

Christmas Day

25th December 2025

8.00am & 9.30am



Parish Office: 43 Church Terrace
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St Andrew's
Church
WALKERVILLE

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

Today's Services

8.00am Holy Communion (said, with carols)

9.30am 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.

Joy to the world!

Peace, hope, and love are born this day.

Processional Carol (please stand if able)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!

let all their songs employ;

while fields and floods, rocks and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

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 of Christ has come into the world.

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 of Christ has come into the world.

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 of Christ has come into the world.

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 of Christ has come into the world.

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.

The light of Christ has come into the world.

Sentence of the Day

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

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.**

God of mystery and manger,
as we celebrate today,
open our hearts to your love
so that your Good News
is not just an old familiar story
but a fresh truth to be lived out in our lives every day. **Amen.**

Gloria (sung at 9.30am)

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.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, — Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are sea - ted at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, — you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the — glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

Almighty God,
who gave your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:
grant that we being born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,
ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Talk

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.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

After the reading

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

I looked for the Spirit of Christmas

I looked for the spirit of Christmas,
thinking there might be a place
where I would feel a deep sense
of the holiness of the occasion.

I looked in the shops,
drawn in by bright decorations
but I found that I couldn't afford
this brand of Christmas.

I slipped into a church,
attracted by their cheerful poster,
but a group of people were arguing
about where to place the chairs.

The advertisements told me
that Christmas was all about family,
but mine always argue at Christmas,
and then fall asleep straight after lunch.

I even went overseas to Bethlehem,
but there were soldiers with guns,
and a very long queue waiting
to get through the checkpoint.

So I came home and on the plane,
a mother and her baby sat next to me,
and suddenly the baby looked right
at me, and smiled.

And it was Christmas!

I'll never go to so much trouble again,
spending and cooking and shopping,
or expecting too much from people.

The spirit of Christmas
is in simple things.

Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Centre

Gradual Carol (please stand if able)

- 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.

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: 8-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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!'
15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that
has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'
16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.
17 When they saw this, they made known
what had been told them about this child;
18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After the Gospel the reader says

Hear the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon – Celebrant

*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: *(sung at 9.30am)*

**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.**

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven - and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

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: *(sung at 9.30am)*

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. (*Sung at 9.30am*)

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

Musical notation for the hymn "Blessing and Honour, Glory and Power". The music is written on three staves in a single system, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Bless-ing and hon-our and glo-ry and pow'r are yours for ev-er and ev-er. A-men." The first staff contains the first line of music and the first part of the lyrics. The second staff contains the second line of music and the second part of the lyrics. The third staff contains the third line of music and the final part of the lyrics, including a long horizontal line under "men." indicating a sustained note.

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. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!**

- 2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!'**

- 3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Joseph Mohr 1792-1848 tr. John F. Young 1820-85

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. **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

Dismissal & Blessing

May there be harmony
in all your relationships.

May you give and
receive love generously.

May each person who
comes into your life
be greeted as another Christ.

May the hope of this sacred
season settle in your soul.

May the wonder and awe
that fills the eyes of children
be awakened within you.

May the bonds of love for
one another be strengthened
as you gather with your family.

May you daily open the gift
of your life and be grateful for
the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year
be one of good health for you.

May you keep your eye
on the Star within you and trust
this Shining Presence
to guide and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the One who offers
you peace.

And may God's blessing of
hope, peace, joy and love be upon
you this Christmas Season.

Amen.

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

CHATTY CAFÉ will take place in January, Wednesday 14th at 10am in the Parish Centre. All welcome!

OTHER GROUPS RESUME IN FEBRUARY

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

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

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

Bolton Clarke Residential Care Communion Service

– 1st Wednesday, 10.30am

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

Faith and Fellowship – fortnightly on Wednesdays, 2pm (Parish Centre)

- commencing 4th February

Youth Group – Saturdays, 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/Tracey Gracey
Lay Assistants: 9.30am Sharon Gray
Server: 9.30am Adam Harris
Welcomers: 9.30am Robin Coleman; Tony Holloway
Morning Tea 9.30am the urn will be on!

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 *Cake: Jenny Harris*

Rosters for Sunday 11th January (Baptism of our Lord)

Celebrant & Preacher: 8.00 & 9.30am The Rev'd Tracey Gracey
Readers: 8.00am Janet Martin
9.30am Suzanne Sexton
Prayer Leader: 9.30am Wayne Butcher
Lay Assistants: 8.00am Darren Fleming
9.30am Malcolm Allen
Server: 9.30am Jennifer Harris
Welcomers: 8.00am Jan de Wit
9.30am Sally Zimmerman; Roy Ingram
Morning Tea 9.30am Val Ingram; Suzanne Sexton
Cake: Yvonne Facy