



St Thomas' Cathedral

Mumbai • Estd 1718

The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

A Service of Morning Prayer

Sunday December 27, 2020

|The Preparation & Gathering|

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist on December 27. Born in Bethsaida, he was called while mending his nets to follow Jesus. He became the beloved disciple of Jesus. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. His passages on the pre-existence of the Word, who by His Incarnation became the light of the world and the life of our souls, are among the finest of the New Testament. He is the evangelist of the divinity of Christ and His fraternal love. With James, his brother, and Simon Peter, he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration. At the Last Supper, he leans on the Master's breast. At the foot of the cross, Jesus entrusts His Mother to his care. John's pure life kept him very close to Jesus and Mary in years to come. John was exiled to the island of Patmos under Emperor Domitian.

Voluntary

Eric Thiman (1900 - 1975)

A Virgin most pure

All stand

The Opening Acclamation

The Officiant	The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.
All	The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.
The Officiant	And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
All	full of grace and truth.
The Officiant	Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
All	The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly adhere to the following:

- Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter.
- Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance.
- Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times.
- Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs.
- Please take this service bulletin home with you. It is mandatory to do so.
- Leave as soon as the service is over. Please do not gather outside and talk.

Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of Ministry of the Word. Familiarise yourself with the Diocesan advisory.

Please be seated

Hymn

“Of the Father’s heart begotten”

Follow the words as the Cantors sing.

1. Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

2. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

*Words: Prudentius (b. 348)
Music: Melody from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582*

Penitence and Confession

The Officiant says:

Hear what Saint John says:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just,
and will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Officiant Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord Jesus, you came not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord Jesus, you are the Saviour of the world.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

All say

**O God most holy and merciful,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have not done.
Therefore we pray you to have mercy on us,
and forgive us our sins. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, grace to amend our life, and the strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All say the Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who 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 Ministry of the Word|

The Collect for St John the Evangelist

MERCIFUL Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 33. 18 - 23

MOSES said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: and it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 11: 1 - 5, 8

Refrain (all) The Lord's throne is in heaven.

- 1 In the Lord have I taken refuge; ♦
how then can you say to me, 'Flee like a bird to the hills,
- 2 'For see how the wicked bend the bow and fit their arrows to the string, ♦
to shoot from the shadows at the true of heart.
- 3 'When the foundations are destroyed, ♦ what can the righteous do?'

Refrain (all) The Lord's throne is in heaven.

- 4 The Lord is in his holy temple; ♦ the Lord's throne is in heaven.
- 5 His eyes behold, ♦ his eyelids try every mortal being.
- 8 For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds, ♦ and those who are upright shall behold his face. **Refrain (all) The Lord's throne is in heaven.**

The Epistle

1 St. John 1.1 - end

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the word of life; (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you,

Continued overleaf

That God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

While seated, follow the words of the hymn as the Cantors sing.

1. How beautiful are their feet,
who stand on Sion's hill,
who bring salvation on their tongues
and words of peace instil.
2. How happy are our ears
that hear this happy sound,
which kings and prophets waited for,
and sought, but never found.

3. How blessed are our eyes
that see this heavenly light,
prophets and kings desired it long,
but died without the sight.
4. The Lord makes bare his arm
through all the earth abroad:
Let every nation now behold
their Saviour and their God.

*Words: based on Matthew 13: 16, 17
Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)
Music: W. Ams (1824 - 1910)*

All stand

Gospel Acclamation

The Cantors sing

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

The Gospel of Christ

St. John 21.19-end

When the Gospel is announced all say **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

JESUS said unto Peter, Follow me. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, That that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which if they should be written every one, I suppose, that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

All say **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Remain standing and recite together.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Please be seated.

The Sermon
The Revd Arpana Rangayya

| The Sharing of the Peace |

The Officiant Jesus says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.'
All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Please kneel as able or sit.

| The Prayers of the People |

Rejoicing in the love and life of God made visible among us, let us pray to
Jesus, the only-begotten Son.

Bread of life,

your beloved disciple John has brought us your living word,
inspire all evangelists and teachers to build up your Church.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Light of the world,

illuminate the dark places of this world,

where sin, violence and death cast their shadow over human lives. Lord, restore your world.
May the new year bring hope to all humanity of a world rid of the pandemic.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Door of the sheepfold,

protect all who are in trouble or danger,

and give grace to our loved ones, families and friends.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Way, truth and life,

minister to all who are lost, misguided or without faith;

bind up the broken, and give rest to the weary.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Resurrection and the life,

raise us up at the last day

with all who have gone before us in faith,

with those whom we love but see no longer,

with John and all your saints,

that in your Father's house we may come to the place you have prepared for us.

Incarnate Lord, accept these our prayers

for the sake of your most holy name. **Amen.**

The Blessing *The Officiant*

Grace from the eternal Father be with you;
grace from the Word made flesh be with you;
grace from the Spirit of truth be with you;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All reply **Amen.**

"The First Nowell"

Carol at the Closing

Follow the words as the Cantor sings

1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

Continued overleaf.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

3. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
*Nowell, nowell, nowell
born is the King of Israel.*

English traditional carol

Dismissal

The Officiant Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
People **Glory, thanks and praise to God. Amen.**

Postlude

Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo' ('In sweet jubilation')

J.S. Bach, BWV 729 (1685 - 1750)

~~~ Prayer requests and Announcements ~~~

Your prayers are requested for:

- † an end to the pandemic. May hope be renewed in us all for a safer and more secure New Year.
- † the vaccination trials which have begun and which will soon begin in our country. Pray for the well-being of the recipients and those who have the responsibility of managing this task. We give thanks for the work of the many scientists and doctors whose tireless efforts have led to the vaccines being ready.
- † healing for the many who are ill with COVID -19.
- † all churches as they conduct services given several restrictions. May the Church be a place of refuge and may we reach out in Christian fellowship to those who are unable to physically attend services.
- † all senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for their well-being. Pray for all care providers.
- † the Church of St John the Evangelist (*Afghan War Memorial*) and the Revd Swapnil Uzgare.
- † all churches and institutions in the *Church of North India* and the *Church of South India* named after St John the Evangelist.
- † Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement:
His Holiness Pope Francis (*Bishop of Rome*); His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople (*New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch*); The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams (*General Secretary World Methodist Council*); the Reverend Chris Ferguson (*General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches*).
- Please note the new weekday timings (provisional) when the Cathedral is open – 7AM to 3PM.
- Thurs Dec 31 at 6pm: **“Renewal of Hope”** A service of evening prayer. There will be no Watchnight service this year.
- **The Naming of Jesus & Thanksgiving for a New Year** - Fri Dec 1 at 9am:

~~~ Birthdays this Week ~~~

May God bless you abundantly.

Anjali Isaacs (27), Viveka Truman (27), M. John (29), Reuben Baker (30), Suresh Patil (30)

~~~ Wedding Anniversaries this Week ~~~

Be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the years of your life.

Jeffrey & Susan Fraser (27), M. John & Manju John (27), Priya & Sudhir Deekollu (28), Malcolm & Jaisy Desai (28), Ernest & Pritam Knox (28), Rahul & Roshni Jadhav (29),
The Revd Avinash Rangayya & the Revd Arpana Rangayya (29),
David & Nalini Cyprian (30), Vivek & Miriam John (30), Allen & Rajathi Moses (30),
Sunita & Gladston Somervel (31)

Bank details to make your online offering and payment for your membership

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Pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound will resume once the present situation improves.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE SHARE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN WITH A FRIEND.

Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>