



17th September 2023
Sixteenth Sunday After
Pentecost



Hymns: 143 201 123 215

Sentence

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. (*Psalm 130:3-4*)

The Collect

Lord of justice, Lord of peace, wash the dirt from our feet and the blood from our hands that we might take our place at your table. Lead us to the bank of the quiet billabong, that we might reflect on what it means to be stewards of profligate beauty. Strip us of cleverness and easy words. Re-train our senses to see you in every scent and sound and touch of the world you have chosen to love. Make us less than conquerors, make us willing to heal. Through Jesus Christ, Lord of life and renewal. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter 14, beginning at verse 19.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the

entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 114

R: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord.

When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion. **R...**

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs? **R...**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 14, beginning at verse 1.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue

shall give praise to God.’ So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 18, beginning at the 21st verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

During the Season of Creation, we offer our prayers for the world around us; giving thanks for the bounty God offers us, and asking God's forgiveness for misuse of the earth's resources.

Creator God, we ask for the grace to hear 'the cry of the earth' and in so doing to care for creation. In giving us a new spirit of listening, transform our hearts with a desire to respond. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of all, you have formed the entire human family over many generations. Give us a new familial care for each of the creatures you have made, indeed for all life on our planet. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of life, bless all of creation, and within it each and every creature. Give us an awareness of your outpouring of love in all things, and a willingness to be changed by this love. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of freedom, inspire us to enter into solidarity with all creation in our deeds, not just in our words. Call us to enter into new commitments which put ourselves at the service of our 'common home'. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Christ our brother, grant us the holy desire to call upon your name as we seek to sustain the gift of creation. Help us to act decisively to keep safe our endangered planet. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, friend of the earth, nourish our efforts to bring reconciliation to the earth. Be with us in this mission of rekindling the bonds between you, human beings and all that exists. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father, you know our hearts and minds, as well as the wonderful burden of our compassion. We bring before you in a moment of silence those who have asked our prayers for healing and restoration... *(pause)* Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation, you reinvent the lives of the deceased in the eternal cycle. By the mercy of Jesus our redeemer, bring the souls of our loved ones back into the Father's heart; praying especially for those recently departed, and those whose year's mind occurs at this time. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Bible Study

Our next Bible Study session is Tuesday 26th September, at 7.30pm, at Christ Church Kilmore. All are welcome to join, as we continue our journey through Jeremiah.

Parish Council

Parish Council will be meeting on Wednesday 20th September at 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore.

Baptism

On Sunday September 24th at the 9am service at Christ Church Kilmore, Fr. David will be baptising the children of the Whitley family, who have come all the way from Shepparton. Please make them feel welcome, and feel free to bring food to share for morning tea after the service.

Hakuna Matata Children's Choir

We have been offered the prospect of the Hakuna Matata children's choir from Kenya performing at Christ Church, most likely some time in February 2024. They contribute to the welfare of orphans in Africa as they tour Australia. This will only be possible if we are able to find ways to accommodate the 15 young members and their 4 guardians over the weekend in which they perform. If you would be willing to help with accommodation, or have ideas as to how we might achieve this, please contact Fr. David.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

This Week in the Parish:

Monday 18th September: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Wednesday 20th September: 1pm Caladenia RACF Service

2.30pm Dianella RACF Service

7.30pm Parish Council - Kilmore

Thursday 21st September: 10am Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 22nd September: 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF Service

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Saturday 23rd September: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

2pm Funeral, St Matthew's Broadford

Next Sunday 24th September: Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 18th September	Ps 41; 44-1-9	Ps 44:10-27
<i>John Ramsden Wollaston</i>	1 Kings 10:1-13	Job 16:1-17
	Matthew 4:12-22	Ephesians 1:1-14
Tuesday 19th September	Ps 45	Ps 46; 47

	1 Kings 10:14-29	Job 16:18-17:16
	Matthew 4:23-5:12	Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday 20th September	Ps 48	Ps 49
<i>John Coleridge Patteson</i>	1 Kings 11:1-14, 23-25	Job 18
	Matthew 5:13-26	Ephesians 2:11-22
Thursday 21st September	Ps 25	Ps 56
<i>St Matthew</i>	Ecclesiastes 5:4-12	1 Chronicles 29:9-18
	Matthew 19:16-30	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Friday 22nd September	Ps 51	Ps 52; 53
	1 Kings 12:1-17	Job 19:23-20:11
	Matthew 5:43-6:4	Ephesians 3:14-21
Saturday 23rd September	Ps 54; 55:1-12	Ps 55:13-28
	1 Kings 12:18-33	Job 20:12-29
	Matthew 6:5-15	Ephesians 4:1-16

Parish Contacts

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Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/> or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services Online on the website.

Thoughts for the Week

What is the measure of success? Unfortunately, our brains have been conditioned over time to measure success by the amount of dopamine we get from our experiences. And by experiences, I mean transactions. Human culture has become transactional, and competitive, and reliant on those small moments of quantifiable success. When we win. When we get a bargain. When we get a compliment, even just as a byword on Facebook. We try to build our character on those little complimentary building blocks of a much richer and broader human experience. And we miss the down times. The blue times. The times we fall in a hole. We don't count them as successes, because frankly, they don't make us look good. They show the cracks in the plaster. And when we count them as part of our life, we count them as failures. Because sadly, we are conditioned by the wider culture to count the failures as steps in a retrograde direction. We don't simply see them as something we've lived, rather something we have to hide. And yet, if we actually put our 'failures' together, we see a much more beautiful picture of a holistic human life. Our scars are beautiful. Quantifiable successes are like fireworks: beautiful in an instant, but ultimately nothing but a momentary chemical reaction in thin air.