

Christmas Eve

24th December 2025

11.00pm



Parish Office: 43 Church Terrace
PO Box 347,
Walkerville 5081

Tel 8269 5420

Rector: The Rev'd Tracey Gracey

Web: www.standrewswalkerville.org.au
Email: office@standrewswalkerville.org.au
priest@standrewswalkerville.org.au



**St Andrew's
Church
WALKERVILLE**

St Andrew's is a Christ-centred,
sacramental, inclusive, thinking,
praying and prayerful, mission-
oriented faith community

Tonight's Service

11.00pm Holy Communion (sung)

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev'd Tracey Gracey

Gathering Prayer

Love is born among us,
Glory to God in the highest!
Let us rejoice in the mystery of Emmanuel – God with us.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Processional Carol (please stand if able)

- 1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the king of angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!***
- 2. God of God,
Light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
*O come...***
- 3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
*O come...***

6. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
glory to God
in the highest:
O come...

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come...

Adeste, fideles (Latin. 18th cent). tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others

Greeting

We gather in the presence of the Christ Child

**The Christ Child in me
The Christ Child in you
The Christ Child
in all of us
Amen**

Advent Candle Lighting Prayers

The Candle of Hope

We light this candle for hope
for the prophets who spoke of promise,
and for all who waited and watched
for the signs of God's coming.
In their longing, they trusted that God's word
would bring life and renewal to the world.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Candle of Peace

We light this candle for peace
for the angels who sang of it,
and for Joseph, who listened for God's voice
and chose the quiet way of faithfulness.
His peace was not born of power or pride,
but of trust, courage, and grace.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Candle of Joy

We light this candle for joy
for Mary who sang her song of praise,
and for the shepherds whose fear turned to wonder.
Joy broke through the stillness of night
and filled the world with heaven's song.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Candle of Love

We light this candle for love
for the Wise Men who followed the star,
for those who sought truth and found it in humility.
Love guided each step of their journey
and was revealed in their gifts of devotion and care.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Christ Candle

We light the Christ Candle
for the child born in Bethlehem,
for the light that has come into the world.
In Jesus, hope is fulfilled,
peace is found,
joy is made complete,
and love is revealed in all its fullness.

**This is the light that no darkness can overcome:
God with us, now and always.**

Sentence of the Day

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
for to us a child is born, to us a son is given. *Isaiah 9:2, 6*

Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray

**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.**

This is a moment
to find within us the
true spirit of Christmas.

This is a moment
to calm and quiet our souls
and find true joy.

This is a moment
to insist that,
despite everything,
God is with us.

This is a moment
to dig deep and find love
is born again within us.

This is a moment
when the outer gifts matter
less than the inner one.

This is a moment
To pause, to rest in God's presence
and be thankful for the gift of love made known.

Blessing of the Nativity

God of Grace,

we give thanks for this nativity scene,
representing those who remind us
of your love:

Mary, whose courage brought your promise to life.

Joseph, whose care protected the vulnerable.

The shepherds, who teach us the beauty of simple faith.

The magi, who model a journey of devotion.

The angels, who declare your glory.

And the child Jesus, the heart of the story,

born to bring light, love, and hope to the world.

Bless this crib as a reflection of your presence among us,
now and always. **Amen.**

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

After the reading

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Hymn to the Word

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God,

And the Word was God:
He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him:
**and without him,
was not anything made that was made.**

In him was life:
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness:
and the darkness has not overcome it.

He was in the world:
**and the world was made through him,
yet the world knew him not.**

And the Word became flesh:
and dwelt among us full of grace and truth;

We have beheld his glory:
glory as of the only Son from the Father.

And from his fullness have we all received:
and grace upon grace.

Gradual Carol (please stand if able)

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
4. 'the heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease!'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715) based on Luke 2: 1-20

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-14

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke,
chapter two, beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- ¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
- ² This was the first registration
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- ³ All went to their own towns to be registered.
- ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.
- ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
- ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid;
for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- ¹² This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

After the Gospel the reader says

Hear the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Affirmation of Faith for Christmas, from the Iona Community
(please stand if able)*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

**We believe in God,
whose love is the source of all life
and whose power renews the earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, born of Mary's womb,
the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.
He lived as one of us, full of grace and truth.
He forgave, healed, taught, and showed us the way to God.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who breathes new life into our hearts,
who gathers us into one family of faith,
and fills us with hope and joy.**

**We believe in the eternal God,
who comes to us in love,
who was, and is, and will be:
Emmanuel, God with us.**

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Emmanuel, born into a world of need,
Where there is hunger,
Bring daily bread and hope.
Where there is conflict,
Bring peace and reconciliation.
Where there is oppression,
Bring justice and freedom.
Where there is poverty,
Bring dignity and provision.
Where natural disasters cause suffering,
Bring restoration and care.
Emmanuel, born among us,
Dwell in our neighbourhoods.

Where there is loneliness,
Bring friendship and belonging.
Where there is division,
Bring unity and understanding.
Where there is pain,
Bring healing and comfort.
Where there is weariness,
Bring strength and rest.
Emmanuel, born into a family,
Bless our homes with your peace.
Where there is love,
Strengthen and sustain us.
Where there is hurt,
Bring healing and forgiveness.
Where there is joy,
Let it overflow to others.
Where there is struggle,
Bring guidance and hope.
Emmanuel, healer and comforter
Bring peace to the suffering.
For those who are ill,
Give strength and rest.
For those in pain,
Bring relief and comfort.
For those awaiting answers,
Bring patience and hope.
For those in treatment,
Bring courage and endurance.
For those mourning the loss of loved ones,
Enfold them in your peace.

Gathering these prayers together we 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.

Confession

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your
strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment.
And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
In silence, let us confess our sins with a true and sincere heart.

Lord, we have sinned in thought, word and deed:

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

We are truly sorry and we ask you to forgive us:

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Help us by your spirit to live in newness of life:

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Absolution

May God grant us forgiveness of our sins,
time for amendment of life;
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Greeting of Peace

May the peace
of the Christmas Child,
The soft peace
of a star lit night,
The noisy peace
of a crowded stable,
The challenging peace
of life and love fully lived
and freely shared,
Be with you.
and also with you.

Offertory Carol – during this hymn the bread and wine for Holy Communion will be presented, and the Collection taken. (Please stand if able)

- 1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
- 2. He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**
- 5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**
- 6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

Invitation to Communion

God is mystery and awe,
God is spirit and truth,
God is grand Creator
and Holy Christ.
And one thing we know:
In the moment of love,
In the gift of healing,
In the act of grace,
In the holding to hope
Our God is with us.

Thanksgiving Prayer

The peace of the Christ Child
be with you now and always.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them before God.

Pour out your souls.

It is a good thing to offer our adoration and praise.

God,

You have entered this place,
and in your holy shadow,
heaven tangles with earth
in the bread and wine.

Come now, my God.

As you once came to us
in a stable in Bethlehem
come now and be with us
in the bread of Christ's Body
in this world that hungers
and waits for truth.

Come now, my God.

As once your Spirit poured forth
life upon the earth
come now and pour
the wine of Christ's
blood for this creation,
waiting for renewal.

Come now, my God.

And so with everyone who believes in you,
with all the saints and angels,
we rejoice and praise you, singing:

**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.**



And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night before
he died he took bread,
He gave you thanks.
He broke the bread
and gave it to his friends,
and said, "take and eat.
This is my body given for you.
Do this to remember me."

After supper
he took the cup.
and, giving thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said,
‘This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many.
Do this to remember me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.



Be present in our hope
in this holy time:
in the silence of power
and the power of silence;
in the throne rooms
of the rich and the
shanties of the poor;
in overfed communities and underfed souls;
gather up hope in the bread and wine.

Break open the good news
of your incarnation:
on parched farmlands
and frightened cities;
in the hearts of the proud
and the longings of the lowly.
Gather up the good news
in the bread and wine.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour, glory and power,
are yours for ever and ever, Amen.**



The Breaking of 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.

This is the feast of the Christmas Child.
A place where heaven and earth coincide,
and eternity once more condenses into time
as God is seen and known in the simple and the small,
in story and song, and in bread and wine.

Invitation to Communion

This is the Bread of Life and this is the Wine of Compassion.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Administration of Communion

*All who wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to form a single-file line
and kneel/stand at the Altar rail when a space is available.*

*If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please also come forward and indicate
this by bowing your head.*

Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

*We kindly ask that you receive the bread and wine separately rather than
dipping the wafer into the cup.*

Communion Carol

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.
2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
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 Emmanuel.

Philips Brooks (1835–93) altd.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

May we who have knelt at the manger
always have room to hold within ourselves the Christ Child.
May we who have gazed on the face of God
learn to live fully, and to share freely all that we have and are.
So Emmanuel, God with us and for us
will be once again be incarnated in the world.
Amen.

Final Carol (please stand if able)

1. **Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'**

*Hark! the Herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king.*

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

*Hark! the Herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king.*

3. 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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.**

*Hark! the Herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king.*

Charles Wesley (1707–88) and others

Dismissal & Blessing

Christmas

came simply:

a pregnant woman

a worried father

a night birth

a healthy child.

Just God

unwrapped,

vulnerable,

lying in a manger,

living in our world.

May the news of the angels

fill your life and your heart with great joy.

May the star that guided the wise

lead you to the truth of understanding.

May the witness of the shepherds

affirm in you the message of the Gospel.

May the sound of the incarnate Word

bring you peace and hope.

May the presence of the sacred baby

remind you of your own holiness.

And may this Christmas
gift you
bless you
comfort you
inspire you,
as you journey into another year.
Amen.

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

Organ Postlude

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Merry Christmas!

*Enjoy family celebrations, some down time
and a safe and happy New Year*

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SERVICE TIMES AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday 28th December: **9.30am** Holy Communion (said, with hymns)
8am and 9.30am services continue throughout January

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office is closed for the festive period, and will re-open on Wednesday 28th January 2026. Any queries, please contact Tracey on 0417 899 603 or at priest@standrewswalkerville.org.au

RESUMING IN FEBRUARY

Home Fellowship – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7.30pm, Newells' house

'Life through the Bible' – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11am, Wheatleys'

Chatty Café – 2nd Wednesday, 10-11am, Parish Centre

Men's Breakfast – 2nd Saturday, 8.30am, Parish Centre

Bolton Clarke Residential Care Communion Service

– 3rd Wednesday, 10.30am

Women's Breakfast – 3rd Saturday, 10am, Sfizio (Norwood Parade)

Youth Group – Saturday, dates TBC, 5-7pm

Rosters for this Sunday, 28th December (Christmas 1) – 9.30am only

Celebrant & Preacher:	9.30am	The Rev'd Tracey Gracey
Readers:	9.30am	Biffy Ormsby
Prayer Leader:	9.30am	Michael Thomas
Lay Assistants:	9.30am	Sharon Gray
Server:	9.30am	Adam Harris
Welcomers:	9.30am	Robin Coleman; Tony Holloway
Morning Tea	9.30am	Jennie Coleman; Donna Coombe; Yvonne Facy

Rosters for Sunday 4th January (Epiphany)

Celebrant & Preacher:	8.00 & 9.30am	The Rev'd Tracey Gracey
Readers:	8.00am	Jenny Moller
	9.30am	Heather Wheatley
Prayer Leader:	9.30am	Brian Wheatley
Lay Assistants:	8.00am	Darren Fleming
	9.30am	Donna Coombe
Server:	9.30am	Michael Thomas
Welcomers:	8.00am	Brian Zwar
	9.30am	Brian & Heather Wheatley
Morning Tea	9.30am	Needra Silva; Sally Zimmerman; Helen Hancock <i>Cake:</i> Jenny Harris