



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
3rd May 2015



Fifth Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 59, 217, 648, 531

A warm welcome to everyone please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.



Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

We are the body of the risen Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. *1 John 4.10–11.*

THE COLLECT

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 8.26-40

[Philip is instructed to go to a certain road where he encounters an Ethiopian eunuch on his way home after worshipping in Jerusalem. Philip finds him reading Isaiah's scroll, and explains what the Scriptures say about Jesus. Then he baptises the eunuch.]

A reading from the book of Acts

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means 'queen of the Ethiopians'). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: 'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 22. 26-31

[A psalm of praise and commitment in which God is celebrated for God's provision and authority, and all people are challenged to worship God, to fulfil promises to God, and to proclaim God's righteousness to unborn generations.]

Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Andrew Moore

Response

v. 1

My God, my God, why have you for - sa - ken me?



The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him./R

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations.
How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?/R

He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it./R

SECOND READING

1 John 3.16-24

[An exhortation to love one another, because God is love. If we cannot love our brothers and sisters whom we have seen, we cannot love God whom we do not see, but, as God has loved us, inspiring love for God in our hearts, so too, we should love one another. Such love drives out fear.]

A reading from the first letter of John

John writes, 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour

of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: in this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the vine, you | are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 15.1-8

[Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. God desires us to bear fruit, and to do so we must remain in Christ.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Loving Lord, your love is so scandalous, so inclusive, so full; help us to allow ourselves to be loved enough, that all our hard, sharp edges grow soft and round with the fruit of the Spirit in our lives; show us how to find the humility and courage, the boldness and grace, that in our loving and being loved, we may somehow ignite our world with a compassion so fierce that violence and abuse, rejection and condemnation, neglect and greed become unthinkable.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, we give thanks for the fruitfulness we see in the lives of others, and those who work in the vineyard of your kingdom; for priests and pastors, chaplains and evangelists, teachers and theologians, for all who bring alive the scriptures; for those tasked with spiritual leadership; for John our Bishop; the people of this parish, that we may proclaim your gospel of love and justice in word and action.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Jesus, our earth is always adapting and moving; we pray that all suffering from natural disasters especially all impacted by the earthquake in Nepal and the Calbuco volcano in Chile; may they know your comfort and grace; we pray for all aid agencies and workers assisting in the recovery; we continue our prayer for peace in the world especially in Syria, and Iraq; we pray for those executed in Indonesia this week.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Jesus, we pray for our nation and community, that wisdom and discernment replace party politics and that courage and integrity become the hallmark of our leaders; we pray for our families and friends and those who love us and care for us; for the hungry and the homeless, the poor and the unemployed; for the lost and the lonely and those who have no one to hold them.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Jesus, we pray relief and comfort for those in need; for those with bodies that hurt, those whose minds are confused and those hearts are sad or filled with grief; for the sick and the dying and those who care for them; we pray for those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Requests for Prayer: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Alex Impols, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Joan Hiscock, Barbara Kaye, Matthew Parker, Darron & Silva, Sarah.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings where ever received.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Jesus, you came to show us the way to eternal life; we remember your faithful people who rest in your eternal love; we pray for the recently departed for those who died in the Nepal earthquake, and for those whose years' mind occurs at this time.

Year's mind: *3rd Heidi Weiber, Lynette Chandler; 4th Joyce Jones; 5th Raymond Pitman, Evelyn Carboon; 6th Mabel Fullard.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, Loving Lord, and hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; transform us that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your realm will come to fruition in glory; we pray in the name of the one who is the true vine, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection on the readings

The heart of this week's readings is Jesus' exhortation to "bear fruit". There are two emphases in this call. The first is to "remain in" Christ – dwelling in deep, life-giving connection with Christ. The experiences of Philip, who is guided by God's Spirit, and of the eunuch who comes to faith through Philip's work are examples of this dwelling in Christ. The second emphasis is to "bear fruit". What this fruit might be is explained by the other passages (but also by the context of this one). John's letter explains that the test of our discipleship, and the "proof" of our love for God is our love for others. This agrees with the context of John 15 which also speaks about love as the commandment Jesus gives his disciples. The Acts reading and the Psalm also reflect another kind of fruit that we are called to bear – which certainly flows out of our love – it's the fruit of our witness to Christ. This section of Psalm 22, which is the restoration part of the Psalm of lament that Jesus quoted on the cross, speaks of proclaiming God's righteousness (justice) to unborn generations. This is an exhortation to share the goodness and justice of God with others in such a way that it impacts the world for those who are yet to be born. Philip's obedience to the Spirit, and gentle witness to the Ethiopian eunuch is an example of this fruit bearing – sharing God's grace and love with others (who would usually not be welcomed – as a Gentile and a eunuch this man would not have been permitted into the temple) in such a way that it changes the world for time to come – some scholars have speculated that this eunuch could have founded the Ethiopian church that continues to this day. That's quite some fruit! Essentially, the key of this week's theme is that our love for God must flow out into love for others – both our Christian companions and others – in such a way that they too come to love God and others. This growing cycle of love for God and neighbour is what it means to bear fruit for God's Reign.

Parish Diary

1st Wed	7.30pm	Property Committee Meeting	venue TBA
1st & 3rd Fri	7.00pm	Faith Enhancement Study	13 The Parade, Broadford
2nd Sun	12.30pm	Parish BBQ (this month on 3rd Sunday)	See Notices for details
3rd Tues	1.30pm	St Matthew's Friendship Group	Gavan Hall Broadford
3rd Wed	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	venue TBA
4th Sun	5.00pm	Church 4 Kids	Christ Church

NOTICES

Stop Press - Message from Bishop John Parkes OAM

ABM - NEPAL EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY APPEAL - Just before midday local time (approx. 4pm AEST) on Saturday 25th April, Nepal suffered one of the worst earthquakes to hit a populated area in living memory. To put this in perspective, the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand in 2011 was a 6.2 magnitude. The Nepal earthquake has led to at least 4,000 people confirmed dead, the destruction of countless homes and buildings and has left many people sleeping on the streets in freezing temperatures. **ABM has earmarked \$10,000 in order to provide emergency relief.** ABM's Executive Director, the Rev John Deane, said, "This (Nepal) is one of world's poorest nations substantially due to its ruggedness and the task of rebuilding will be massive and take years." Please help ABM support the people of Nepal by donating and spreading the word. For more information visit www.abmission.org/nepal-emergency. Please pray for the earthquake victims, and all who are helping in the relief effort.

+ John Wangaratta

Retiring Collection will be for Nepal and donations are still welcome for the ABM Vanuatu Emergency Fund.

Property Committee Meeting Wednesday 6th May 7.30pm at Christ Church.

Monthly Parish BBQ. Please note that as our usual BBQ falls on Mothers Day, we will hold our May BBQ on the third Sunday of this month (17th May). Hosts are needed - please speak to the wardens if you are able to host this month or any other month.

Strategic Planning Consultation - Catherine Turnbull will be conducting the final consultation with parishioners at St Matthews for the Strategic Plan today. Please be available for a short time to provide your input.

Direct Debit Offerings - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'; BSB 063-698; Account Number 1018 4649.

Parish life this week

Wednesday 6th [JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST]
10.00am Eucharist Christ Church Seymour
5.00pm Anglicare Board Meeting
7.30pm Property Committee Meeting @ Christ Church

Thursday 7th
10.00am Eucharist St Matthews Broadford
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
11.15am Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella

Friday 8th
[Julian of Norwich, holy woman & mystic (d.1417)]
10.00am - 3pm Deanery Meeting Euroa
10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House

Saturday 9th
10.00am- 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES		
Next Sunday: 10th May 2015 – Sixth Sunday of Easter		
Acts 10. 44-48; Psalm 98; I John 5.1-12; John 15. 9-17		
Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No service this day

Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155
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Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett St Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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