



# ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

*An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action*

Minister: .....Rev. Ken Day  
Director of Music: .....Mark Quarmby  
Choral Conductor: .....Dr David Hood  
Organ Scholar: .....Benjamin McKenzie



Ph: 02 9221 1688

[www.ssms.org.au](http://www.ssms.org.au)

***31 January 2016 – 10 am***

***MORNING WORSHIP***

***Epiphany 4***

Led by Rev. Ken Day

This morning we welcome members of the Combined Churches  
Messiah Choir and their conductor, Tim Chung.

# Handel's Messiah



## **SOME HELPFUL NOTES FOR YOU ABOUT THE WAY THIS WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWS:**

- **CHILDREN** are welcome here. If you have a pram, there are aisles beside the walls where you can 'park' your pram, if that helps. Also, there is more pram space at the back of the church where there is a wider gap. Children do not disturb us, and we are very happy for you to explain to your children what is happening during the service.
- We stand to sing. In the Order of Service it will say other places **WHERE WE STAND UP**, if you are able.
- **HYMNS** are numbered and found in the red hymn book *Together in Song*, or printed in the Order of Service. We sing the hymns unannounced, except for the first hymn.
- If the **LORD'S SUPPER** (communion) is being celebrated, (there will be a white cloth on the communion table) everyone of every age and background is welcome to share in the supper with us. We serve bread (and gluten free bread is available if you indicate to the server) and grape juice.
- **TEXT IN BOLD** is to be said by the congregation.
- It is the tradition at St Stephen's to refrain from talking during the **PRELUDE** and **POSTLUDE** as these form part of our worship.
- After the service has concluded, you are most welcome to join us downstairs in the hall for **MORNING TEA**. Please use the stairs at each end of the vestibule.
- **TOILETS** are located downstairs below the vestibule. A baby changing table is located in the women's toilet area.
- For those with **IMPAIRED HEARING** a hearing loop is available in the church. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position.

# ***The Gathering of the People of God***

## **Organ Prelude**

*Variations from Organ Concerto Set 1, Op.4, No.1*

G F Handel (1685 - 1759)

*Please stand at the entry of the minister and remain standing for the...*

## **Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Call to Worship**

**Hymn 227**      *When morning gilds the skies*      (Laudes Domini)

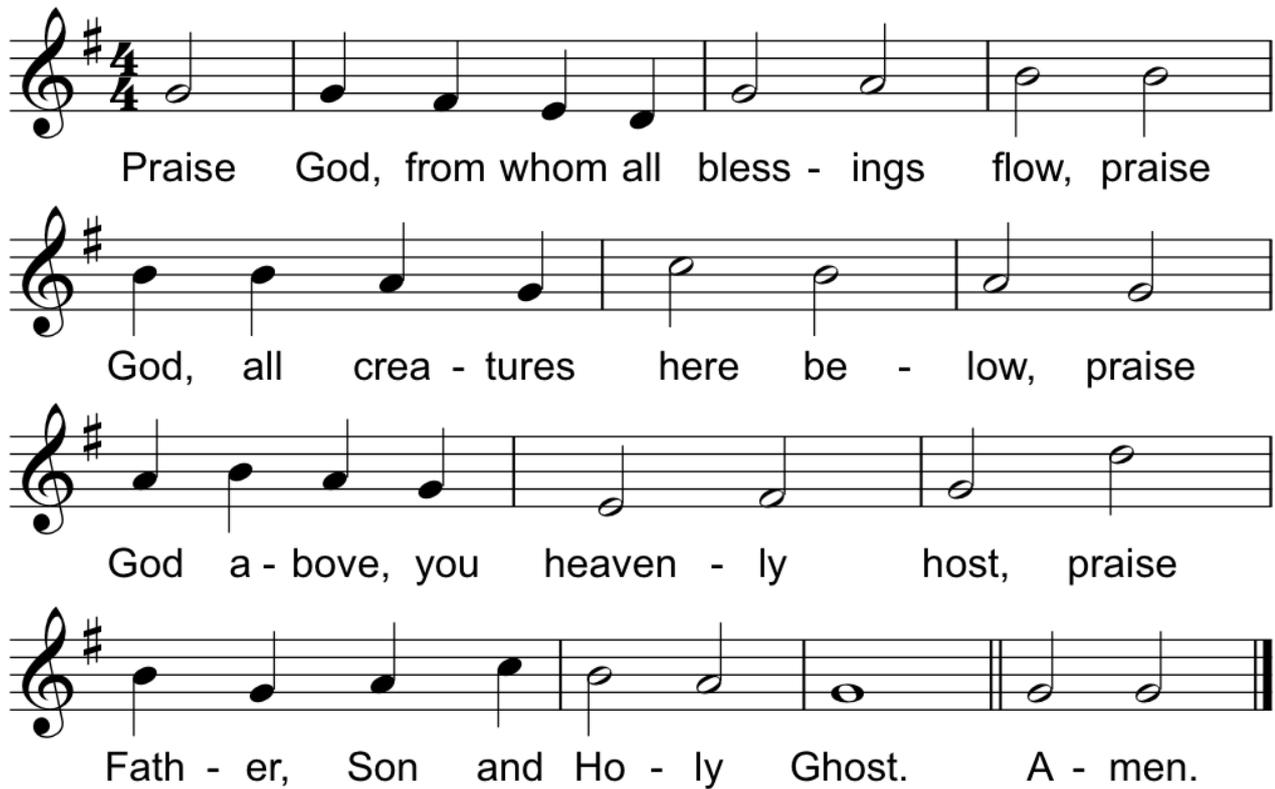
## **Prayers of Confession**

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

...This is the Gospel. **Thanks be to God.**

# Doxology 768

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*  
(i. Old Hundredth)



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, praise  
God, all crea - tures here be - low, praise  
God a - bove, you heaven - ly host, praise  
Fath - er, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## Welcome

*Ministry and mission news, celebrations and pastoral prayer.*

## Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offering** *The offering will be received during the following hymn.*

**Hymn 210**      *O for a thousand tongues to sing*      (Lyngham)

## Reflection

**Hymn 105**      *Let all the world in every corner sing* (Luckington)

## ***The Service of the Word***

**First Reading**      *Isaiah 11:1-6, 9*

**1** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. **3** His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; **4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. **6** The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **9** They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

## **First Chorus**     *And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

***Isaiah 40:5***

## **Second Reading**     *St Luke 2:6-14*

**6** While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **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!"

## **Second Chorus**     *Glory to God*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

**Luke 2: 14**

## **Third Reading**

*Isaiah 53:1-6*

**1** Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? **2** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. **3** He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. **4** Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## **Third Chorus**

*Surely He hath borne our griefs*

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

**Isaiah 53: 4-5**

## Fourth Reading

*Revelation 21:1-7*

**1** Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; **4** he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." **5** And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Lord, may your word live in us:

**And bear much fruit to your glory.**

## Fourth Chorus

*Hallelujah!*

Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. **Revelation 19:6**  
The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord,  
and of His Christ: and He shall reign for ever and ever. **Revelation**  
**11:15** KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS. **Revelation 19:16**

# Prayers of the People

## Lord's Prayer

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.  
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.

## *The Sending Forth of the People of God*

Hymn      *Thine be the glory*      (Maccabæus)

1. *Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;*  
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

*Brass interlude*

3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

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

## **Threefold Amen**

## **Organ Postlude**

*Toccata on 'Amazing Grace'*

Christopher Pardini (1973 - )