



HOLY SPIRIT
ALGESTER

Holy Spirit News
WELCOME | Dec 15th, 2024

FEATURED NEWS



CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE **6:30PM**

MIDNIGHT MASS **11:30PM**

CAROLS COMMENCING 30MIN BEFORE BOTH SERVICES

CHRISTMAS DAY

FAMILY SERVICE **8AM**

MISSION PARTNER



Christmas
Bowl

WELCOME

Welcome! We're delighted that you have been able to join us for worship and we pray that you might find a place to belong. We'd love for you to complete one of our Welcome Cards. If you are a baptised member of any denomination, you are welcome to join us for communion.

Please join us after the service for refreshments!

FROM THE VICAR

Advent is a season of hope and joy, even as it calls us to wait with expectation. The prophets of old spoke into times of despair, offering glimpses of God's faithfulness and the promise of restoration. This week, we turn to Zephaniah, whose words call us to rejoice in the God who saves.

In Zephaniah 3:14-20, the prophet paints a vision of a world made new:

"Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart... The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies."

Here, God is not distant but present, dwelling among His people as a mighty saviour. Zephaniah assures us that God is both a protector and a restorer, gathering the scattered, healing the broken, and replacing sorrow with gladness. This is not just a promise for the future; it is a reality that begins now, as God's grace transforms our lives.

As we light the Advent candles, Zephaniah reminds us that God's promise is one of joy and restoration.

We are called to sing and rejoice, trusting in the God who not only saves but rejoices over us with gladness.

In Christ

Rev'd Chris

Empowering and Transforming lives to be Disciples of Jesus

GENERAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 24 December** - Christmas Eve Service 6.30pm
- 24 December** - Christmas Eve Service 11.30pm
- 25 December** - Christmas Day Service 8am
- 29 December** - ONE Service Only 8am
- 4 January** - **NO** Café & Car Wash - back Feb 1st

CHRISTMAS ROSTER:

Many thanks to those who have put their names down on the roster in the foyer. However, we still need the very important Greeters and Sidespeople for all services.

CHRISTMAS CARDS:

There is an assortment of Christmas Cards, \$1, and greeting cards \$1.20, in the foyer. These are for sale to support the Algester Branch of Anglican Mothers' Union Australia.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2025:

Sets of envelopes for giving in 2025 are now available in the foyer.

ANNUAL REPORTS 2024:

It's that time of year again where we are asking leaders of the various ministry groups within the Parish to start thinking about their reports for the Report Booklet.

We need these into the office towards the beginning of February.

REV'D CHRIS AWAY:

Rev'd Chris will be on leave from the 30th Dec—20th Jan. His first day back will be Tuesday 21st Jan.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

The Office will be closed from 1pm 24 December and re-open 7 January 9am.



WEEK 3



ZEPHANIAH - RESTORATION IS COMING

SUNDAY MORNING *SERMON NOTES:*
Foretold: God has Spoken by his prophets

READINGS

SENTENCE:

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3.16–17*

A READING FROM ZEPHANIAH, CHAPTER 3, VERSES 14-20:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements
against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your
midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord .

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

For the Psalm: A SONG OF ISAIAH

‘Behold, God is my salvation:
I will trust and will not be afraid;

‘For the Lord God is my strength and my
song:
and has become my salvation.’

With joy you will draw water:
from the wells of salvation.

On that day you will say:
**‘Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his
name;**

‘Make known his deeds among the nations:
proclaim that his name is exalted.

‘Sing God’s praises, who has triumphed
gloriously:
let this be known in all the world.

‘Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in
Zion:
**for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.’**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS, CHAPTER 4, VERSES 4-7:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE, CHAPTER 3, VERSES 7-18:

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to

them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Heavenly Father: as we celebrate the Advent season, culminating in the most wonderful gift ever given: the birth of your son Jesus, our hearts feel full of humility and thankfulness to you.

Lord, with gratitude and love:
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father: You have given us so much and we may find ourselves wondering what we can possibly give to you? The answer to this may be found within the words of an old Christmas Carol: "In the bleak mid-winter", which is based on the poem by Christina Rossetti, written in 1872. Although this refers to bleak weather conditions of cold and snow, which we may not be fully able to understand, it also talks of the gifts given to Jesus at his birth and within the words we find someone asking an important question. The final verse contains the answer:

"What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would play my part. Yet, what I can, I give him . . . give my heart".

Lord, with gratitude and love:
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you gave your Son. Your Son gave his life. We give him our hearts. Each one of us has this precious gift to

give and as we do so we truly receive the benefits of the Advent season, represented by the four candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. With your presence in our lives, Heavenly Father, we are able to face any fear, hardship or sadness.

Lord, with gratitude and love:
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you will strengthen our faith and guide us all confidently forward into a new year where we hope for peace throughout the whole world, acceptance for all and your love for your people overcoming fear, greed and suffering.

Lord, with gratitude and love:
hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers as we sing the words Jesus Christ our Saviour taught us:

Our Father in Heaven . . .

Prayers compiled by Sandra Pearn

ROSTERS

Date	15-12-24		22-12-24	
Roster	7.00am	9.00am	7.00am	9.00am
Worship Leader	Rev'd Christopher Bate	Rev'd Christopher Bate	Rev'd Christopher Bate	Rev'd Christopher Bate
Preacher	Rev'd Christopher Bate	Rev'd Christopher Bate	Rev'd Christopher Bate	Rev'd Christopher Bate
LA Leader	Robert Kake	Dianne Bocquee	Sue Reade	Ian Nelson
LA Assistant		Kath Lingard		
Greeter	-	Joan Harvey	-	Kerry Tovey
Sidesperson	Rosemary Kake	Kathy Carter	Robyn Brodie	Dianne Bocquee
Reader 1	Michael Po Saw	Sandra Pearn	Norm Booth	Carol Booth
Reader 2	Julie Elliker	Jenny Bullock	Sama O'Brien	Lorraine Jones
Offertory	Rosemary Kake	Kathy Carter	Robyn Brodie	Dianne Bocquee
Chapel Prayers		Carol Booth	-	Rhonda Nelson
Morning Tea	Sharon/Hugh	Jenny/Ruth	Kay O'Brien	Rachel/Helper
Music Leader	Michael Po Saw	Ruth Barton	Michael Po Saw	Ruth Barton
AV Operator	Adrian Scott	Kay O'Brien	Kay/Norm	Rhonda/Ian
Prayers of the people	Sandra Pearn		Kay O'Brien	
Counting	Kay O'Brien/Joan		Ian Nelson	
Kids Church		In Recess		In Recess

The heart of any thriving church community lies in the dedication of its volunteers who generously offer their time and skills. Currently, our church roster is in need of additional helping hands to support various essential tasks and ministries during our worship services. By joining the roster, we can continue to strengthen our church's mission and positively impact the lives of those we serve. We warmly welcome and encourage you to become an integral part of our dedicated volunteer team. Your contribution will make a significant difference to maintaining the vibrant spirit of our congregation.

CONTACT INFO

Rector

The Rev'd Christopher Bate

Phone: 0429 112 127

chris@holyspiritalgester.com

Honorary Assistant Clergy

The Rev'd Juliana Bate

The Rev'd Simon Tang

Church Wardens

Kay O'Brien 0438 833 617

Adrian Scott 0449 824 748

Office

Parish Secretary: Kerry Tovey

Mail: 362 Algester Rd, Algester 4115

Phone: (07) 31327888

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READINGS TODAY

Zephania 3.14-20

A Song of Isaiah

Philippians 4.4-7

Luke 3.17-18

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Micah 5.2-5a

Song of Mary

Hebrews 10.5-10

Luke 1.39-45

SERVICES

SUNDAY

7AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

9AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

BANKING DETAILS

Tithes and Offerings:

BSB: 704 901 Acc: 0000 1070

Please consider your capacity and commitment to give to the work of this parish, by creating a recurring transfer.

ABN: 93 894 007 519

Giving Jan to Nov **\$78,162.40**

Budgeted Jan to Sep \$82,500.00

PRAYER AND PRAISE

The Anglican Communion:

- The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- The Diocese of Melbourne
- The Parish of Ithaca-Ashgrove
- Home Carers
- St Paul's School, Bald Hills

Missions:

- We pray for our mission partner Christmas Bowl and their ongoing work

Our Community:

- Pray for the homeless , the lost, the lonely and those in need.

Our Parish:

- The Leadership team and each other as we follow God in our mission.

Those in need:

- Those known to us: Katherine, Susan, Tammy, John, Dennis, Russ, Jenny & Bough, Peter, Robert, Jenny, Daphne, Joyce, Pam, Sean, Betty, Brian, Karen, Steve & Julie, Allan & Varrie, Keitha
- We pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- We pray for all who are suffering from conflict and natural disasters.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God,
you have made us and all things to serve you:
come quickly to save us,
so that wars and violence shall end
and your children may live in peace,
honouring one another with justice and love;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For more information: (07) 3132 7888 or visit www.holyspiritalgester.com