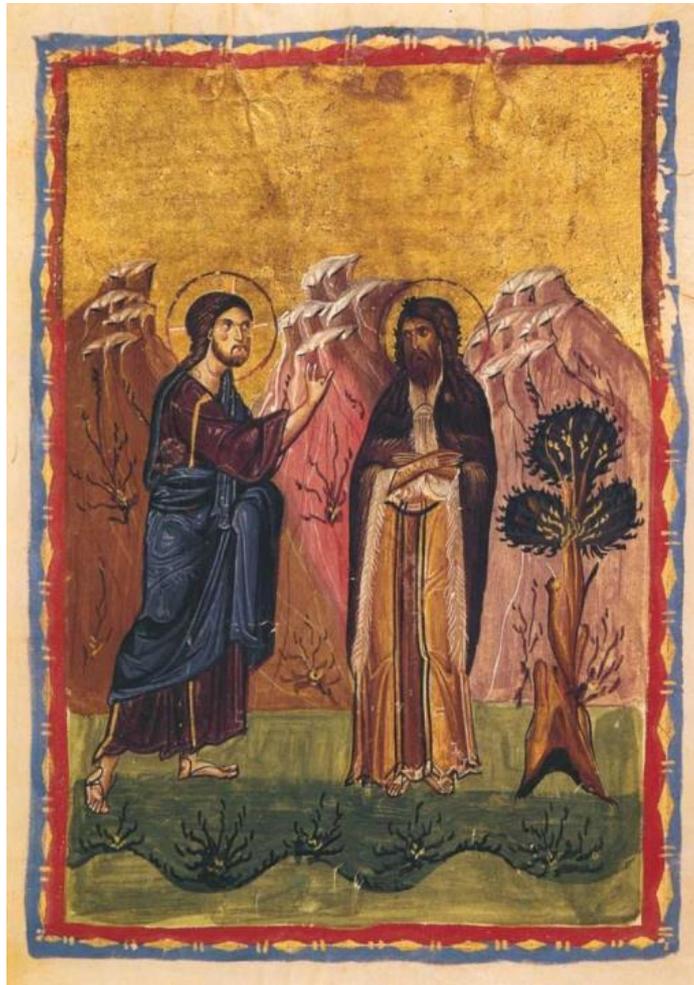


THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

Live Stream via Facebook 11am Sundays



27th September, 2020 – Seventeenth 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, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him. *Hosea 6.1a, 2b*

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

Grant, O merciful God,
that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,
who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.
For you have highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of Exodus chapter 17 verses 1 to 7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people

quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalm 78 versus 1 to 4 and 11 to 16

Give heed to my teaching, O my people:

incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

**For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.**

What we have heard and known:

what our forebears have told us,

**We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.**

For he did marvellous things

in the sight of their ancestors:

in the land of Egypt, in the country of Zoan.

**He divided the sea and let them pass through:
he made the waters stand up in a heap.**

In the daytime he led them with a cloud:

and all night long with the light of fire.

**He cleft rocks in the wilderness:
and gave them drink in abundance
as from springs of water.**

He brought streams out of the rock:

and caused the waters to flow down like rivers.

**But for all this they sinned yet more against him:
and rebelled against the Most High in the desert.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians chapter 2 verses 1 to 13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Alleluia Alleluia

We confess that you are Lord, that you are our way, truth, and life

Alleluia Alleluia

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew chapter 21
beginning at the 23rd verse*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of

the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

We pray for the world: for the overwhelming sense of disaster and conflict on so many fronts:

for people disregarded and cast aside, with no thought for their rights and value as human beings;

for those who use power to their own ends and cannot see our common humanity; for the media who see profit in a good headline rather than telling the true story – work your will in us that we may grow into your likeness and seek justice for all.

God of grace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your worldwide church: for all members and leaders committed to finding your way through these times of pandemic; we give thanks for the unexpected benefits of technology where we can share with those near and far; work your will in us that we may grow into your likeness and listen to each other and the ways you lead your people.

God of grace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those with whom our lives are bound: for family, neighbours and friends, those with whom we cannot gather; for being aware of difficulties which have resulted from times of isolation; work your will in

us that we may grow into your likeness and be sensitive to these special needs.

God of grace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in trouble and distress: for those for whom this COVID time has meant greater despair, sickness, and stretched resources, for those struggling to access needed services; we especially pray for Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Michael and Sue, Nic, Sarah, James, and Helen.

Work your will in us that we may grow into your likeness and seek out ways to be caring and supportive even to those we do not know.

God of grace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who mourn: for those taken unexpectedly by the virus, for those of every age and place who have loved you and served you and gone before us: work your will in us that we may grow into your likeness, and when our earthly days are done, bring us to a joyful resurrection that we, with all your saints, may live for ever in your presence.

God of grace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the life of Uldis Raiskums and pray for Andrew and the family as they mourn him.

We remember this week Bob Tett, Christopher Martinson, and Nita McKenzie

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.*

**Pets' Blessing*

St George's October 3 from 2 – 3pm in the garden. We need a volunteer to be our COVID marshall for the hour or the event can't take place.

St Mary's October 4 from 1 – 2pm for surnames A-K, and 2 – 3pm for surnames ending in L-Z. (Black Cat coffee will set up in the garden) All COVID regulations must be adhered to – no more than 10 people gathered at a time, masks, distancing, hand sanitising, and contact tracing.

**Prayers on Monday morning at 9am via live stream – this week from St George'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 this week to AliceAnn Taylor, Robyn Langford, and Norma Proctor.*

Let's sing the hymn together 393 Christ is Alive

C G F G C / Am G C

D G / C F C G7 C /

C G Am Em D G Am Dm G7 C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
 we celebrate our risen Lord,
 praising the glory of his name.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the sun which brings the dawn:
 he is the light of all the world,
 setting us free from death and sin.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the vine set in the earth,
 sharing our life, from birth to death,
 that we might share in God's own life.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
 we celebrate our risen Lord,
 praising the glory of his name.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Pamela Stotter 1944–

Words from Australian Catholic Worship Book by permission P. Stotter

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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*

First, thank you very much to those of you who sent messages for my birthday. I had a lovely day, and even though lockdown meant I couldn't be with family, I certainly felt surrounded by love thanks to your wishes.

This week has seen the number of COVID cases continue to drop in Victoria. I know you, like me, are thankful for that and thankful that we are in a region where numbers have never been very high.

As the Premier's "Roadmap" continues to be worked through our parish will be responding with options for outdoor services while the weather allows (we are bound by firstly the Premier's guidelines, and then the Bishop's guidelines so although the news reports might tell us we can do things, we also need to wait for Bishop Matt to approve activities).

Your Parish Council and Wardens are working very hard to come up with ways to worship together once we get the go ahead to do so. Please be patient and stay in touch – none of us have had to deal with this before so there is a lot to work through.

We are all workers in God's field and there might be times when we want to get out there and get picking those grapes but we have to wait for the right time. The harvest cannot be rushed and nor can this virus.

As we have said since March, we must love our neighbours enough to do the right thing for them.

Please keep praying for your parish leadership group as they navigate these uncharted waters.

Blessings and love – stay safe, 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.

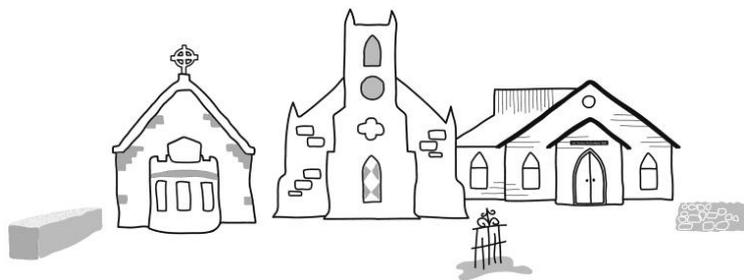
Next week's readings – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3.4-14

Matthew 21.33-46



THE Anglican Parish *of* Woodend-Trentham

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Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday