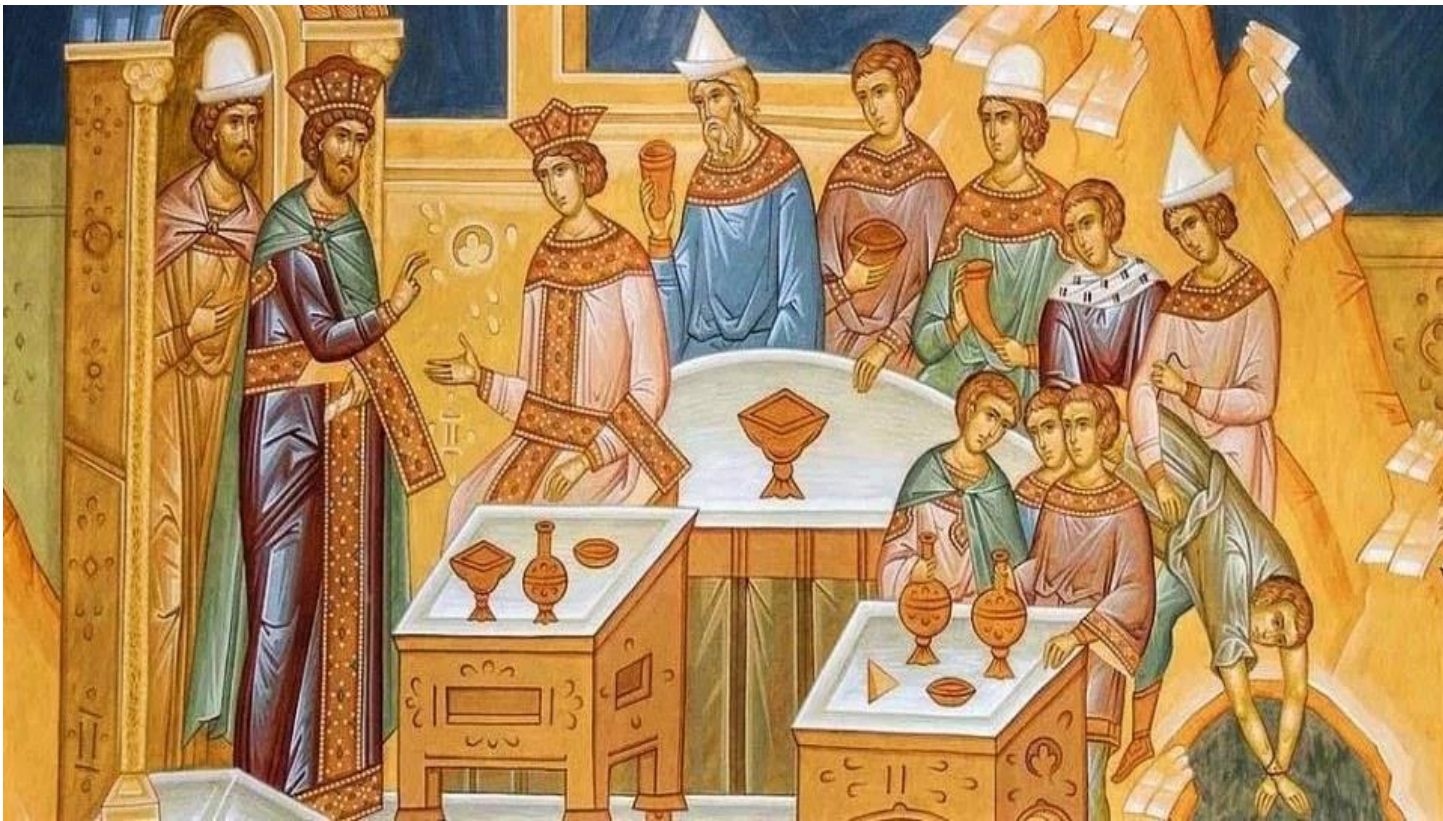




THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

Live Stream via Facebook 11am Sundays



11th October, 2020 – Nineteenth 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

This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isaiah 25.9

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

Saving and healing God,
you have promised
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful
for all you have done for us,
and in that thankfulness to be eager to serve and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who 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 Exodus chapter 32 verses 1 to 14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come,

make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalm 106.1-6, 20-24

Praise the Lord;

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

and his mercy endures for ever.

**Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord:
or fully voice his praise?**

Blessed are those who act according to justice:

who at all times do the right.

**Remember me, O Lord,
when you visit your people with your favour:
and come to me also with your salvation,**

That I may see the prosperity of your chosen:

that I may rejoice with the rejoicing of your people,

and exult with those who are your own.

**We have sinned like our ancestors:
we have acted perversely and done wrong.**

At Horeb they made themselves a calf:

and bowed down in worship to an image.

**And so they exchanged the glory of God:
for the likeness of an ox that eats hay.**

They forgot God who was their saviour:

that had done such great things in Egypt,

**Who had worked his wonders in the land of Ham:
and his terrible deeds at the Red Sea.**

Therefore he thought to destroy them:

had not Moses his servant stood before him in the breach,

to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians chapter 4 verses 1 to 9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Alleluia Alleluia

All creation sings your praise, all of heaven celebrates your glory

Alleluia Alleluia

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew chapter 22 beginning at the 1st verse

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and

everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

God of Our Ancestors,
Since before we were born, you have knit your people into a great reimagining of purpose and life. You call us by your mercy and claim us with your truth. In these times of trial, show us what it means that you are the Creator, Christ, and Comforter. Show us how to believe that you have made each of us in your image. Show us what it means that even now, your kingdom is breaking into the world. Even in these days, show us how to sing and praise and pray to you.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.
God of Our Present,

In Christ, we recognize our reality as people called to join you in the journey. Teach us how to follow you. Make yourself known to us. Make yourself known to those fighting and fleeing wildfires on the West Coast of the United States, as well as those who are living with the aftermath of devastating flames and red skies of smoke. Make yourself known to those grappling with COVID-19, whether they are at home or in hospital beds, prison cells or nursing homes, science labs or health institutes or non-profit organizations. Shower mercy upon all those who grieve. Be with us in our present moments. Reveal yourself in ways that we might taste and touch and see and hear and know, deep within our flesh and bones.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

God of Descendants,

Your story does not begin and end with us. You who loved our ancestors are also preparing the way for our children. Nurture the lives of all young people around the world who are living with the uncertainty of economic prospects, the stress of climate change, the unanswered questions around truths of human dignity. Bring forth in them a new energy for purpose-seeking, meaning-making, and community action, as they lead us forward into the future.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

God of Our Every Ending and Beginning,

We pray these things because you have come among us, as human, as Word Made Flesh, as God with us. In Christ, we have been shown the kindness of your touch, the fierceness of your grace, the perseverance of your covenant, the power of your peace. How glorious it is to rise in your grace, to pray in your name, to rest in your Spirit. Thanks be to you, Triune God.

Amen.

You are the one who knows the deepest needs of our hearts therefore we hold up to you those we love who are in need. We pray also for Jeanette, Jim, Michael and Sue, Nic, Sarah, James, and Dorothy.

We remember this week Joyce White.

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!*

**Masks and foodbank –If you know if someone in need please let Rev. Mel know.*

**Tuesday evening bible study by Zoom. Everyone is welcome.
Contact Rev. Mel for the zoom meeting details.*

**Prayers on Monday morning at 9am via live stream – this week from St Mary's*

** The parish has bought a subscription to Zoom to allow for interactive mid-week prayer services. If you would like to volunteer to lead morning prayer via Zoom please get in touch with Rev. Mel.*

**Happy birthday today to Jannyse Williams, and for later in the week Gwen Justice*

**Happy thanksgiving to our Canadian family members for tomorrow.
We are very thankful for your Carmen, James, Niamh, Rupert, and Percy.*

Let's sing the hymn together Now Thank We All Our God

Gtr. Capo 1 Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) Ab(G) Fm(Em) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) Ab(G) Fm(Em) Bb7(A7) Eb(D) Bb(A)

Bb(A) Eb(D) Bb(A) Eb(D) F7(E7) Gm(F#m)

C7(B7) Fm(Em) Ab(G) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

Now thank we all our God
 with hearts and hands and voices,
 who wondrous things has done,
 in whom the world rejoices;
 who from our mothers' arms
 has blessed us on our way
 with countless gifts of love,
 and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
 through all our life be near us,
 with ever joyful hearts
 and blessed peace to cheer us.
 Lord, keep us in your grace,
 and guide us when perplexed,
 and free us from all harm
 in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

Martin Rinkart 1586–1649

tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827–78 *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. Amen.

****some thoughts from Rev. Mel*

I've had lots of conversations this week with lots of people (some parishioners, some community members, some colleagues) about what a devastating thing that loneliness can be.

I know there are many people feeling this right now – even some people who don't live alone have expressed a longing for others (not that there is anything wrong with those the people they live with just a diversity of faces and conversations is good!)

Loneliness has always been something that has the ability to really mess with us – to make us feel depressed, frustrated, and to cause us to do things we wouldn't normally do.

Sometimes I wonder if the stories of the Israelites wandering through the desert and all of the strange things that they do is part of loneliness and longing for their old communities and lives.

They act out in very odd ways: complaining and longing for their old lives when they were slaves, threatening Moses, and even constructing images of *things* to worship rather than worshiping God.

Loneliness has great power over us if we let it. In these times we have to be a little more creative with how we combat loneliness and how we help others to not be lonely. A walk by someone's house, a wave from a distance, a letter or note, even a catch up via the wonderful options technology offers us.

It is not as good as an actual visit with a big hug and a catch up cuppa but it is what we have right now...but we also have God who is always close and knows the deepest ponderings and yearnings of our heart.

Saint Paul signed off his letter to the Philippians 'The Lord is near...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'. Paul understood that the new Christians in Philippi would struggle and so he gave them this reassurance that, in all of their troubles and all of their joys, God was always with them...just as God is with us in these times and always.

Stay close to God and to your brothers and sisters in Christ through prayer...and all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

Blessings and love, Mel

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.

Next week's readings – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33.12-23

Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

Matthew 22.15-33



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Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday