

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 skyline 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 8.30am 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

8.30am: **Worship**

9.45–10.30am:

- **Fellowship Morning Tea**

10.30am: **Worship**



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



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

Tuesday 8th 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 – 24th December

5.00pm Family Christmas Service

6.30pm Lessons & Carols

8.30pm Lessons & Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day – 25th December

9.30am Worship (1 service only)

1st Sunday after Christmas – 30th 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 SONG

Blessed be your name

Redman

Blessed be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams
of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name

When I'm found in the desert place

Though I walk through

the wilderness

Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me

When the world's 'all as it should be'

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name

On the road marked with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering

Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name
(repeat)

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

Beth Redman | Matt Redman

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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.*



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.



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.



GOSPEL – Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SONG

Amazing Love

PW 592

1. My Lord, what love is this
that pays so dearly:
that I, the guilty one
may go free.

*Amazing love
O what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me,
My debt he pays
and my death he dies
that I might live,
that I might live.*

2. And so they watched him die,
despised, rejected;
But O, the blood he shed
flowed for me.

*Amazing love
O what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me,
My debt he pays
and my death he dies
that I might live,
that I might live.*

3. And now this love of Christ
shall flow like rivers;
come wash your guilt away,
live again.

*Amazing love
O what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me,
My debt he pays
and my death he dies
that I might live,
that I might live.*



THE ADDRESS



FOR REFLECTION





OFFERING SONG

Born in the night (Mary's Child)

AT 141

During the song, 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. Born in the night,
Mary's Child,
A long way from your home;
Coming in need,
Mary's Child,
Born in a borrowed room.

2. Clear shining light,
Mary's Child,
Your face lights up our way;
Light of the world,
Mary's Child,
Dawn on our darkened day.

3. Truth of our life,
Mary's Child,
You tell us God is good;
Prove it is true,
Mary's Child,
Go to your cross of wood.

4. Hope of the world,
Mary's Child,
You're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth,
Mary's Child,
Walk in our streets again.



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 SONG

Strength will raise as we wait

PW 1037

Strength will rise
as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise
as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever

Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

Strength will rise
as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise
as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever

Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

Chris Tomlin; © 2005 Thankyou Music

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How are you?

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

