

**A SERVICE OF  
*CONFIRMATION  
& RECEPTION***



**JOHN POWER  
NATASHA  
PANDITHARATNE  
SAM WILSMORE  
LOIS AND MAX WALKER  
JENNY YOUNES**

**14 DECEMBER, 2025**

**Welcome (Sue lead, Wayne and singing group music)**

**Bishop's Greeting (Bishop)**

**Sentence (Sue)**

There is one body and one Spirit

**There is one hope in God's call to us.**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,

**One God and Father of all**

**Song: Joy to the World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive its king.

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:

Let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love

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**Advent Wreath: Advent 3 – Joy**

We are drawing closer to Christmas Day. Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of **HOPE** and the candle of **PEACE**. Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the

candle of **JOY**. As the coming of Jesus, our Saviour, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

From the Book of Isaiah 65:18, we read the words of our Lord:  
*“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”*

**Testimonies:**                 **Sam Wilsmere**  
                                      **Jenny Younes**  
                                      **Natasha Panditharatne**  
                                      **John Power**

### **Confession (Sue)**

Let us affirm our trust in God’s mercy,  
And confess that we need forgiveness.  
Lord God, you created this world and made us in your own image.  
Forgive us when we turn away from you.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, God through your Son you overcame evil and death.  
Rescue us from slavery to sin.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and  
with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution (Bishop)**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
Forgive your sins and keep you in life eternal.

### **Bible Reading: Mark 8:27-38 (Robyn R)**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi,  
and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I

am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,<sup>[c]</sup> will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words<sup>[d]</sup> in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

### **Sermon (Bishop Paul)**

#### **Song: King of Kings**

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running there was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

#### **Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one God of glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings**

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died

## Chorus

And the morning that You rose all of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name in His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

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## Confirmation

*The Bishop invites John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max and sponsors to gather in view of the congregation*

We welcome those who come to be confirmed.  
I invite their sponsors to present them now.

*The Sponsors answer:*

**We present John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max who have come to be confirmed.**

## The Decision

*The Bishop says to John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max*

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm  
that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

**I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

**I renounce all that is evil.**

Will you, by God's grace, strive to live your whole life as a disciple of Christ, loving God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

*The Bishop turns to the congregation*

You have heard *John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max* renew their response to Christ. Will you support them?

**We will.**

*The Minister says (Sue)*

Let us pray for *John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max* who have affirmed their baptism and are to receive the laying on of hands.

Merciful God, deliver them from all evil that they may walk in the way of truth and life; Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Open their hearts by the Holy Spirit to your grace and truth;  
Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church  
Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Send them into the world to witness to your love and justice;  
Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bring them and us all into the fullness of your peace and glory;

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Bishop says to John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max and their sponsors:*

I now ask you all to affirm as yours the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**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.**

This is the faith of the Church  
**This is our faith:  
We believe in one God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Prayer**

*The Bishop says*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the Name of the Lord  
**now, and forever. Amen.**

Almighty and ever living God,  
you have given your servants  
new birth by water and the Spirit,  
and have forgiven them their sins  
Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit  
that they may grow in grace.

Increase in them

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of discernment and inner strength,  
the spirit of knowledge and true godliness,  
and fill them with wonder and awe  
at Your presence,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Laying on of hands**

*Those who are to be confirmed stand before the bishop, who lays hands on each of them saying*

Strengthen, Lord, Your servant, *John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max*  
with Your Holy Spirit. Empower and sustain her/him for your service.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation joins with the bishop in saying this prayer  
after all the candidates have received the laying on of hands*

**Defend, O Lord, this Your servant  
with Your heavenly grace,  
that she/he may continue to be yours forever,**

**and daily increase in Your Holy Spirit more and more until she/he comes to Your eternal kingdom. Amen.**

*John, Natasha, Sam, Lois and Max*, may the Holy Spirit who has begun a good work in you direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his Kingdom.

God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you. **Amen.**

### **Reception of Jenny Younes (Sue)**

*Jenny, has already been baptised and has formally been a communicant member of another church, now asks to be received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and seeks our prayers. Jenny is presented by her sponsors.*

*The Bishop says:*

Jenny, do you stand by the Christian confession and commitment made at your baptism?

**I do**

Do you desire to be admitted into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and accept her doctrine and order?

**I do**

We recognise you as a baptised and communicant member of the Christian Church. We receive and welcome you into the communion of the Anglican Church.

The congregation responds

We receive and welcome you into the communion of the Anglican Church

Let us pray.

God of wisdom and love, source of all good,  
by your Holy Spirit strengthen your servant

and guide her in your way of peace and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and His Kingdom in the fellowship of His church. God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Candidate**

*The bishop now prays for those upon whom hands have been laid.*

Almighty and ever-living God,  
watch over this Your servant  
upon whom we have now laid our hands.  
Let Your Holy Spirit always be with them  
and lead them to know and obey Your word,  
that they may serve you in this life,  
and dwell with You in the life to come:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Offering Song: Amazing Grace**

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
This grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun

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## **Offering Prayer**

### **Prayers (Natalie)**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray;

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be Your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done on earth as it is 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**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are Yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving (Bishop Paul with Jaq and Nat)**

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**

All glory and honour be yours

always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, ever living God.  
We give you thanks and praise  
for our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit  
was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By His death on the cross and rising to new life  
He offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people.  
In baptism you have united us in him  
and brought us out of darkness into light.  
You pour your Spirit upon us,  
filling us with your gifts,  
and calling us to serve as a royal priesthood.  
Therefore, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation  
this bread and wine,  
and pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
And when he had given you thanks  
He broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us, with all Your people  
into the joy of Your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
We worship you, Father,  
in songs of never ending praise:

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

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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God  
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood  
of Christ in remembrance that he died for us and feed on him  
in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## **Sending out**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise  
That when we were still far off  
You met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
Gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
We who drink his cup bring life to others;  
We whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;  
So we and all your children shall be free,  
And the whole world live to praise your name**

## **Notices**

Jaqueline's award  
Interchurch council service  
Christmas services

## **Song: Sing to The King**

Sing to the King Who is coming to reign  
Glory to Jesus the Lamb that was slain  
Life and salvation His empire shall bring  
And joy to the nations when Jesus is King

**Come let us sing a song  
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus  
He is all we need  
Lift up a heart of praise  
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus, Sing to the King**

For His returning we watch and we pray  
We will be ready the dawn of that day  
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed  
'Cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King

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### **Commitment Prayer**

All who have been baptised and confirmed are called to study the Bible, to take part in the life of the Church, to share in the Holy Communion, and to pray faithfully and regularly. We are called to share with others, by word and example, the love of Christ and his gospel of reconciliation and hope. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, to honour all people and to pray and work for peace and justice. I invite all of you to commit yourselves anew to this calling.

**We will gladly do so, in the strength of the Holy Spirit.**

### **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 almighty.  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

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