

The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta

12th February 2017
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Hymns: 111, 430, 587 [Tune 617], 201



The Sermon on the Mount continues.....

Introit Hymn

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

We are the body of 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

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Psalm 119.1

THE COLLECT

O God, strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10.12-22

[Moses offers the people a choice between life and death, challenging them to love and remain faithful to God and God's commandments, and promising them prosperity and blessing if they do.]

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses addressed the people, 'Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations – as it is today. Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.1-8

[Because a life of integrity is blessed, the psalmist pleads with God for the ability to live a life of obedience to God's commands.]

Response: Lead me O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

Response Richard Lloyd
cf. v. 35 Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your com-mand-ments.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless:
who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his commands:
and seek him with their whole heart;/R

Lead me O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

Those who do no wrong:
but walk in the ways of our God.
For you, Lord, have commanded us:
to persevere in all your precepts./R

If only my ways were unerring:
towards the keeping of your statutes!
Then I should not be ashamed:
when I looked on all your commandments./R

I will praise you with sincerity of heart:
as I learn your righteous judgements.
I will keep your statutes:
O forsake me not utterly./R

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3.1-9

[Factions among people of faith are a sign of immaturity. Paul calls the Corinthians to be mature and to recognise that those who serve God's people are equal, and insignificant. It is God's work in the believer to bring growth that matters.]

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

Paul writes, 'Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere human beings? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are fellow workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are the light of | the world.

A city set upon a hill cannot | be hid.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5.21-27

[Continuing the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that righteousness is not just about following externals, but is about what happens in the heart. He challenges his hearers to true integrity, goodness and compassion with regard to dealing with anger, lust, adultery, divorce and making promises (vows).]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.’

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Gracious God, we give thanks for all that is gracious in the lives of men, women and children; grant us the courage to live authentically in your redeeming love, to see you in those we encounter, and by your grace serve as Jesus did even to death on the cross.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill us with the Spirit of truth and compassion; we pray for all in the Roman Catholic Church as the Church comes to terms with its past impropriety, for those assaulted and the perpetrators; for our Diocese and John our

Bishop; for our parish - put a new spirit in us that we may faithfully proclaim your word and walk in the way of your love

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, lover of justice, we honour the aspirations of those who hope and with furious insistence struggle against political systems for enough to eat, for basic education, health care and for freedom; continue our pray for all refugees and asylum seekers.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for our nation and for those who govern us; for the indigenous people and new arrivals and for reconciliation and acceptance; for all held in detention in Nauru and Manus and for all who care for them; for this community and for those with whom we share our lives, our families, friends, workmates, and neighbours; strengthen and sustain our relationships with your continuing care; for all students teachers and staff of our schools as they begin a new year.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, grant us compassion and grace as we pray for the homeless and the unemployed, and those in poverty, for the frail, the elderly, and those made vulnerable by situation and circumstance; for those living in difficult or destructive relationships; the sick and the dying and those who care for them; for all in need and for those who have requested prayer.

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the departed, for our brothers and sisters who have loved and served you with heart and soul and for those years mind occurring this week;

12th Joan Pate; 13th Rhoda Wilkie, Sidney Bryant, Herbert Holcombe; 15th Wilfred Diamond; 16th John Bowen, Bill Brown; 17th Fred Dixon, Barry Henderson; 18th Mary Dow.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we seek to follow your desire; hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; may we learn to walk in your ways, to observe your commandments; to love you, and love ourselves even as we love others.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray; **Our Father...[pg. 124].**

Reflections on the Readings

Not surprisingly, there is a clear development this week from last week's readings. The Old Testament passages, though, if looked at alone, can be misleading in the sense that they seem to indicate that obedience to God's law is a guarantee of health, wealth and happiness. This is, of course, much the way the world was believed to work back when these passages were written, but we know that it's a little more complex than this. It is this complexity that both Paul and Jesus try to engage in their teaching. For Paul it's about growing into a spiritual maturity that no longer needs competitive factions to feel secure and "righteous". Paul calls the Corinthians to recognise that all of God's servants are just that – people doing a job for God's reign. What is important is not aligning oneself with particular people, leaders or ideas, but following God's constant work of growth into becoming a true Christ-follower. For Christ, faithful and true spirituality is not about ticking off a few laws in a box of obedience, but is doing the work of the heart, of checking the real impact of who we are and how this works out in what we do and in our relationships. It is embracing the quest to reflect God's grace, God's goodness and God's integrity that is the heart of this week's call. Law is easy, and does not transform. Living with a God-formed integrity of heart, speech and action is what truly matters.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2017); www.sacredise.com

Notices

This Friday 17th February 11am - Induction of Revd Maryann Leonard at St Margarets Cobram. Bus leaves Christ Church 7.30am, St Matthews 7.45am & St Stephens 8am. Cost \$15.00 per person. Please book with John Patterson 5784 3284.

Next Sunday 19th February The Chamber Philamonia of Cologne Concert St Matthews, Broadford 7.30pm - Bookings can be made today through Robyn Whitehouse 5781 1185 - leave a message re number of tickets (\$35 Adult; \$30 Concession; \$25 Child/Student), your name & phone number. There will be wine and cheeses offered before the concert and an after-concert supper. Tickets are \$10 for wine and cheeses; \$10 for supper or \$15 for both. Please book extras with Robyn. Tickets can also be bought through www.trybooking.com/NYBZ or www.trybooking.com/244763, or at the door on the night.

Farewell Gift for Rev'd Maryann and John - Contributions towards this gift are requested - please give your donation to one of the parish wardens or place it in the offertory plate in a marked envelope.

Harvest Festival & Parish BBQ Sunday 12th March at Gavan Hall. Meat provided please bring salads and sweets to share - please start to prepared items for the harvest in all centres.

Lenten Study 2017 - This Lent we will use familiar Lenten themes to explore how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. There are five sessions in the series - please let Fr Kim know if you wish to attend.

Request for prayer list - the list has been reviewed - please give further requests to Fr Kim or the Wardens. A person must have given consent for any name to be listed.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please change your bank details when making offerings.

Parish life this week

Thursday 16th 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
11.30am Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 17th 11am Induction of Revd Maryann Leonard Cobram
10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 11th 10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 19th February 2017

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19.1-2, 9-18; Ps 119.33-40; I Corinthians 3.10-17; Matthew 5.38-48

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764; Ph 5782 1155
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett Street Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning

