

Christmas Eve Eucharist

24 December 2021 | 11.30 pm



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

The service will begin in darkness to symbolize the darkness of the world without Christ.

Procession: O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade, 1711-1786, tr. Frederick Oakeley

Please stand. The hymn will be sung by one cantor only. Congregation will sing in their hearts.

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!*

During the reading of the following verse, the Christmas candle will be lit and the Cathedral lights switched on symbolising the coming of the light of Christ into the dark world.

Minister: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone. *(Isaiah 9:2)*

The Cantor continues.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Collect

(Please remain standing)

**All: Almighty God,
Who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ;
Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our
redeemer,
So we may with confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
Who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

(Please be seated)

² The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: Titus 2:11-14

(Please be seated)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-7

After the reader announces the reading (the people all standing up), all shall say

Glory to Christ our Saviour

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

At the end of the reading the reader shall say

This is the Gospel of Christ

All shall respond

Praise to Christ our Lord

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

(Please stand)

**All: 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,
one in being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfilment of 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,
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified,
He 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

(Please kneel or be seated)

Leader: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayers we offer.

We pray for *Melter* our Archbishop, *Steven* our Bishop, *Andrew* our Dean, our pastoral team and for all who serve in this Cathedral and Diocese.

Strengthen your people for their witness and work in the world.

Fill your ministers with your Spirit, that they may faithfully preach the gospel and administer your holy sacraments.

Unite in the truth all who confess your name, that we may live together in love and proclaim your glory in all the world.

Leader: Father, hear our prayer,

All: **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: We pray for our Yang di-Pertuan Agong,
for the Prime Minister and his cabinet
and for all who hold office in our country.

Give wisdom to those in authority in this
and every land,
and give to all peoples a desire for righteousness
and peace,
and the will to work together in trust,
to seek the common good
and to share with justice the resources of the
earth.

Leader: Father, hear our prayer,

All: **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: We pray about the floods.

Almighty God, by your Word you laid the foundations of the earth, set the bounds of the sea, and still the wind and waves. Surround us with your grace and peace, and preserve us through these disasters. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, strengthen those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation.

Leader: Father, hear our prayer,

All: **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: We pray about the pandemic.

Almighty God, who in your wrath sent a plague upon your own people in the wilderness for their rebellion against Moses and Aaron, and also in the time of King David, sent a plague of pestilence which killed seventy thousand, but remembering your mercy spared the rest: have pity upon us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality; and in the same way that you then accepted an atonement and commanded the destroying Angel to cease from punishing: so it may now please you to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness.

Leader: Father, hear our prayer,

All: **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: We pray for the aged and the infirm,
for widows and orphans,
and for the sick and suffering.

We also pray for the poor and oppressed,
for prisoners, refugees and captives,
and for all who care for them.

Comfort and heal, merciful Father,
all who are in sorrow, need, sickness
or any other trouble.
Give them a firm trust in your goodness;
help those who minister to them;
and bring us all into the joy of your salvation.

Leader: Father, hear our prayer,

All: **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: We praise you, Lord God,
for your faithful servants in every age
and ask that we may share with them
Christ's resurrection glory,
through his death and rising again
for our salvation.

Leader: Hear us, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
All: **who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

The Eucharist

(Please remain kneeling or seated)

Minister: Brothers and sisters: as we come together to share in the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, the Scriptures urge us to examine our lives and repent of our sins. As we do so, let us be thankful that God the Son humbled himself, becoming man, to die for us on the Cross. And by the shedding of his precious blood, he obtained for us forgiveness of sins, and life with him forever. In remembrance of his death, and as a pledge of his love, Jesus instituted this holy sacrament, to our great and endless comfort.

You, then, who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are reconciled and at peace with others, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from now on in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort, and make your humble confession to almighty God.

All:

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, and judge of all people.
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
We have justly provoked your righteous anger
against us.
We repent and are deeply sorry for our
wrongdoings.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.
For the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
forgive us all that is past,
and enable us to serve and please you,
in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

Minister: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on 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.

All: **Amen.**

Minister: Hear these words of comfort from the Scriptures:

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
(1 Timothy 1:15)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
(John 3:16)

This Prayer of Humble Access may be said by all

**All: We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him
and he in us.
Amen.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them to the Lord**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

The Minister prays

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
We thank you that in your love and mercy,
you gave your only Son Jesus Christ
to die on the cross for our redemption.

We thank you that by offering himself once for all,
he made a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for sin
and completely satisfied your holiness,
justice and love.

And he instructed us to remember his death together
until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father,
and grant that by your Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink this bread and wine,
according to our Lord's command
may remember his death for us with faith,
trusting in him alone for our salvation
and so share in his body and blood.

For on the night he was betrayed, he 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.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them saying, “Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

All: **Amen.**

The Distribution

Minister:

Eat and drink this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. George Whitefield

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 th'angelic hosts 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 the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

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 us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

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Hymn: O Holy Night

Placide Cappeau, 1808-1877, tr. John S. Dwight

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

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Hymn: Silent Night

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848, tr. John F. Young

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.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

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Hymn: O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Philips Brooks, 1835-1893

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

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 Immanuel!

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Hymn: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

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, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!’
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed 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:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the 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 give back the song
which now the angels sing.

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The Lord's Prayer

(Please kneel or be seated)

**All: 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

Announcements

The Blessing

The gathering ends with a blessing.

Minister: May the joy of the angels,
the wonder of the shepherds,
and the peace of the Christ child,
fill your hearts this Christmas time,
And the blessing of God Almighty:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Recession: O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade, 1711-1786, tr. Frederick Oakeley

Please stand. The hymn will be sung by one cantor only. Congregation will sing in their hearts.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

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Connect with us

Thank you for joining our service. If you would like for us to get in touch with you, or have any feedback for us, please fill in our Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect

Giving

Online transfer

Bank name: **Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd**

Account name: **St Mary's Cathedral**

Account number: **312 142 334 691**

Recipient reference: If giving a pledge, enter ***your 3-digit pledge number.***

Otherwise, enter **Online Service**

For one-off giving, please email the bank-in slip or online transfer receipt to: **collections@stmaryscathedral.org.my**

Boost e-wallet

Scan the following QR code using the Boost App. Be sure to confirm "St Mary's Cathedral" is listed as the payee.



St Mary's Cathedral

Note: This method of giving is analogous to putting cash into the offertory bag/box. Your donation will go to the General Fund. You will not be given a receipt. Do not use this to give a pledge.

Details on our webpage: stmarys.my/give

Christmas Services

We invite you to join our online services this Christmas weekend, as we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Information on our Christmas services can be found on our Christmas webpage: stmarys.my/christmas

Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is a course that helps you to explore who the God of the Bible is and what He says about life's meaning and purpose.

We invite you to join us for 10 Sundays, 2.00 pm, starting from 26 December 2021.

Please visit stmarys.my/findoutmore for more details on how to register.

New Year's Eve Service (Zoom)

We will host a New Year's Eve Service on Zoom at 11.30 pm, Friday, 31 December 2021. It will be a simple time of prayer, reading the Scriptures, and a message to help us prepare for the New Year. Join us here: stmarys.my/nye

New Year's Day Liturgical Service (Onsite)

Our New Year's Day Liturgical Service will be held at the Cathedral at 9.00 am, 1 January 2022. If you would like to come for this service, please book at stmarys.my/booking

Regular Onsite & Online Services

Here are the details of our regular English onsite services on Sundays:

- English Liturgical Service – 10.00 am
- English Contemporary (SMACC) Service – 5.00 pm

If you would like to book to come, you can do so at stmarys.my/booking. Bookings will open at 2.00 pm on Sunday and will close at noon on Friday or when all the seats are taken, whichever comes first. If you find it hard to book online, you can call the Cathedral Office on 011 5760 3484 during office hours and Mrs Nesamani will help with the booking. **You will need to have a confirmed booking before you can come on Sunday.**

If you are joining us online on Sundays, both the English services above will be livestreamed from the Cathedral (Liturgical at 10.00 am, SMACC at 5.00 pm).

More information about our services can be found here: stmarys.my/services

Subscribe to our Mailing List

To receive emails about latest updates and important news about the Cathedral, fill in the form at

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