

The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta

22nd January 2017
Third Sunday after Epiphany



Hymns: 447, 583, 690, 547



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

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. *Matthew 4.23*

THE COLLECT

Loving God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the hearts that serve you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9. 1-4

[Isaiah prophesies a reversal of fortune for the people of God who are occupied by Assyria – though they are in darkness, light will break in, and they will be freed from their oppression.]

A reading from the book of prophet Isaiah

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past God humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27. 1-10

[David's Psalm celebrating God's protection and the security he finds in God's presence and in God's sanctuary.]

Response: The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?

Keith Duke

Response
v. 1b The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be a-fraid?



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell./R

Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple./R

For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock./R

And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;
Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord./R

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.
My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek./R

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1. 10-18

[Paul confronts the Corinthians about the divisions and factions among them, reminding them that it is only the message of the cross that is important and that offers God's power for salvation.]

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

Paul writes, 'I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: one of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptised in my name. (Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus preached the good news | of the kingdom
and cured every sickness a- | mong the people.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

[Jesus begins his ministry and is seen by Matthew to be fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of the light shining in the darkness. He preaches the nearness of God's reign, calls his first disciples and heals those who are afflicted with disease.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord God you sent your son Jesus as a light to the nations; shine in us and through us so that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy; give us such courage and conviction that we may joyfully turn and follow you into new adventures of faithful service, led by the light that shines through the one Jesus Christ our liberator.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

God of all peoples. we pray for the world in which we live, for places of war and unrest; pray peace for the peoples of South Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria; for those who suffer from famine and disease; draw us to the radiance of your light, that we may set aside cruelty, aggression and exploitation to find just and peaceable ways to live together on this earth; we pray for the people of the United States as they adjust to a new president, and we pray for President Trump and his team.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

God of all providence, we pray for our own land of Australia; and as we approach Australia Day we give thanks for beaches and reefs, rain forests and mountains, wilderness and desert; for our unique and marvellous ecology; for the freedoms we enjoy and for its peoples; for those here since the ancient dreaming; those who have come in recent times; for refugees and those requesting asylum, and all who seek to find a home amongst us; for all held in detention on Nauru and Manus Island; we give thanks for the richness of our multicultural society; draw us to the radiance of your light, that we may set aside prejudice, bitterness and greed to care for one another and to share with equity the treasures you entrust to us.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

God who summons those to serve in your Church; we pray unity for your Church throughout the world; for all who search for and long to know you; for the National Council of Churches and for the clergy of our Diocese; for John our Bishop, and for the people of this parish that we may with common purpose proclaim your gospel in the world.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

God our healer, we pray those in our community who are suffering; for the homeless and those living on the streets; for the lonely and the broken-hearted; for those abandoned or without hope for the future; for the sick of body or mind, and for those in pain; for those living with terminal disease and those close to death; 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, Faye Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Sharon De Battista, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson, John Leonard, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Rosalia Bendastinto.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we pray for the recently departed, and who have entered your nearer presence; and for those whose years mind occurs at this time.

22nd Margaret Newbold, Muriel Poulter, Olive Maher, Warren Davies; 23rd James Guinelly, Margaret Neaum; 24th Joyce Wilkinson; 25th Ethel Goodman, Heather Dixon, Norman Fagg; 26th Jessie Smith; 27th Digger Forwood;

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

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we give you thanks for your faithful people of every age; for Andrew, Peter, James and John and for your disciples in every generation who have heard your call, left all, and followed you; hear us as we pray for ourselves; may we too be drawn to the radiance of your light, and fulfil our mission to be your people.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

God our hope may your blessing empower our thanksgiving and prayer, for we put our trust in the living God; we offer these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord has taught us to pray; **Our Father ...[pg. 124]**

Reflections on the Readings

Following Christ – especially in the work of justice and living out the values of God’s reign – can sometimes get in the way of true relationship with Christ, but without a lived experience of intimacy with God, we lack the empowerment and resources to be a positive influence on the world. This week, the readings reminds us that no matter what struggles or challenges we may face, or what work we may be called to do, we need to nurture a strong and vibrant relationship with God. Ultimately this the work of our worship, which then empowers everything else we do as followers of Christ. For this sustains us in times of oppression and distress. We need a sense of God’s enfolding presence, of dwelling secure in God’s house, of being saved by God and claimed by God’s love. All the passages point to the vision of God’s faithful response in the promise of salvation, in God’s presence in our pain, and in the healing and strength that God provides. It is this sense of the reality of God’s presence and action on our behalf, this lived experience of God’s help and grace, that makes faith real. Without it, our faith is nothing more than an intellectual exercise, cold and powerless – having the form of godliness but lacking the power. And so as, with the disciples, we seek to answer Jesus’ call to follow, as we seek to experience the reign of God that Jesus proclaims, as we seek to live out the message that Jesus preached and embody the healing and liberation that Jesus demonstrated, we can ask for, and expect, a real, vibrant and strengthening relationship with the Living God. Only in this way can we hope to know life, and to truly know and share the blessing of God’s reign.

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

Notices

Next Sunday is 5th Sunday - combined service at St Stephens, no service at St Matthew’s this day.

Funeral for Alma Smith Tuesday 1.30pm at Pyalong Recreation Hall, Northern Highway and then to Kilmore Cemetery and refreshments at Kilmore Memorial Hall.

There will be no services on Thursday 26th being Australia Day. However Parish Australia Day ABM Fundraiser is on at 12.30pm a ‘bring and share’ chicken and champagne at Caroline’s house (20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore). All very welcome!

Farewell Gift for Rev'd Maryann and John - A wonderful and fitting farewell was held last week at St Matthew's for Rev'd Maryann and John. A cheque was presented to Maryann as a farewell gift from the parish. 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.

Concert at St Matthews by The Chamber Philamonia of Cologne. Bookings can be made through Robyn Whitehouse phone 5781 1185 before 8th February and leave a message as to the number of tickets you require (\$35 Adult; \$30 Concession; \$25 Child/Student), your name, and your 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 with Robyn when ordering concert tickets.

Parish Council Meeting - The February meeting will be held on 1st February at Gavan Hall. Please note change of date.

Assistance with getting to church and functions. Any parishioners requiring transport to get to church or a parish function, please contact Robyn Whitehouse (5781 1185) prior to the Sunday, and she will endeavour to arrange transport.

Monthly Parish BBQ's commence 12 March. Hosts are needed for this year. April has been filled - please contact one of the wardens or Fr Kim.

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.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details have changed - 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 Diary

1st Wed of the month: Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting
7.30pm at Gavan Hall.

2nd Sunday of month: Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details

3rd Tues of the month: St Matthew's Friendship Group. Gavan Hall 1.30pm
fellowship & afternoon tea; contact Edie Simpson ph.
5784 1246 for details.

3rd Wed of the month: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm venue TBA

Parish life this week

Fourth week of January

Tuesday 24th	1.30pm	Funeral Service Alma Smith Pyalong Recreation Hall
Thursday 26th	12.30pm	Australia Day ABM Fundraiser
Friday 27th	10.00am	Eucharist Willowmeade
	4.00pm	Eucharist Dianella
	10.00am - 4.00pm	Op Shop Church House
Saturday 28th	10.00am - 12.00pm	Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 29th January 2017 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6.1-8; Ps 15; I Corinthians 1.18-31; Matthew 5.1-12

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	No service this day Combined with St Stephen's
St Stephens	11am	Sung Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

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