

New Year's Eve Service

(Zoom)

31 December 2024 | 11.30 pm



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

Welcome

Hymn: Through All The Changing Scenes Of Life

[Psalm 34]

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715 & Nicholas Brady, 1659-1726

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

Of His deliverance I will boast,
till all that are distressed
from my example comfort take,
and charm their griefs to rest.

O magnify the Lord with me;
with me exalt His name;
when in distress to Him I called,
He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliverance He affords to all
who in His mercy trust.

O make but trial of His love;
experience will decide
how blessed are they, and only they,
who in His truth confide!

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
come, make His service your delight,
your wants shall be His care.

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Prayer of Confession

The Minister says:

The Bible tells us not to hide our sins from God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a repentant and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

With this in mind, let us approach the throne of our gracious God, with a true heart in full assurance of faith, and pray together:

***All:* Merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
the desires of our own hearts
and have broken your holy laws.
We have left undone what we ought to have done,
and we have done what we ought not to have done.
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;
restore those who are repentant,
according to the promises declared to us
through your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Grant, merciful Father, for his sake,
that from now on,
we may live godly and obedient lives,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

The Minister says:

God desires that no one should perish, but that all should turn to him and live. We confess our sins in response to his call. God pardons those who humbly repent and truly believe the gospel. Therefore, we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion
on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Breakout Groups

- 1) Introduce yourselves – name, congregation, how long at St Mary's and how you got here.
- 2) What are people around you hoping for in 2025? If you are comfortable sharing: what are some of your prayers or hopes for 2025?

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labour among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

²⁵ Brothers, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷ I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Song: There Is A Hope

Words & Music: Stuart Townend & Mark Edwards

There is a hope that burns within my heart
That gives me strength for every passing day
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part
Yet drives all doubt away
I stand in Christ with sins forgiven
And Christ in me the hope of heaven
My highest calling and my deepest joy
To make His will my home

There is a hope that lifts my weary head
A consolation strong against despair
That when the world has plunged me
In its deepest pit
I find the Saviour there
Through present sufferings future's fear
He whispers 'courage' in my ear
For I am safe in everlasting arms
And they will lead me home

There is a hope that stands the test of time
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face
When sufferings cease and sorrows die
And every longing satisfied
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul
For I am truly home

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Quiet Prayer And Countdown

Happy New Year

The Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Sermon

Hymn: Christ, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Christ, from whom all blessings flow,
Perfecting the saints below,
Hear us, who Thy nature share,
Who Thy mystic body are.

Join us, in one spirit join,
Let us still receive of Thine;
Still for more on Thee we call,
Thou who fillest all in all.

Move and actuate and guide,
Diverse gifts to each divide;
Placed according to Thy will,
Let us all our work fulfill.

Sweetly may we all agree,
Touched with loving sympathy,
Kindly for each other care;
Every member feel its share.

Love, like death, hath all destroyed,
Rendered all distinctions void;
Names and sects and parties fall;
Thou, O Christ, art all in all!

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Prayers

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.

Extempore prayers may be offered at this point

Gracious God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Merciful Lord, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections. Teach us to love what you command, and to desire what you promise, that, among the changes and chances of this world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Almighty God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life. Give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

We praise you, Lord of all, for the gifts of Christ our ascended King: for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Hear our prayer for all who do not know your love and have not heard the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Send out your light and truth through the messengers of your word. Help us to support them by our prayers and offerings, and hasten the coming of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, look with compassion on the world you have redeemed by the death of your Son Jesus Christ. Move the hearts of many to offer themselves for gospel ministry. Fill them with your truth and clothe them with holiness, that by their lives and labours your light might shine through them and the coming of your kingdom be advanced, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Song: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Words and Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

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Going Out To Serve

All: Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created
and by whose love we are redeemed,
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service
and live this year in love to one another
and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Minister says:

Go forth into the world in peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak.

Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.

Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among 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.**

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 the service you normally attend.
 If giving to the Ministry Workers Fund, please put **“MWF”**.

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

E-wallet

Scan the following QR code using any banking or e-wallet app (Touch n Go/GrabPay/Boost). Please ensure **“St Mary's Cathedral”** is listed as the payee.



St Mary's Cathedral Main Hall

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.

Giving via Pledge Envelopes

In recent years, the church giving system has moved from a pledge envelope system to an online giving system. Those who wish to remain contributing via pledge envelopes are advised to write their pledge numbers on any blank envelopes and drop them in the allocated boxes at church.

Giving to the Ministry Workers Fund

If you would like to give to the Ministry Workers Fund, please scan the following QR code using any banking or e-wallet app (Touch n Go/GrabPay/Boost). Please ensure “**MWF**” is listed as the payee.



MWF

Hope Explored

Hope Explored is a 3-session course that helps you to explore the great longings in life: for hope, for peace and for purpose. Do join us to find out what the gospel of Luke says about these longings.

Please join us in-person for 3 Sunday afternoons from 5 January 2025, at 1.30 pm. A simple lunch will be served. You can register using the form here:

stmarys.my/findoutmore

Tuesday Night Training

Tuesday Night Training (TNT) is a good and systematic way for all of us to keep studying God's Word and to be trained for ministry. The first term for 2025 begins on 21 January.

Online theological courses on offer are Bible Overview, New Testament 1 and New Testament 2. These courses are offered in partnership with Equip Seminary.

If you are new to TNT, we encourage you to consider taking our Bible Overview course. This is a great way to learn how the whole Bible fits together and points to Jesus.

Find out more about the courses and register here:

stmarys.my/tnt

Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Rt. Rev. Dr. Jason Selvaraj on 11 January 2025 at 4pm, at the Pro Cathedral Of Christ Church, Melaka.

If you would like to attend the memorial service, please RSVP here by 7 January 2025: stmarys.my/jason