



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

St George's, Trentham 9.00am | St Mary's, Woodend 11.00am



5th July, 2020 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

We acknowledge the Jaara Jaara people,
the custodians of this land where we gather.

We pay our respects this day and always to elders past, present and
emerging, and we pray for true listening that leads to true
reconciliation.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,' says the Lord. 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.' Matthew 11.28–29

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Shema

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, and with all you soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it; you shall love you neighbour as yourself.'

With those words in our hearts and on our lips we confess our sins, with faith and confidence that God's forgiveness is ours in abundance.

The Confession

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

**we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters
we do also for him:
give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us;
yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*A reading from the book of Genesis chapter 24 verses 34 to 38, 42 to 49,
and 58 to 67*

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.

My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Psalm 45 verses 10 to 17

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear:
forget your own people and your father's house.

The king desires your beauty:

he is your lord, therefore bow down before him.

The richest among the people, O daughter of Tyre:
shall entreat your favour with gifts.

The king's daughter is all glorious within:

her clothing is embroidered cloth-of-gold.

In robes of many colours she is led to you, O king:
and, after her, the virgins that are with her.

They are led with gladness and rejoicing:

they enter the palace of the king.

In place of your fathers you shall have sons:
and make them princes over all the land.

And I will make known your name to every generation:

therefore the peoples shall give you praise for ever.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 7 verses 14 to 25

For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not

want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

For the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

Alleluia Alleluia

Your word O Lord, shines as a light on our path

Alleluia Alleluia

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew chapter 11 beginning at the 15th verse

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Let anyone with ears listen!

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For the Gospel of the Lord **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

The Sermon

May the words of my lips and the meditations of all our hearts be acceptable to you Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.

The Prayers of the People

In our isolation, we recognise the wilderness in the world.

In our isolation, we know that God is near.

Dispersed, yet together, we hold on to hope.

Dispersed, yet together, we connect with each other.

In our homes, we sing, "Alleluia!"

In our homes, we trust that love is stronger than hate.

Despite the challenges of this time, we celebrate in God's hope.

Despite the challenges of this time, we sing.

On this day, we trust that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Let us worship our Holy God! Alleluia!

This week's intercessions were written by Rev Wendy Hudson

Gracious and merciful God, you have promised rest to the weary and relief to the heavy laden, hear the prayers we bring for your people:

For the nations

We pray for your comfort & strength for leaders of communities, especially those in our State, Victoria, and the lockdown postcodes. Give us resolve to keep before our eyes the needs of your world even though it is overwhelming and distressing.

Make us ambassadors for the environment you have given to us that we may wisely remedy our mistakes.

Gracious God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For the Church

Gracious and merciful God,

Strengthen our church communities as we become wearied by responsibility and the requirements of COVID 19 restrictions.

Bless our Bishop Matt, Parish clergy- Mel and Ian, Robyn and Greg churchwardens, Trudy our Hall Manager and others who work long and difficult hours to keep our witness alive and vital at St George's and St Mary's.

Renew our spirit to go on serving you and each other each and every day.

Gracious God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For those in need

Help us to live considerately and generously particularly towards those who are struggling – refugees, the unemployed, the homeless and those suffering disadvantage in daily living.

Bless those who test, treat and care for people with COVID 19.

We commend to your care those who have asked our prayers: Maisy, Wendy, Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Michael and Sue, Neil and Stephen, Gerard, Marion, Sam, Emma, Yvonne and Ella.

Gracious God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Thanksgiving for the faithful departed

Gracious and merciful God,

We praise you for the story of Rebekah and our biblical foremothers, for Paul and his struggle & encouragement with Jesus' teaching. Encourage us by their example to find the wisdom and hope that Jesus promises and so bring us all into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

We remember the saints who have loved you and come home to you especially our friend Ron White, John Taaff, George Bigeni and their families

And we remember this week Robert Goldie, Marianne Haering, Ruth Keene, Francis Bassett, and Jeffrey Stanley.

Gracious God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Greeting of Peace

Regardless of where we experience worship this day:

We are the body of Christ

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We give thanks for the offered gifts

Blessed be God,

by whose grace creation is renewed,

by whose love heaven is opened,

by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God forever

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God as it is right to do.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest
Blessed is he who comes in the Lord's name
Hosanna in the Highest**

Merciful God,
we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples,
saying, 'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again, we celebrate,
with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for
the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*With our hearts set on the kingdom and our hands open to serve,
we pray as Jesus taught us...*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,**

now and forever. Amen

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth.

Prayer after communion...

**Eternal God, as a dispersed and faithful people,
we recommit ourselves to you.**

**In this time when we cannot receive the sacrament of bread and wine,
we give thanks for the energy of the Holy Spirit;
sent to help us share your Good News,
sent to equip us to care for the lost and lonely,
sent to inspire us to strengthen our community.**

**Give us the courage to love you,
to love those around us,
and to love ourselves in this time of isolation.**

**Remind us, lest we forget,
that nothing can separate us from your love
as revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Give us the calm reassurance that this time will pass,
and that we shall gather again once more. Amen.**

Rev'd Elizabeth Breakey

The Sending out of God's people

Notices!

**Don't forget to tune in on Saturdays at midday for Story Time!*

**You are invited to share your experience, reactions, reflections on your life in COVID-19 lockdown, including particular reference to your experience of life as a member of the congregations in the Woodend – Trentham Anglican Parish or as someone who has joined in some of the live-stream services.*

Contributions can be hard copy/ hand-written passed on to Rev Mel or emailed to faymagee@gmail.com.

**Are you on the intercessions roster, or would you like to be? Please email Rev. Mel if you'd like to assist in this precious ministry that we share.*

**Can you help in the garden? We have weeds in the rose garden at St Mary's and if you can spare ten minutes to pull a few out that would be great. Thanks to Jane and Graeme for pruning the roses.*

**Thanks to Trudy for all of her hard work in getting the processes in place to re-open the hall to some of our hire groups so we can once again have that income stream. It has been a mammoth effort and the parish is very grateful to you Trudy!*

**Happy birthday to Geoff Hildebrandt and Rose Tamblyn*

**As of July 1st Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday.*

Let's sing the hymn together I heard the Voice of Jesus

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank

of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar 1808–89 *alt.*

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The Blessing and Dismissal

God be your comfort, your strength;
God be your hope and support;
God be your light and your way;
and the blessing of God, the Creator, Christ,
and Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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

****some thoughts from Rev. Mel*

Last weekend I was a bit sneezy, thinking it was just hay fever I soldiered on, but by Sunday afternoon I felt quite unwell so I took myself off to Kyneton hospital get a COVID test.

I was told there would be a 3 to 5 day wait for results.

I came home, cancelled the things that I had planned for the next few days, and went to bed.

Lucky for me it only took until midnight on Monday for my negative result to come through but that day of waiting really made me reflect on what I'd done and where I'd been for the last 14 days. I had seen family and friends, shared a table at a café (a few times) with a few people, and so on. Even though I'd been responsible with distancing the entire time it still made me very anxious when I thought about all of the people that I might have put at risk if I was contagious.

So now as we watch multiple suburbs shutting down again I am holding those people even closer in prayer...especially as some of those areas are very close to where Ray and I grew up and spent much of our lives before moving to this parish.

I'm also holding in prayer colleagues in Melbourne who had planned face to face services this week who have now had to re-close their doors. Their disappointment is great indeed.

Our two churches have been closed now for nearly four months and, although our infection rates in this region are low, we still have lots of tourists visiting and lots of people who travel back and forth to Melbourne for work so we are far from out of the woods.

I know that it is painful to not worship face to face together each week but it has been a joy for me to watch how so many of you have come up with great ways to stay in touch and still **be** the Body of Christ despite our separation.

The music group are meeting by zoom and Kevin is doing amazing things with technology to put voices together, the Wednesday coffee group are also meeting by zoom and offering pastoral care to each other, Chaplains in Trentham has become somewhat of an unofficial meeting point (each time I've been there I've had the pleasure to see at least a few of you!), Tuesday conversation group continues by zoom, and of course our pre-service morning tea via zoom (thank God for zoom!).

Thank you for being committed to each other through all of this time where, in order to love our neighbour we must be apart from them.
Blessings and love, Mel

Next week's readings – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25.19-34

Psalms 119.105-112

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Mission and Parish Giving

To continue your financial commitment to the parish you can use the direct debit giving option:

BSB 633 000, Account 1498 24906, Ref: Parish Giving.



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

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