



# *Love*

*Anglican Parish of Avon*

*Sunday 20 December*

*Priest in Charge, the Reverend Dave Perryman.*

*Welcome to:-*

*8.30am Worship at All Saints Church Briagolong*

*10am Worship at Holy Trinity Church Stratford*

***We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.***

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **Opening Hymn: 'Tell out my soul' – TiS 161**

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

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### **Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

### Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord.

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour.**

The Mighty One has done great things for us.

**Holy is God's name.**

God's mercy is ever near, from generation to generation.

**God's strength scatters the proud, but lifts the humble of heart.**

God's love fills us up, nourishing our hungry souls.

**God's grace has called us here, strengthening our lives of faith.**

### The Sentence

“This child will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

*(Luke 1. 32–33)*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Minister: On this fourth Sunday in Advent we light the candle of Love.

**All: No other word captures what we know of our God.**

Minister: A baby was born, God's love for the world in human form.

**All: We wait in Hope, and Peace, and with Joy.**

*Three candles are relit*

Liturgical Assistant: We light the candle of Love to proclaim God's Love revealed in the Child born in Bethlehem.

**All: We are challenged to proclaim and reveal that same Love as we live out our faith here in Australia.**

*The fourth candle is lit*

Liturgical Assistant: We thank God for a love beyond our human understanding,

**All: And await the birth of God's LOVE this Christmas. Amen.**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**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**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

*(1 Corinthians 4.5)*

*Silence for self-reflection*

God our Father, we are sorry  
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,  
and acted ungratefully.  
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,  
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.  
Father, in your mercy:  
**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,  
but ignore the cry of the hungry.  
Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

## **Absolution**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Trisagion** – *We will say the Trisagion together*

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

## **The Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God,  
whose eternal Word took flesh among us  
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:  
prepare our hearts for his coming again  
and keep us steadfast in hope,  
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;  
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **The First Reading**

#### **A Reading from the Book of Samuel**

<sup>7</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.’

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a

house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders\* of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me;\* your throne shall be established for ever.

*2Samuel 7.1-11, 16*

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Song of Mary** – *We will say the Psalm together*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,**

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:  
from this day all generations will call me blessed;**

**The Almighty has done great things for me:  
and holy is his name.**

**God has mercy on those who fear him:  
from generation to generation.**

**The Lord has shown strength with his arm:  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones:  
and lifting up the lowly.**



**God has filled the hungry with good things:  
and sent the rich away empty.**

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

**The promise made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

## **Early Talk**

### **Gospel Reading**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'<sup>\*</sup> <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'<sup>\*</sup> <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'<sup>\*</sup> <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>\*</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.'<sup>\*</sup> <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Luke 1. 26-38*

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

## **Sermon**

### **The Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all that is.  
We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

**This is our faith, the faith of the Church:**

**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **The Prayers**

*Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.*

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayers.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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**

We are the body of Christ.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us your love,  
even when things go wrong.  
Jesus knew hurt and pain.  
Through him you wipe away our tears,  
and fill us with your peace.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels  
and sing your praise:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen,  
Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.'

**So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.**

**Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.**

**And now with all your saints we give you glory,**

**through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread and Communion**

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.**

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

*For those unable to receive Holy Communion this Sunday, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:*

*O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **The Sending Out of God's People**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father,  
**we offer ourselves to you  
as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

## **Announcements**

### **Final Hymn: ‘The Power of your love’ – MP 880**

1 Lord, I come to You,  
let my heart be changed, renewed,  
flowing from the grace that I’ve found in You.  
And, Lord, I’ve come to know  
the weaknesses I see in me  
will be stripped away  
by the power of Your love.

*Refrain:*

*Hold me close,  
let Your love surround me;  
bring me near,  
draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait,  
I’ll rise up like the eagle,  
and I will soar with You,  
Your Spirit leads me on  
in the power of Your love.*

2 Lord, unveil my eyes,  
let me see You face to face,  
the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.  
Lord, renew my mind,  
as Your will unfolds in my life  
in living every day  
in the power of Your love.  
*Hold me close...*

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## **The Blessing**

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 faint hearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
give honour to all; love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be  
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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## **BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS**

Lord God, we join our prayers to those of Mary, your faithful servant and mother of our Lord, to proclaim your greatness, and sing in gratitude for all your wonderful gifts bestowed on us, your lowly servants. Lord, we pray, look down with love upon our Church here in the Costa Blanca Chaplaincy as day by day we struggle to be a body worthy of Jesus' name. Be with us as we focus on the coming of your kingdom and the gift of your son this Christmas.

### **We pray:-**

- \*For safety and protection of our beautiful world. Effective and safe management of climate change.
- \*For peace in places of conflict and violence. Provision of safe-haven and new beginnings for refugees.
- \*For an end to the racial, social and domestic violence and injustices particularly in our own country
- \*For control of power and aggression by some dictatorships who seek to control the world.
  
- \*For those living with ill health, grief, social unrest and economic hardship especially in the wake of the world-wide pandemic, particularly

those nations where Covid-19 is raging.

We give thanks for your miracle work through our world scientists who have developed vaccines against Covid-19. May they be safe and save millions of lives.

For all our defence personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting us and others from aggression, may they receive the respect and appreciation due to them.

For a time of refreshment and safety for school teachers, students and all who are travelling and on vacation of the holiday season.

\*For the worldwide church, our Diocese, and the churches in our local community.

\*For Bishop Richard and his family as he leads the Diocese through difficult times.

May the Christmas season and year 2021 be a time of healing and peace in our Diocese.

\*For Dave as he supports Bishop Richard in his role as Chaplain.

\*For guidance, inspiration, and energy for Dave as he leads the parish through this Advent and Christmas season.

\*For Emma and their 4 children.

\*For good discipleship here in Avon, to take Your message of love and concern for everyone into our community.

We give thanks for our emergence out of the Covid-19 shutdown.  
For our mainly music families as they prepare for Christmas.

\*For all who support the op shop. Coordinator Bev, volunteers, and all who donate to our ministry and mission.

\*For our Retiring Offertory – Act for Peace, Christmas Bowl.

\*Healing God, we lift to you those who are suffering in our parish. Those with physical, mental, or emotional illness, all carers and for those who are mourning.

*We pray especially for Marion, Cliff, Paul, Aubrey, Bev, Julie, Brenda, Liliias, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.*

*For all who are sad and grieving in this Christmas Season.*

*For those who are lonely and feeling sad.*



Emmanuel, God with us, you understood what it is to be human. Hear our prayers and use them, and us, to bring peace, joy, love and hope into the lives of those for whom we have prayed.

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

**Greetings friends,**

**Today, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent marks the week of Christmas when we prepare for the Birth of Jesus.** For most, this is a time of rejoicing, but for some it's a sad and lonely time.

We encourage families to come to the Thursday 6pm Family Christmas Service on Christmas Eve. A delightful time when children, dressed in nativity costume, role play the nativity characters.

A Christmas Eve service of Celebration and Holy Communion will be at 8pm, St Mary's Munro.

At 11pm, A Christmas Eve Candle-light Celebration with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church Stratford.

On Christmas Day, we will celebrate the Birth of Jesus and Holy Communion at 8.30am All Saints Church, Briagolong, and 10am at Holy Trinity Church Stratford.

We look forward to sharing this time of joy with parishioners, families and friends at some of these services.

**Today we will gather in the Parish Hall for the first time in 9 months for fellowship after worship.** Some parishioners have however enjoyed the fellowship following worship on Zoom – thank you Dave.  
**Fellowship via Zoom will take place at 12.30pm today.**

### **News from Parish Council**

The Anglican Trusts Corporation of the Diocese of Gippsland has approved in principle the subdivision of the church land at Briagolong. The septic tank and drainage have been relocated in readiness for subdivision.

**This Wednesday we will draw the Parish Raffle.** This is the last opportunity to buy tickets. For those who have ticket books, please **return them to Denise or Bev today.**

**Please ensure you have a copy of the 'Christmas 2020 Service Times in the Parish of Avon'** and encourage family and friends to come along.

## **WHATS ON IN THE PARISH**

### **DECEMBER**

**OP Shop / Parish Raffle.**

**Retiring Offertory: Act for Peace, Christmas Bowl**

*School Holidays: Saturday 19 December to Wednesday 27 January 2020.*

Wed 23 Op Shop Raffle Drawn

Thurs 24 6pm Family Christmas Service at Holy Trinity

Thurs 24 8pm Christmas Eve, Holy Communion at \*\*St Mary's

Thurs 24 11pm. Candle-lite Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

Fri 25 8.30am & 10am Christmas Day HC at \*\*All Saints & Holy Trinity.

Sun 27 First Sunday after Christmas

### **JANUARY 2021**

*Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity*

*School resumes Thursday 28 January 2021*

*\*\*Dave & family will be on Annual Leave after Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> for approximately 2 ½ weeks.*

**Retiring Offertory: CBM plus completion of Act for Peace Christmas Bowl**

Fri 1 New Year's Day. New Offertory Envelopes

Sun 3 Second Sunday of Christmas.

All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity

Wed 6 The Epiphany

Sun 10 1st Sunday after Epiphany. The Baptism of Jesus  
Healing Service

Sat 16 8.30am Men's Breakfast

Sun 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Tues 19 Parish Council Report due

Fri 22 Family Movie Night

Sun 24 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

### **Sunday 27 December, First Sunday after Christmas**

Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Ps 148. Galatians 4.4-7. Luke 2.22-40.

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Vic. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Lilius

Intercess: Vic. Org: Vic. Camera: Bev H.

Flowers: Judy K. Morning Teas: TBA Sac: BevH/Denise

**Parish of Avon: The Reverend David Perryman: 0401 035 379.**

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