

# GOD UNMASKED



*a weary world rejoices*

**HOPE! THE NEW NORMAL**

## Midnight Communion

11pm, Christmas Eve 2020

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

## Introduction

*Cathedral in darkness, the Christmas Candle is lit in the Nave Sanctuary. The Dean says*  
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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *John 1:1-5*

*All other candles are then lit from the Christmas Candle.*

*Please light the candles of those around you.*

*The Nativity Scene is illuminated.*

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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. *John 1:14, 16*

*The Choir only sings*

Silent night, holy night:  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round the virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:  
Wondrous star, lend your light;  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ our Saviour is born,  
Christ our Saviour is born.

*All sing*

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.

*AHB 236*

*Words: Joseph Mohr*

*Music: Franz Grüber*

## The Dedication of the Nativity scene

The angel announced good news, "Today in the city of David a Saviour is born to you: He is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." The shepherds said, "Let us see this which the Lord has told us about."

*The Dean dedicates the nativity tableau saying*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this Christmas Crib, as a visual symbol of the great love and the great humility of Jesus Christ your Son: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human and so was God with us.

Bless all who see it that they may join the shepherds in worship of their Saviour to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour, majesty, glory and worship, now and for ever.

**Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to all on whom his favour rests. Amen.**

## Processional Hymn: While Shepherds watched

*AHB 223    Words: Nahum Tate    Music: Winchester Old (from Este's Psalter, 1592)*  
*As the lights come on, please extinguish your candle and pass to the sides-people.*

While shepherds watched  
    their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind)  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be the sign;

'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song;

'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace!  
Goodwill henceforth  
    from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.

## Gathering in God's name

*The Celebrant welcomes all to the Cathedral and says*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

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

*The Prayer of Preparation is said by all led by the Deacon with the people sitting or kneeling*

**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

*The Deacon says*

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

*The Choir sings the Kyrie eleison*

*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.

**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 pronounces the Absolution*

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to Him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation stands as the Choir sings the Gloria.*

**Glory be to God on high,  
And in earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee, We worship thee, we glorify thee,  
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
That takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, Receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
Have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy: Thou only art the Lord;  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
Art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect for Christmas Night

*The Celebrant prays,*

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation sits for the readings.*

## 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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.**

## Psalm 96

*Sung by the Choir*

**O SING** unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people.

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised : he is more to be feared than all gods.

<sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Glory and worship are before him : power and honour are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people : ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name : bring presents, and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness : let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

<sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King : and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the people righteously.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.

<sup>12</sup> Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth : and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

## The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gradual Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Carols for Choirs 1 (27)*

*Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks Music: English trad, arr. Vaughan Williams*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

## Gospel Acclamation



*The congregation joins before and after with*

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

## The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 2, beginning at verse 1 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!

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

## The Sermon

*The Bishop*

Anthem: O Holy Night *By Adolphe Adam, arr. Stephen DeCesare*

## The Creed

*All stand*

**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

*The congregation sits or kneels for the prayers*

On this holy night our Saviour was born. Son of God renew your Church, accept our worship and open our hearts that you may be born in us today. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

Angels sang in the heavens 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Bring your peace to this world and teach us to care for your creation. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

There was no room for you in the inn. Be a sanctuary to the homeless, the poor and the refugee. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

You came as Emmanuel, God with us, be with us especially our persecuted brothers and sisters. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

You came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer or are in distress. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

You were born into a human family, bless our homes and those we love. Jesus, God with us **bring your peace on earth.**

In your birth, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Keep us, with all your saints who have gone before us in the blessed hope of eternal life.

As you taught us 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 Peace

*The congregation stands for the greeting of peace led by the Celebrant*

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

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share a greeting of peace with those nearby*

Please do not move around the building during this time
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## The Offertory Hymn: It came upon the midnight clear

*Carols for Choirs 1 (18) Words: E H Sears Music: English trad, adapted Arthur Sullivan  
A collection for the work of the Cathedral is received.*

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth goodwill to men,  
From heav'n's all gracious King!  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on  
By prophet-bards foretold  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Led by the Celebrant. The congregation remains standing*

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, everliving 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 singing

*The Choir sings*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory,  
glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.**

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."

*We all sing*

CANTOR:                      ALL:



Christ has\_\_ died;    Christ is\_\_ ri - sen;    Christ will\_\_ come a - gain\_\_

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The staff ends with a double bar line.

**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 on 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:

*We all sing*

CANTOR:                      ALL:



Bless-ing and hon-our:    and glo-ry and pow'r    are    yours for-ev - er and ev - er.    A - men.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The staff ends with a double bar line.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body.

**For we all share in the one bread.**

Jesus reveals our God to us and so, renewed in 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.

*The Choir sings the Agnus Dei*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

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

Communion Anthem: What sweeter music *Rutter*

## The 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 the 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: <i>O come, let us adore Him</i> <i>O come, let us adore Him</i> <i>O come, let us adore Him</i> <i>Christ the Lord.</i>	See how the shepherds Summoned to his cradle Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly 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:
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## The Blessing

*The Dean says*

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 Bishop says*

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with His grace to trust His promises and obey His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon 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.**

Voluntary: 'Toccata in F major' from the Fifth Organ Symphony

*Charles-Marie Widor*

Please be aware of the step when entering and exiting the pews
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*Choir Director: Thomas Rimes Organist: Rod Thomson Setting: Ireland in C*

**All are welcome to our Christmas Day Services at 8am and 10am.**

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