

THE CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST SIMON-THE-APOSTLE
WITH SAN LORENZO RUIZ



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

BLESSING OF THE CRIB & FESTAL EUCHARIST AT 10.00 PM.

The flowers and decorations are given to the honour and glory of Almighty God from:

Ena Forde in memory of loved ones;

Rosemary Hutchinson in memory of Margaret Agnes Hutchenson, Margaret Hutcheson, George Hutchinson, Frances Huthison, David Hutchison;

Margi Huycke;

Gloria Martin in memory of Samuel Clay;

Robert O'Keefe in thanks for the Christmas Decorations in the Church;

Jean Ponter in memory of her sons Graeme and Steven Ponter;

Joy Quan Lee;

Isabelle & Ted Robinson in memory of our parents Angel, Albert, Doris & Bill;

Geoffrey Sangwine, in loving memory of Anthony Sangwine
and other beloved family members;

Russell David Smith in memory of Carl Lee Shain.



Celebrant & Preacher

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Assisting

The Reverend Christopher Dangpilen (San Lorenzo Ruiz)

The Reverend Canon Michael Burgess

Grace Rockett

Communion Ministers

Gary Toneguzzo, Laurie Garbutt

Servers

Fen Nanton, Betty Scantlebury, Vincent Wong, Celine Wong

Director of Music – Mervin Fick

Music of the Mass – *Missa Brevis No. 4*, Healey Willan

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude *Two Chorale Preludes on 'From Heaven Above'*

F.W. ZACHAU

The clergy, servers and choir enter at the west end of the Church.

Introit *All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

J.G. EBELING

Sentence

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;

All **And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace, alleluia!

All **In the name of Christ, Amen. Alleluia!**

Processional Hymn 118 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

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.*

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

The Blessing of the Christmas Crib

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

All **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant Lord of hosts, sanctify and bless this manger, that all who look upon it may be reminded of the humble birth of Jesus and be blessed evermore by him who is God with us and the Saviour of all, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn 118 *O Come all Ye Faithful*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born that happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

Celebrant Almighty God,
All **unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets
are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Choir Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
*Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

The Collect

Celebrant Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of thy one true light.
As we have known the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of thy heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Darla Reys

Reader 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 *Sung by Cantor and all. You are invited to remain seated.*

TONE VIII.2.

O sing unto the Lord a new song; /

sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name; /

be telling of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his honour among the nations, /

and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised; /

he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the peoples, they are but idols; /

but it is the Lord that made the heavens.

6 Honour and majesty are before him: /

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the peoples, /

ascribe unto the Lord glory and power.

8 Give unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name; /

bring presents and come into his courts.

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; /

let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King; /

he hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;

he shall judge the peoples righteously.

11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; /

let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein.

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; /

then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord;

13 For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, /

and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

Epistle Titus 2:11-14

Read by Paul Faulkner

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 121 vv.1-2 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Please remain standing. All turn to face the Gospel as it is read in the centre aisle.

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Hymn 121 vv. 3-4 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

Homily *Please be seated*

Carol *The Infant King*

ARR. DAVID WILCOCKS

Sing lullaby. Lullaby baby, now reclining sing lullaby. Hush, do not wake the Infant King.

Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where He is lying;

Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby. Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping sing lullaby. Hush, do not wake the Infant King

Soon will come sorrow with the morning Soon will come bitter grief and weeping

Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby. Lullaby baby, now a-dozing Sing lullaby

Hush, do not wake the Infant King Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing

Then in the grave at last reposing Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby Lullaby, is the babe a-waking? Sing lullaby Hush, do not stir the Infant King

Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning Conquering Death, its bondage breaking

Sing lullaby.

Nicene Creed *Please stand.*

Celebrant I believe in one God,

All **the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,**

and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of the Father before all worlds,

God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God;

begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father;

through whom all things were made:

who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,

and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

**He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead:
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People *Please kneel or stand.*

Led by Mark Garbutt

Confession, and Absolution

The Celebrant invites the congregation to join in the General Confession

Silence is kept. Please kneel or be seated.

Celebrant Almighty God,

All **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things and judge of all people:
we acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty.
We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee
in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Celebration of the Eucharist

Hymn 132 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

All Of the Father's Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

At his Word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast.

May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours;
for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

MERBECKE - COMMON PRAISE 682

All And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

Choir *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.*

All kneel or be seated.

Celebrant Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all, of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy

humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

All **We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee,
and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

Celebrant And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; and we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee,
O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer – *said together*

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei – *Please sit or kneel.*

Choir O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

Holy Communion

- Holy Communion will be administered at both the High Altar and at the St Peter's Altar (standing). If you are communicating at the High Altar, please return to your pew through the side Sacristy door.
- Communion is administered in both kinds, bread and wine. Please do not intinct (dip the wafer in the wine). The fullness of the sacrament is present in the bread only. If you are not receiving the chalice, you may touch the base while the words of administration are spoken.
- If you would like only a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this to the priest.
- During Communion, Anointing for Healing is administered in the north and south aisles of the nave.

Hymn 84 *Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour*

ST OSMUND

Hymn 137 *What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

Prayer after Communion *Please stand*

Celebrant Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven are united
in sending thy Son to take our human nature.
May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Candles are lit and will be held until after the Gospel of Incarnation.

Hymn 119 *Silent Night Please remain seated*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, All is bright
Round yon 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, Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Gospel of the Incarnation: St John 1.1-14 *Please stand*

Candles are extinguished.

Hymn 138 *Hark the Herald Angels*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Leader Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude *Choral Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo'*

J.S. BACH

*The Clergy, Churchwardens and staff
of The Church of St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle and San Lorenzo Ruiz
wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.*