

Procession: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v1)

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. George Whitefield

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

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"*

Collect

(Please remain standing)

**All: Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

(Please be seated)

⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have set watchmen;
all the day and all the night
they shall never be silent.

You who put the LORD in remembrance,
take no rest,

⁷ and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it a praise in the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

“I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink your wine
for which you have laboured;

⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary.”

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.

¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹² And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

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 3:4-7

(Please be seated)

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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 2:8-20

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to

Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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 Good News of God's Promises

1. Introduction

2. God's Promise in the Past (Isaiah 62:6-12)

- a. God setting up the perfect Kingdom
- b. The invitation to all
- c. How will God bring this about?

3. God Making the Way (Luke 2:8-20)

- a. The Good News of Jesus Christ
- b. Proclaiming the Good News

4. God's Salvation (Titus 3:4-7)

- a. The form of God's salvation
- b. Heirs of God's blessing

5. Application

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: Joy To The World

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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

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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: I Cannot Tell Why He, Whom Angels Worship

William Young Fullerton, 1857-1932

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary,
when Bethl'hem's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthy heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

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Hymn: What Child Is This

W. Chatterton Dix, 1837-1898

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

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Hymn: The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

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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: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v3-4)

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. George Whitefield

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

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.

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

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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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

Onsite & Online Services

Here are the details of our 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

Onsite Service Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out at our onsite services. If you are a regular at St Mary's Cathedral and would like to volunteer, please fill in the form at stmarys.my/volunteer

The Cathedral Electoral Roll

We encourage all our baptised and confirmed members who come regularly to our church (whether online or onsite) to be on our Electoral Roll. Joining the Electoral Roll will enable you to vote at our Annual General Meetings (AGM).

If you would like to sign up to be on the roll, please fill in the form here: stmarys.my/electoralroll

The electoral roll for 2022 will close on **31 December 2021**.

Banns of Marriage

I publish the banns of marriage between Aaron Zachary Anak Nicholas of St Thomas Cathedral Kuching and Karen Lim Pei Pei of St Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur.

This is the **THIRD TIME** of asking. If any of you know any reason in law why these persons may not marry each other, you are to declare to me.

Dean,
Very Rev Dr Andrew Cheah

Banns of Marriage

I publish the banns of marriage between Tay Chee Wei and Chua Lynn Yen, both of St Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur.

This is the **FIRST TIME** of asking. If any of you know any reason in law why these persons may not marry each other, you are to declare to me.

Dean,
Very Rev Dr Andrew Cheah

The Daily Office

We invite you to join us for the Daily Office - a short daily service with systematic Bible readings and set prayers. This will take place every day at 7.30 am by Zoom (except Sunday).

If you think this would be a helpful part of your daily routine over this segment of the lockdown, please join us by simply going to stmarys.my/dailyoffice at about 7.25 am each day for a 7.30 am start. That will take you directly to the Zoom room where the service takes place. The service will finish well before 8.00 am.

If you can't use Zoom for any reason, but you are keen to be involved, then give our office a call during office hours on 011 5760 3484 and we will be happy to discuss special arrangements with you.

Pastoral 'Clinics'

In addition to whatever ways of contacting the pastoral team that are already available, Rev Gordon Kong and Rev Lee Kon Yim are also available on Thursdays at the following times if you would like to talk to a pastor:

- Rev Gordon Kong – 9.00 am – 12.00 pm
- Rev Lee Kon Yim – 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

If you are a regular at St Mary's Cathedral and would like to book a half hour appointment slot with anyone of them, please call the Cathedral office on 011 5760 3484 by the previous day.

Small Groups

Looking to connect with a Christian community to share lives and grow spiritually? Please do consider joining one of our online small groups to study God's Word, as well as to support and encourage one another.

Do fill in this form and we will connect you to a small group: stmarys.my/smallgroups

Kids' Church

Kids' Church meets online every week at the following times:

- 3-4 year olds on Sunday at 10.20 am
- 5-6 year olds on Sunday at 9.00 am

- 7-9's on Saturday at 2.00 pm
- 10-12's on Sunday at 2.00 pm

If you would like to enrol your child or find out more about Kids' Church, please visit stmarys.my/kids

Youth Fellowship

Our Youth Fellowship (ages 13-18) meets on Sundays at 2.00 pm. If you would like to join us, please sign up at stmarys.my/youth

Youth Confirmation Programme

If you would like to indicate interest in our Youth Confirmation Programme for your teenager aged 13-17, please let us know at stmarys.my/youthconfirmation and we will inform you when the next one starts.

Subscribe to our Mailing List

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

stmarys.my/subscribe

Work Care Panel

We have a panel to help our Cathedral community look for work or advise about work and training opportunities. If you're looking for work and wouldn't mind a helping hand, fill in our Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect, indicating that you would like someone from the Work Care Panel to contact you.

Pastoral Emergencies

If you or someone you know is finding this time a particularly challenging one, or would like someone to pray with you, please do call one of your leaders or congregational pastors. Please also remember that you can use our Emergency Pastoral Care Hotline on 011 5762 8524.

Please do reach out if you need help with food or other essentials like groceries. You can let us know by filling in a Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect.