



A Service to Celebrate
The Commencement of Ministry
of
THE REVEREND ROBERT JAMES HAPPER
as Rector of
the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist,
Gordon

Saturday 13 February 2021
at 6.30pm



Introit Rejoice in the Lord Alway
sung by the choir only, people remain seated

Rejoice in the Lord Alway, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known to all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest to God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God with passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Music: Anon

Hymn Magnificat *sung by the choir only, people remain seated*

Welcome from the Acting Rector

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

[Revelation 4.11]

Christian friends, we have gathered together to celebrate God's goodness to this parish in the appointment of the Reverend Robert James Happer as Rector.

He has been called by God to exercise a position of great spiritual responsibility as the Pastor of this congregation.

We have gathered to pray for him, and for the congregations of this parish in this new stage of God's work here and to hear God's Holy Word.

Let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer is said by all (kneeling or seated).

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as 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,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Acting Rector leads, responses will be said by the congregation

Open our lips, O Lord;
And we shall declare your praise.
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.
Let us praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm Psalm 95:1-11 *sung by the choir*

- ¹ O come let us sing out to the Lord:
let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before his face with thanksgiving:
and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.
- ³ For the Lord is a great God:
and a great king above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth:
and the peaks of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his and he made it:
his hands moulded dry land.
- ⁶ Come let us worship and bow down:
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
- ⁷ For he is the Lord our God:
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁸ Today if only you would hear his voice:
'Do not harden your hearts as Israel did in the wilderness;
- ⁹ 'When your fathers tested me:
put me to proof though they had seen my works.
- ¹¹ 'Of whom I swore in my wrath:
'They shall not enter my rest.' '

Music: Henry Smart 1813-79

Choir and clergy stand

Glory to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
As in the beginning so now: and for ever Amen.

All sit for the readings

**The First Reading is taken from the First Book of the Prophet
Samuel, Chapter 16, beginning to read the 1st verse**
(Read by Michael Tapner, Churchwarden St Paul's, Wahroonga)

The LORD said to Samuel: How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for from among his sons I have decided on a king.

But Samuel replied: "How can I go? Saul will hear of it and kill me." To this the LORD answered: Take a heifer along and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."

Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I myself will tell you what to do; you are to anoint for me the one I point out to you.

Samuel did as the LORD had commanded him. When he entered Bethlehem, the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and asked, "Is your visit peaceful, O seer?"

He replied: "Yes! I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. So purify yourselves and celebrate with me today." He also had Jesse and his sons purify themselves and invited them to the sacrifice.

As they came, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the anointed is here before the LORD."

But the LORD said to Samuel: Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.

Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him before Samuel, who said, "The LORD has not chosen him."

Next Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these."

Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he arrives here.”

Jesse had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking. The LORD said: There—anoint him, for this is the one!

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. Then Samuel set out for Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark,
Chapter 10, beginning to read at the 35th verse**
(Read by Edward Happer)

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

He replied, “What do you wish [me] to do for you?”

They answered him, “Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.”

Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

They said to him, “We can.” Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;

but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Apostles' Creed, *said by all*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he shall come 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.

*The Sermon is preached by the Right Rev Chris Edwards,
Bishop of North Sydney.*

Hymn I Cannot Tell (*Book of Common Praise 751*)
sung by the choir only, people remain seated

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,
should set His love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.

But this I know, that He was born of Mary
when Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
as with His peace he graced this place of tears,
or how His heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.

But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
how He will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.

But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
and He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
and some glad day His sun will shine in splendour
when He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at His bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.

But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heaven and heaven to earth, will answer,
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

Music: Londonderry Air, Irish traditional
Text: Rev William Young Fullerton 1857-1932

All sit

The Parish Nominators present the Rector-designate to the Bishop with these words:

We present to you the Reverend Robert James Happer to be admitted to the office of Rector and the care of God's people in this parish.

Bishop Robert, the people of this parish have gathered to recognise and greet you as their Rector. I bring you greetings from Glenn, Archbishop of Sydney. This

document bearing his seal records your licence and authority to perform the office of Rector of this parish.

The Bishop hands Robert the licence.

Robert, do you before God and in the presence of this congregation commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

Rector With God's help, I do.

Bishop Be a faithful minister of God's holy word and sacraments, and a faithful pastor under the great Shepherd of our souls.

My brother Robert, at your ordination, you were exhorted in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to remember the dignity of the high office and charge to which you were called: that is to say, to be a messenger, watchman, and steward of our Lord; to teach and forewarn, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep who are scattered abroad, and for his children who are surrounded by temptation in this world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always therefore printed in your mind how great a treasure is committed to your care: the church is Christ's flock, for whom he shed his blood. This church and congregation whom you must serve is his bride and body. Pray to God the Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, for the assistance of the Holy Spirit; so that as you daily read and study the Scriptures, you may grow in your ministry. By God's grace, may you be a godly pattern for the people to follow, as you seek to conform your life and the life of this congregation to the teaching of Christ.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, giver of all that is good, you have appointed various orders of ministry in your church; bless your servant Robert now called to serve you in this parish. Fill him with your Holy Spirit and the truth of

your word, and clothe him with Christ-likeness of character, that he may faithfully serve you to the glory of your name and to the benefit of your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Churchwardens come forward and face the people.

Churchwarden Rev Robert, we thank God that he has sent you to teach us and encourage us and admonish us from his holy word. Take this Bible, remembering that all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17]

Bishop Will you be faithful in reading, studying and mediating on the word of God; will you be faithful in proclaiming and teaching it; and will you encourage others to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's word, that they may live in accordance with its truth?

Rector I will, the Lord being my helper.

Churchwarden Rev Robert, we thank God that you have come to us as a pastor of God's people, keen to see the extension of God's kingdom in the Church of St John the Evangelist, Gordon. By God's grace, may you make disciples of all peoples, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them the commandments of Jesus.

[Matthew 28:19]

Mission Leader Will you be faithful in making disciples of all peoples; and will you be faithful in ministering Baptism and the Lord's Supper in accordance with God's word and the discipline of this Church?

Rector I will, the Lord being my helper.

Churchwarden Rev Robert, we thank God that you have come to us as a man of prayer. May you follow the apostles' pattern by praying for us and leading us in prayer, so that we may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him in every good work.

[Colossians 1:9-10]

Bishop Will you intercede for the people committed to your care, and pray that God would lead both you and them into a richer and deeper knowledge of his will, in all spiritual wisdom and understanding?

Rector I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Robert, you have been appointed and licensed to exercise your ministry as Rector of this parish with all the privileges and responsibilities of your office; may the Lord guard your going out and your coming in.

Churchwardens and parishioners of St John's, Gordon,
remember the Apostle Paul's exhortation:

We ask you to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

[1 Thessalonians 5:12-13]

Rev Robert is joined by his family

I present to you Robert James Happer, your new Rector, and his wife Melinda.

Churchwarden Rev Robert, on behalf of the parishioners we welcome you and your family to St John's Gordon. We offer you our friendship and support as we join together in the work to which God has called us in this parish, and as we share in the wider ministry of Christ throughout the world.

Bishop To you, my brother in Christ, I present the people committed to your care.

The People's welcome and prayer will be said by the Churchwarden.

Churchwardens We welcome you in the name of the Lord as our pastor and brother in Christ. We shall pray for you as we ask you to pray for us. May God enable us to fulfil the ministries to which he has called us.

Mission Leader I now ask you, therefore, to join in prayer to Almighty God, that he will enable our brother to serve Him faithfully in word and deed, so that he will be a true pattern of Christian living.

Churchwardens Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, we pray that you would grant to your servant, now called to this parish, the strength of your Spirit. Fill him with truth, compassion and humility, so that he may faithfully serve you to the glory of your name and the benefit of your church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem Sing Praise to God

Sing praise to God above all ye nations, praise him ye people, all ye souls on earth. For he hath shown his kindness toward us, his love and merciful kindness, and the truth of God lasteth forever, lasteth for all eternity. Praise to the Father and Son also, and the Holy Spirit, as it was then and will ever be, both now and always through the centuries everlasting. Amen. (Psalm 117)

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-91
Text: Laudate Dominum

Prayers follow, all sit or kneel.

Prayers for mission and for the progress of the Gospel are offered. Then follow prayers for the world and those who govern us; for the church and our parish offered by members of the congregation.

Mission Leader Rev Matt Heazlewood and Rector, St Martin's, Killara, will pray for the Mission of the Diocese and the Gospel.

James Winter, Churchwarden and Head Server, will offer the prayers of the people.

The Rector concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving.

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace to bring before you with one accord our common supplications, and you promise that when two or three are gathered together in your Name you will grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of your servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn To God Be The Glory (*Complete Anglican Hymns Old
And New 695*)
sung by the choir only, people remain seated

To God be the glory, great things he hath done:
so loved he the world that he gave us his son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to ev'ry believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Music: To God be the Glory by William Howard Doane, 1832-1916
Text: Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny J. Crosby), 1820-1915

All sit

Churchwarden Chris Russell will briefly welcome Rev Robert on behalf of the Parish and the local community (COVID restrictions unfortunately limit a formal reception – the Churchwardens therefore thank all parishioners and guests for joining us in welcoming Rev Robert and his family to St John’s).

The clergy and the choir stand for The Grace led by the Rector.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

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

Postlude *Toccata in G*

Music: Théodore Dubois 1837-1924