

A night sky with a bright star and a city silhouette. The sky is a deep blue and purple, filled with numerous small stars. A single, very bright star with a prominent white core and a greenish-yellow aura is positioned in the upper center. Below the star, the dark silhouette of a city with several domes and towers is visible against the horizon. The overall scene is serene and celestial.

*Out of you [Bethlehem] will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.*

*Micah 5:2b*

Welcome to 10.30am worship at St Paul's

# A special welcome to any visitors!

Please accept a Welcome Pack and sign our guest book in the foyer, or leave us your details on a message card.

*The message card may be returned during the offering song, or placed in the box at the church door.*

**MESSAGE**

ST PAUL'S  
Lutheran Church Box Hill  
IN CHRIST WE GATHER, GROW, AND GO

Date: ..... / ..... / ..... Service/Event: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Daytime phone: .....

I would like to:

- Find out more about St Paul's
- Join a small group
- Record my changed address / phone / email
- Leave the following message/prayer request for:
  - Pastors/staff
  - Prayer group
  - Sunday services

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Information provided on this form will be used in accordance with our Privacy Policy which is available from the Church Office or <http://www.stpaulsboxhill.org.au>

# Worship this morning is led by Stuart & Rachel Manderson

10.30am: **Worship**

Next time, please join us  
for Tea/Coffee in the  
Community Room  
before the service.



# Help us welcome Pastor Neville Otto!

We are compiling a **Welcome Book** to help Pastor Neville to get to know us.



Please provide :

- A photo
- Some information about you/your family

Post in the office slot by 7 Jan, or email a digital submission to: [office@stpaulsboxhill.org.au](mailto:office@stpaulsboxhill.org.au)



**~ New Manse ~  
Working Bee  
and Open Day**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.00am to 3.00pm**

Please bring:

- Cleaning items
- Garden tools
- A pantry item  
to help stock the pantry

*Come along and  
help us prepare  
the new manse  
for occupation!*

*Contact:* Laurie David or Geoff Miller

# **Christmas Services**

## **Christmas Eve – 24<sup>th</sup> December**

5.00pm Family Christmas Service

6.30pm Lessons & Carols

8.30pm Lessons & Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

## **Christmas Day – 25<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am Worship (1 service only)

## **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas – 30<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am Worship (1 service only)

## About today's service:

All the words of the liturgy and hymns will appear on the overhead screen.

The leader shall speak the words in *italics*, the congregational response is in regular type.

Our theme today is:  
Big New Beginnings





## OPENING RESPONSES

*Come to me, all who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*

Jesus, we thirst for you.

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Jesus, we thirst for you.

*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Jesus, we thirst for you.





## IN THE NAME

*In the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.



# OPENING HYMN

Saviour of the nations, come  
TIS 295

1. Saviour of the nations, come,  
known as Virgin Mary's son.  
God amazes all the earth  
by the wonder of your birth.

2. No man's seed, no human plan  
made the Word of God a man,  
but the Holy Spirit's power  
gave the womb its fruit, its flower.

3. Mary, when the time had come,  
as a virgin bore her son;  
in her body was the place  
where God set his throne of grace.

4. He who from the Father came  
has returned with him to reign.  
He who went to death and hell  
rose on high, in heaven to dwell.

5. By the triumph that you won -  
truly human, yet God's Son-  
heal our weak humanity,  
let us share your victory.

6. From your manger new light beams,  
through the night your glory streams.  
Darkness cannot dim your light;  
faith keeps shining, always bright.



7. Praise to God the Father sing,  
praise to God the Son, our king,  
praise to God the Spirit be  
now and through eternity.

Martin Luther 1483-1546  
Translation © D A Schubert and J W Kleinig



## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Mary received God's grace and said yes to him.*

*We have received God's grace through the Son born to her, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*We come before God to confess when we have said "No" to God's will for us.*



***Please kneel or sit for the confession.***



*Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour...”*

Forgive us when we magnify the prospect of summer holidays and activities more than we praise you, O God.

*Mary said, “The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”*

Forgive us when our words and deeds offend the holiness of your name, O God.



*Mary spoke of God lifting up the poor and defenceless people of this world and bringing down those who are proud and arrogant.*

Forgive us when we fail to bring love and mercy to birth in people's lives because of our pride and our arrogance.



*Mary spoke of the hungry being fed with good things and the rich being sent away empty.*

Forgive us when our affluence blinds us to the plight of those who lack food and the basic necessities of life.

Hear our prayer, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*



*God's mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next.*

*The light of God's presence restores us and saves us.*

*Through what Jesus Christ did in his own body, once and for all, we are purified and made fit for God.*



*To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit.*

*Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.*

**Amen.**



# SHARE THE PEACE

*Peace be with you.*

Amen.

*Please stand to share the peace with  
those around you.*





# ADVENT KYRIE

*(TIS 736)*

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison



# 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!

Timothy Dudley Smith 1926 -  
Based on Luke 1:46-55  
© Hope Publishing Company, USA  
Used with permission CCLI 157787



## APOSTLES' CREED

*As God's people through our baptism into Christ, let us confess our faith.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the  
Father almighty,  
from thence 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

*\*or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'*



# THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The Lord be with you.*

And also with you.

*Let us pray:*

Heavenly Father, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour.

Fill us with your grace and love, so that in all things we may embrace your will and rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



## Advent Litany



Dear God, may we re-live the wonder of your love in our lives, and show that love to all we encounter. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.



## Advent Litany

Light one candle for love,

Light one candle for love.

Jesus brings love to every heart,

He comes,

He comes



Especially for children





# THE READINGS

## THE FIRST READING – Micah 5:2-5a

The shepherd king to be born in  
Bethlehem

Response to the reading:

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.



## PSALM

### Canticle: Song of Mary

*Cantor:*

*My soul is praising the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*

*All:*

*My soul is praising the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*



*He has looked with favour on his lowly servant  
from this day all generations will call me blest  
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*

*All:*

*My soul is praising the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*

*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*

*All:*

*My soul is praising the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*

*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 his promise of mercy  
the promise he made to our forbears  
to Abram and his children forever*

*All:*

*My soul is praising the Lord  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*



## THE SECOND READING –

Hebrews 10:5-10

Christ came to do God's will

Response to the reading:

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.



# THE ALLELUIA VERSE

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Blessed is she who believed  
that there would be a fulfilment  
of what was spoken to her by the Lord.*

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**



## **GOSPEL** – Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth

**(Sung)** Glory to you, O Lord.

**After the Gospel:**

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**(Sung)** Praise to you, O Christ.



# CHOIR

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*setting by Henry Walford Davies*

*LH 633; vv 1, 3 & 4*

*1. 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.*



*3. How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.*

*4. 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!*

Phillips Brooks (1835 – 1893)  
In the public domain



# THE ADDRESS





# FOR REFLECTION





## OFFERING HYMN

Behold a rose is growing  
*TIS 294*

*During the hymn, your freewill offering will be received. Thank you to those who have given their offering via REG.*

*Please return your message card in the offering bowl.*

1. Behold, a rose is growing,  
of loveliest form and grace,  
as prophets sang, foreknowing;  
it springs from Jesse's race,  
and comes a perfect flower,  
in midst of coldest winter,  
at deepest midnight hour.

2. Isaiah had foretold it  
in words of promise sure,  
and Mary's arms enfold it-  
a gentle maiden pure.  
Through God's eternal will  
this child to her is given  
at midnight calm and still.



3. This rose, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendour  
the darkness everywhere.

As human, yet true God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.

4. O Saviour, child of Mary,  
you felt our human woe;  
O Saviour, King of glory,  
you all our weakness know.  
Lead us at last, we pray,  
to the full joys of heaven  
and into endless day.

Anon., German, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.

*Tr.* vv 1-3 Harriet Reynolds Spaeth 1845-1925

v.4 John Caspar Mattes (1914) *alt.*

*In the public domain*



## OFFERING PRAYER

Lord God, help us to trust in your Son Jesus, and be ready to do your will as he did.

Fill us with joy and thankfulness, so that we live as your people, made holy through the sacrifice of Christ, and leading holy lives.  
Amen.



# THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Response after each petition -*

*Lord in your mercy,*

Hear our prayer.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Finally, let us pray for all those things which our Lord would have us ask, saying:*

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.

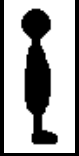
Amen.



## BLESSING

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

Amen.



## COMMISSION

*The Word made flesh lives in us, and speaks through us. We go, trusting in his riches, not in our poverty; trusting in his power, not in our weakness; and rejoicing that God has called us to be his witnesses.*

*We follow in the footsteps of Mary as we make our way to the stable, and rejoice that Christ, born in Bethlehem, is, and always will be, our friend and our Saviour.*

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





# CLOSING HYMN

Long ago, prophets knew

*TIS 283*

1. Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew  
Come to make all things new,  
Bear his people's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*When he comes,*  
*When he comes.*  
*Who will make him welcome?*

2. God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan;  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*When he comes,*  
*When he comes.*  
*Who will make him welcome?*

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid:  
Till the time expected,  
Nurtured and protected.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*When he comes,*  
*When he comes.*  
*Who will make him welcome?*

4. Journey ends: where afar  
Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry.



*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*Jesus comes,*  
*Jesus comes.*  
*We will make him welcome!*

Frederick Pratt Green 1903 –  
© Stainer and Bell, London  
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How are you?

Prayer Partners are at the front of the church after the services to pray with you.

