

Christ Church  North Adelaide



Christmas 2018  
Choral Eucharist  
9.00am



## The Rector Writes

A holy and blessed Christmas to all joining us at Christ Church at this time and to all whom you love both near and far. Peace, grace and joy to you all.

Robert Smith of Pennsylvania tells a boyhood story. "It's been many years since I saw her," he relates, "but in memory, she's still there every holiday season. I especially feel her presence when I receive my first Christmas card. I was only twelve years old and Christmas was only a few days away, and the season's first blanket of white snow magnified the excitement. I dressed hurriedly because the snow out there was waiting for me. What would I do first? Build a snowman? Slide down the hill? Throw some flakes in the air and let them flutter down? Well, our family station wagon pulled into the driveway and Mom called me over to help her with the groceries. When we finished that, she said, 'Bob, here are Mrs. Hildebrand's groceries.' No other instructions were necessary. As far back as I could remember, Mom shopped for Mrs. Hildebrand's food and I delivered it. Our 95-year-old neighbour lived alone. She was crippled with arthritis, and she could only take a few steps with a cane. I liked Mrs. Hildebrand. I enjoyed talking with her. More accurately, I enjoyed listening to her. She told me wonderful stories about her life, about a steepled church in the woods, horse and buggy rides on Sunday afternoons, and her family farm that had no electricity or running water. She always gave me a dime for bringing in her groceries. It got so that I would refuse only half-heartedly, knowing she would insist, and five minutes later I would be across the street at Beyer's Candy Store.

As I headed over with the grocery bags, I decided I wouldn't accept any money from Mrs. Hildebrand. This would be my present to her. So, impatiently, I rang the doorbell. 'Come in,' she said cheerfully; 'put the bag on the table.' I did so more hurriedly than usual because I could hear the snow calling me back outside. She sat at the table, picked up the items out of the bag and told me where to set them on the shelves. I usually enjoyed doing this, but it was snowing! As we continued, I began to realize how lonely she was. Her husband had died some 20 years before. She had no children. Her only living relative was a nephew in Philadelphia who never came to visit her. Nobody even called her on Christmas. There was no tree, no presents, no stockings. For her, Christmas was just another date on the calendar. She offered me a cup of tea, which she did every time I brought in the groceries. 'Well,' I thought, 'maybe the snow could wait a bit.' We sat and talked about what Christmas was like when she was a child..."

*please see page 20 for continuation*

## HEARING AID USERS

This church is fitted with a hearing aid loop (Tele coil system). If your hearing aid is fitted with a tele coil setting you may wish to try this feature.

### *The People shall stand for the entry of the Sanctuary Party*

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And with thy Spirit.**

### *Then shall be said the Introit Sentence*



unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Angel of mighty counsel. Is. 9, 6

∇ Let us proceed in peace.

℞ **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### *Then shall be sung the Processional Carol (48)*

**Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn** *Yorkshire*

**Christians, awake! salute the happy morn,  
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love,  
which hosts of angels chanted from above:  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.**

**Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the angelic herald's voice: "Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
to you and all the nations upon earth:  
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."**

He spake; and straightway the celestial choir  
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;  
the praises of redeeming love they sang,  
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
peace upon earth, and unto men good will.

To Bethl'em straight the enlightened shepherds ran,  
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,  
and found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,  
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:  
then to their flocks, still praising God, return,  
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

O may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;  
trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;  
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, the angelic thrones among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:  
he that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all his glory shall display;  
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

*John Byrom 1692-1763*

### *The Priest prays*



OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Then shall the Priest say, together with the People*



**LMIGHTY** God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through **Christ** our Lord. **Amen.**

*Then shall the Choir sing: [setting: Harold Darke in F]*

<i>Kyrie, eleison</i>	Lord, have mercy upon us.
<i>Christe, eleison</i>	Christ, have mercy upon us.
<i>Kyrie, eleison</i>	Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Then shall be said the Collect of the Day*

Let us pray.



**LMIGHTY** God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Then shall the People sit for the Epistle*

The Epistle is written in the First Chapter of the Epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews, beginning at the 1st verse.



**OD**, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me

a Son". But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Here endeth the Epistle.

*Then shall be sung Carol (38) for the Gradual*

**The people that in darkness sat *Dundee***

**The people that in darkness sat  
a glorious light have seen;  
the light has shined on them who long  
in shades of death have been.**

**To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
the gathering nations come;  
they joy as when the reapers bear  
their harvest treasures home.**

**For unto us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and on his shoulder ever rests  
all power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
the everlasting Lord,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and power  
shall over all extend;  
on judgement and on justice based,  
his reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
and make us thine alone,  
who with the Father ever art  
and Holy Spirit One.**

*Words: John Morrison (1750-1798), adapted from Isaiah 9:2-7*

*At the beginning of the Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**


A hallowed day hath dawned upon us: come, ye nations,  
and worship the Lord:

for on this day a great light hath descended upon the earth.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**


The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John, beginning at the 1st verse.

℞ ✠ **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

 **I**N 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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

℞ **Praise be to thee O Christ.**

*Then shall be said the Creed by Priest and People*

 **BELIEVE** in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:  
**AND** in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very

God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, *And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man,* And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

AND I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the ✠ Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Then shall the People sit for the Sermon*

*The Priest shall begin the Offertory, saying this sentence of Scripture*



et the heavens rejoyce, and let the earth be glad before the Lord: for he is come.

*Ps 96, 11 and 13*

*Then shall the People stand to sing the Offertory Carol (66)*

**Once in royal David's city *Irby***

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.



**3. And through all his wondrous  
childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**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.**

**4. For he is our childhood's  
pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**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.**

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

*After that shall be said the Prayers, the people kneeling humbly upon their knees*

*Wider Church: Kumi Uganda Bp Thomas Irigei*

*National Church: The Northern Territory: Greg Anderson*

*Adelaide: Lockleys: Sue Burgess*

*Those in particular need:*

*The Sick:*

Jan Keay, Juliana, Penny Howell, Beverley, Tara, Milo, Ralph Archbold, Fr Christopher Myers, Marianne Tucker, Ann Sergeant, Helen Carter, Peter Niutta, Melody Butcher, David Presgrave, Mary McLeod, Philip

*Continuing Prayers for:*

Fr David Keay, Heather Denholm, Andrew Pavy, Thomas Ottway, Fr Anthony Moester, Natasha Horn, John Pfitzner, Jill Turbott, Fr John Edwards, Ruth Gallasch, Michael & Emma Boundy, Geraldine, Ray, Barry, Susan, Patsy Sellars.

*Years' Mind:*


Phyllis E. Burston, Elizabeth (Betty) M. Porter, Mary ( Mollie)

L. Brooksbank, Mary P. Walsh, A. Lloyd Wiggins, Jack Walsh, Judith S. Lord

℣ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.


℟ ✠ **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

LMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant, that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love. We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and specially thy Servant *ELIZABETH* our Queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: And grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

GIVE grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

AND to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

E that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth

in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

*Then shall this general Confession be made*

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then shall the Priest, standing up and turning himself to the people, pronounce the Absolution*

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then shall the Priest say:*

**H**EAR what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

COME unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*Mtt 11:28*

SO God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *Jn 3:16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

THIS is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tm 1:15

Hear also what Saint John saith:

IF any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 Jn 2:1

*After which the Priest shall proceed, saying*

∇ The Lord be with you

Ⱳ **And with thy spirit.**

∇ Lift up your hearts.

Ⱳ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

∇ Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Ⱳ **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Then shall the Priest turn to the Lord's Table, and say*



IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

BECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

*Then shall the Choir sing*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.*

*✠Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest.*

*Then shall be said this Prayer*



WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*Then the Priest, standing before the Table, shall say the Prayer of Consecration*



ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again.

HEAR us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

TAKE, EAT, THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU: DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME. ✠

LIKEWISE after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,

DRINK YE ALL OF THIS; FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS: DO THIS, AS OFT AS YE SHALL DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME. ✠



HEREFORE, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

MOST humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and

death of thy son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

AND here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction.

AND although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences.

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

*Then shall the Priest say the Lord's Prayer, together with the People*



**O**UR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. **Amen.**

☩ The peace of the Lord be alway with you.

✠ **And with thy spirit.**

*Then shall the Choir sing*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.*

☩ Behold the Lamb of God, behold him that takest away the sins of the world; happy are they that are called to his supper.

℞ Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof but speak the word only and thy servant shall be healed.

*And after that shall the people, meekly kneeling, receive communion, during which the choir shall sing the Motets:*

Hodie Christus natus est (from *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*) Francis Poulenc

Hodie Christus natus est:  
hodie Salvator apparuit:  
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,  
laetantur Archangeli:  
hodie exsultant iusti dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

*Christ is born today:  
today our Saviour has appeared:  
on earth this day the Angels sing,  
Archangels sing praises:  
today righteous men shout exulting:  
'Glory to God in the highest.' Alleluia.*

*Text: based on Luke 2:14*

A great and mighty wonder (Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen)  
*German carol, harm. Michael Praetorius*

A great and mighty wonder,  
a full and holy cure!  
the Virgin bears the Infant  
with virgin-honour pure:  
*Repeat the hymn again:*  
*"To God on high be glory,  
and peace on earth to men."*

The Word becomes incarnate,  
and yet remains on high;  
and cherubim sing anthems  
to shepherds from the sky:

While thus they sing your Monarch,  
those bright angelic bands,  
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
ye oceans, clap your hands:

Since all he comes to ransom,  
by all be he adored,  
the Infant born in Beth'lem,  
the Saviour and the Lord:

*(St Germanus, trans. J. M. Neale)*

*Then shall the People sing the Communion Hymn*

**64 Of the Father's love begotten** *Divinum Mysterium*

**Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega;  
He the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.**

**O that birth forever blessèd,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.**

**O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.**

*Words: Prudentius (348 – c.413), trans. J. M. Neale*

*After shall be said as followeth*





ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son.

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

*Then shall the People stand while the Gloria in Excelsis is sung by the choir*



GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O LORD, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

FOR thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high ✠ in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

*Please kneel as the Priest gives this Blessing*



THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Then shall the People sing the Final Carol (62)*

**O come, all ye faithful**

**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!***

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:  
[Refrain]**

**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, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!***

*Words: Latin, 18th century, trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

*Then shall be played the Postlude for the recession of the Choir and Sanctuary Party*

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### **ABM PEW REFLECTIONS**

- Pray that all may experience the light of Christ's life and love.
- Pray for the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.



*story continued from page 2 under Rector Writes...*

...Together we travelled back in time, and an hour passed before I knew. 'Well, Bob,' she said, 'you must be wanting to play outside in the snow,' as she reached for her purse, fumbling for the right coin. 'No, no, Mrs. Hildebrand. I can't take your money this time. You can use it for more important things,' I insisted. She looked at me and smiled. 'What more important thing could I use this money for, if not to give it to a friend at Christmas time?' She placed a whole quarter in my hand. I tried to give it back, but she would have none of it. I hurried out of the door and I ran over to Beyer's Candy Store with my fortune. I had no idea what to buy - a comic book, a chocolate soda, ice cream. And then I spotted a Christmas card with an old country church on its cover. It was just like the church Mrs. Hildebrand described to me, and I knew I had to buy it. I handed Mr. Beyer my quarter and borrowed a pen to sign my name. 'For your girlfriend?' Mr Beyer teased. I started to say no but quickly changed my mind. 'Well, yeah,' I said. 'I guess so.'

As I walked across the street with my gift, I was so proud of myself. I felt like I'd just hit a home run in the World Series. I rang Mrs. Hildebrand's doorbell. 'Hello, Mrs. Hildebrand,' I said, and handed her my card. 'Merry Christmas.' Her hands trembled as she slowly opened the envelope, studied the card and began to cry. 'Thank you. Thank you very much,' she said in almost a whisper. 'Merry Christmas to you.' On a cold and windy afternoon a few weeks later, the ambulance arrived next door. My mom said they found Mrs. Hildebrand in bed. She had died peacefully in her sleep. Her night table light was still on when they found her and it illumined a solitary Christmas card with an old country church on the cover."

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God Bless you all,  
*Keith Brice*