

GOD UNMASKED



a weary world rejoices

HOPE! THE NEW NORMAL

Holy Communion

8am, Christmas Day 2020

Preacher: The Very Reverend Richard Humphrey, The Dean of Hobart,
Celebrant: The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie, Bishop of Tasmania

Prelude: Fugue in E minor *Bach*

Hymn: Christians Awake *AHB 231* *Text: J. Byrom* *Tune: Stockport*

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard th'angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth;
this day has God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

He spoke; and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire.
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with hallelujahs rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace upon earth to people of good-will.

To Bethle'm straight the enlightened shepherds ran
to see the wonder of our God made man,
and found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,
her son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,
the first apostles of his infant fame.

Like Mary, let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving humankind;
trace we the Babe, who has retrieved our loss,
from the poor manger to the bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
until in heav'n God's people take their place.

There may we hope, th'angelic thrones among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, unceasing we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews.

Introduction

I bring 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.

Luke 2:10-11

The Christmas Candle is lit

God who called the light out of darkness
is revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is God unmasked.

God our maker in whom we rejoice
whose light is the light of life.

God the seeker in whom we rejoice
whose light brings us salvation.

God our keeper in whom we rejoice
whose light the darkness can never overcome

Jesus is God unmasked.

God maker, God seeker, God keeper.

Emmanuel, God with us.

The congregation sits or kneels.

The Deacon says

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Led by the Deacon.

Christ the bright morning star has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

After a short pause for reflection, the Deacon continues

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to Him, confessing our sins in
penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Bishop says

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.**

The Gloria said by all standing

**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.**

Prayer for Christmas Day

The Celebrant prays

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son,
whom you sent to save us.
With the angels, let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love;
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.**

The people sit or kneel

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the
prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he
appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is
the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he
sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for
sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as
much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than
theirs.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Joy to the World

AHB 224 *Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

Tune: Antioch

Joy to the world
the Lord has come!
let earth receive her king,
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders, wonders of his love.

Joy to the earth
the saviour reigns!
let songs be heard on high,
while fields and streams
and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

The Gospel: John 1:1-14

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John chapter 1 beginning at verse 1. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Dean

Creed

All standing

**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

We rejoice in the good news sung by the angels, investigated by the shepherds, and celebrated by the wise men, that in a stable in Bethlehem our Saviour was born and our God is with us.

In full hope we bring our prayers through Christ the Lord.

Silence is kept

Wonderful Counsellor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations to bring peace and justice to this world. Guide us so that we may welcome the stranger, protect the weak, and provide sanctuary for all.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us

bring your peace and joy.

Mighty God, we give thanks for your creation. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and share its bounty fairly.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us

bring your peace and joy.

Everlasting Father, we pray for our families and those we love. Be with all who mourn, are lonely or ill, and especially for those who suffer as followers of Jesus that they may know the true hope of being your children.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us

bring your peace and joy.

Prince of peace, help us to follow your ways of love and service so that we may bring your good news to all. May we, with all who have followed Christ, be welcomed into the fullness of joy in your coming kingdom.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us

bring your peace and joy.

Filled with hope we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

The people stand and the Celebrant says

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and His name is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Immanuel, God with us.

**Glory to God in highest
and on earth peace to those whom he favours.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet each other with the words "Peace be with you"

Please do not move around the building during this time.
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Offertory Hymn: Angels from the realms of glory

AHB 235

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) alternative

Tune: Iris

A collection is taken for the work of the Cathedral.

Angels, from the realms of glory
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth;
*Come and worship
Christ, the newborn king:
come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn king.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light;

Wise men, leave your
contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
you have seen his natal Star:

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear
suddenly the Lord descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

In your Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

By His death on the cross
and rising to new life,
He offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
For these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took bread;
And when He had given you thanks
He broke 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.'

After supper, He took the cup
and again giving you thanks;
He gave it to His disciples saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
Proclaiming His offering of himself
Made once for all upon the cross,
His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
and looking for His coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
His one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
Unite us in the body of your Son
And bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the Bread and says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body in Christ.

For we all share in the one bread.

Jesus reveals our God to us and so renewed hope we 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 rejoicing.

Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews
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Music during Communion: 'The Shepherds at the Manger' *Liszt*

Communion

We welcome all who have faithfully participated in this service to join with us in Communion as we celebrate our Saviour's saving life, death and resurrection.

Please continue to maintain physical distancing and wait to be directed by a sides-person.

You will be given a wafer pre infused with wine. There are also gluten free wafers on request.

If you wish to receive a blessing please keep your hands by your side.

It is our custom to keep silent during the distribution of the communion.

Children and Communion: Children are brought forward for a blessing. Children only take communion if they have been confirmed or if their parents are convinced they understand the meaning of taking the bread and wine, and they regularly participate in Holy Communion.

Sending out of God's people

The Celebrant says

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.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love.**

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn: O Come, all ye faithful

Carols for Choirs 26 (v1-3,6-7)

Words: Adeste fideles. trans. F Oakeley, WT Brooke et al

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;:

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with holy fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
in the Highest:

Yea, Lord we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:

The Blessing

Remain standing as the Bishop says

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
the peace of the Christ child, and
the hope of life eternal,
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon says

In hope, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo *Bach*

Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews

Organist: Margaret Sallis

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