in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, where Christmas originated from, this is what Christmas looks like to us. Christmas is the solidarity of God with those who are oppressed, with those who are suffering."* Rev'd Munther went on to say: *"Maybe when we look at the image of Jesus under the rubble, we see a light of hope and life coming out of destruction."* This resonates deeply with our Easter faith in the resurrection - that in every cross there is the possibility of hope and life - so to we claim the hope and life in the image of Jesus born into poverty and war and lying in feed-trough.



Jesus in the Rubble – Lutheran church in Bethlehem

***May Christ our infant saviour, give you the joy of the shepherds,
the awe of the magi and the humility and love of Mary and Joseph.
May the peace of the Christ-child be with you and all whom you love.***

Bible Readings

First Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Canticle – Hymn to the Word (John 1)

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God,
And the Word was God:
He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through him:
and without him,
was not anything made that was made.
In him was life:
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness:
and the darkness has not overcome it.

He was in the world:
and the world was made through him
yet the world knew him not.

He came to his own home:
and his own people received him not.

But to all who received him
who believed on his name:
he has given power to become
children of God;

And the Word became flesh:
and dwelt among us
full of grace and truth;

We have beheld his glory:
glory as of the only Son from the Father.
And from his fullness have we all received:
and grace upon grace.

John 1:1–5,10–12,14,16

Second Reading - Titus 3:4-7

A reading from the letter to Titus

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYER TREE AND MEMORY TREE

A Prayer tree and Memory tree are located in the chapel at St Peter's. You may like to use these to remember loved ones or offer prayers and spend time in quiet reflection.

Gospel Acclamation and Reading

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

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

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint Luke.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

It is wonderful to welcome you to one of our Christmas worship services this year. In a world that can often feel chaotic, we pray you find a sense of meaning, peace, inspiration and blessing in your time here. If you are looking for a church community you can find our regular worship times on the back of this pew sheet. We also have a number of community ministries - Mother's Union, GAL's (Glenelg Anglican Ladies), OASIS for younger women, Parish Men's group, Grief Support group, bible studies, meditations, and emergency food assistance ministry.

Also during school terms - Playgroup (Wednesdays 10-11:30am), Sunday school (10am Sundays) and a twice a term, Friday night Youth Group.

PARISH NOTICES

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL ENVELOPES

Appeal envelopes for the Christmas Bowl appeal are available at church. You can donate online or use the envelope to donate through the collection plate.



PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday 9th January at 9:30am.

THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICES

Thursday communion services will resume on Thursday 11th January.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday services continue as normal through January

7:45am and 10:00am at St Peter's

8:45am at St Martin's.

All are welcome.



HOW TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH MINISTRY

Regular Planned Giving can be directed to Parish of Glenelg (AFSA) BSB 705-077 Account Number 00041211 (please use your surname and initial e.g. SMITHJ PGP).

One off/occasional donations, that are separate to regular PGP, can be made to Anglican Parish of Glenelg BSB 705-077 Account No.00000033

Heritage Conservation Fund (tax deductible): Ensure the donation is designated for *The Anglican Parish of St Peters Glenelg*. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/donate-sa>

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF GLENELG

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OFFICE OPENING HOURS

9.30am – 2.30pm Tuesday to Friday

SCHOOL AFFILIATION

ST PETER'S WOODLANDS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

39 Partridge Street, Glenelg SA 5045



The Anglican Parish of Glenelg acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.

www.glenelganglican.org.au