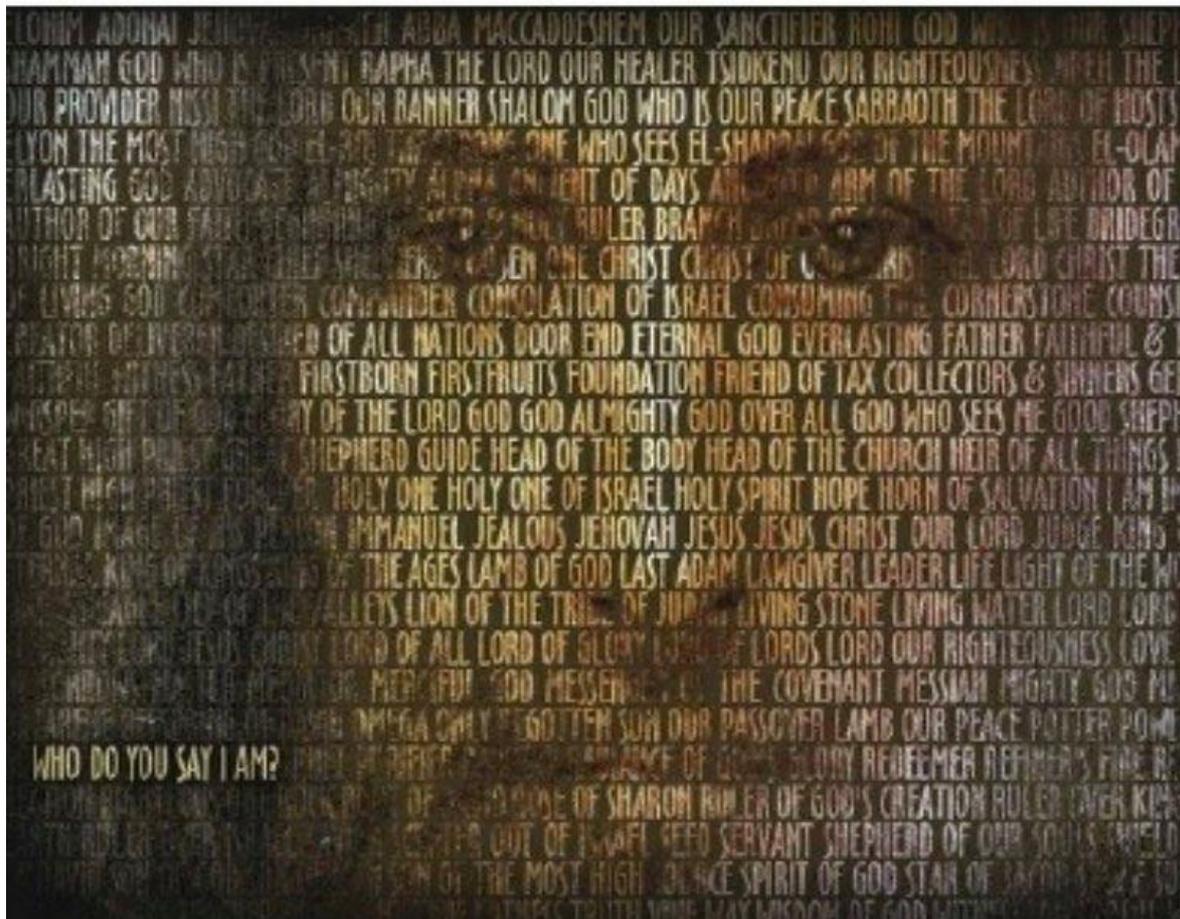


THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

Live Stream via Facebook 11am Sundays



23rd August, 2020 – Twelfth 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

Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Matthew 16.15–16

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

O God, fount of all wisdom,
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter
you have shown the foundation of our faith:
give us the light of your Spirit,
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God,
we may be living stones
for the building up of your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*A reading from the book of Exodus chapter 1 verse 8 to chapter 2 verse
10*

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and

Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and

nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Psalm 124

If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say:
if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,

**Then they would have swallowed us alive:
when their anger was kindled against us.**

Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,
and the torrent gone over us:
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

**But praised be the Lord:
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.**

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans chapter 12 verses 1 to 8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,

and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Alleluia Alleluia

We confess that you are Lord

Alleluia Alleluia

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew chapter 16 beginning at the 13th verse

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah

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

Holy Creator,

You are at our Beginning and our Ending, the one who wakes us in the morning and settles us to sleep at night. When we move through the fog of uncertainty, bring a piercing light of clarity, even if just for a moment. When we are in grief, we know that you abide with us until we are granted the strength to go on. When we want to dance with excitement or joy, show us how to celebrate truly. Even while socially distanced, reveal the ways that we do not grieve or dance alone.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, We pray for our world, as we move through more days, more deaths, more recoveries, and more challenging conversations around Covid-19. No one person is experiencing this on their own; no one community makes decisions by themselves. Teach us how to live and move and experience our being as your people, whose responsibilities are bound with each and other, and with you. Reveal your presence to those who are grieving or anxious and in social isolation. Guide each of us towards a fuller understanding of this disease and our interdependence on all of Creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for neighbourhoods around the world, where protests by community members over life and death concerns continue. We pray for every village or city where people seek to safely gather in the name of peace. Lord, show us how to speak words of solidarity that matter; illuminate for us how to take actions that make a difference. Centre us in you and teach us how to walk together the long road of justice.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for Beirut, as the communities of that great city suffer the aftereffects of the explosion. Teach us how to hold the Lebanese people close through their devastation, recovery, and justice.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Advocating Spirit, As communities negotiate the challenges of this time, grant wisdom, discernment, and compassion to those who are making decisions on behalf of our most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In all these things, in all these moments, we place ourselves back into your arms of mercy and grace. Show us how to delight in what is good, to confront what is cruel, to heal what is damaged. Give to us a discerning strength to move into the next moment, the next day, the next act of compassion and courage.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

In all these things, abide with us, O Spirit and Word of Comfort and Truth. **Amen.**

We pray for those we know who are sick, struggling, or grieving, especially Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Michael and Sue, Yvonne, Nic, and Sarah.

We give thanks for the lives of Nick Maasey and Roy Porter and we remember this week our friend June English.

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!*

**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.*

**Masks –If you need a mask to go shopping or to an appointment and don't have one please let Rev. Mel know. Please don't be stuck at home because you don't have one* ♡

**Prayers on Monday morning at 9am via live stream – this week from St Mary's. Prayers on Saturday 29th August at 6pm for Daffodil Day.*

**September prayer packs are going on this week – if you would prefer an electronic copy please let Rev. Mel know*

**Happy birthday for last Wednesday to Michael Dillon and to Jeff Gillis this week.*

Let's sing the hymn together **Glorious things of you are spoken**

C Am F C Am Dm
C G C Am F C Am
Dm C G Bb Dm Gm C7 F
G G7 Am E7 Am C Am
Bb C7 F Dm C F G7 C

Glorious things of you are spoken,
Zion, city of our God:
he whose word cannot be broken
formed you for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,

what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
you may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply your sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove:
who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage —
grace, which like the Lord the giver
never fails from age to age.

Blest inhabitants of Zion,
washed in their Redeemer's blood:
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
makes them kings and priests to God.
For his love his people raises
over self to reign as kings,
and as priests, his solemn praises
each for a thank-offering brings.

Saviour, since of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in your name:
fading are the worldlings' pleasures,
all their boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

John Newton 1725–1807 *alt.*

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University Press

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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 had a conversation during the week with a mum who was telling me that her child sings when feeling calm and happy. It is a sure sign that things are good when the sweet voice of this youngster floats through the house.

This little one hasn't done much singing of late because of anxiety around school, friends, home, viruses that are very scary, and all the other stuff happening in the world. It is a noticeable absence in the family at the moment that everyone is trying to work through.

Adults often have a 'soldier on' type philosophy that kids don't learn until a bit later in life. We feel we have to put on a brave face for the world, for our families, for our work mates, even for ourselves so we don't fall apart.

But God knows how we feel, and God is OK with us being sad, frustrated, or even a bit cross about the state of the world. There is an entire book of the bible called Lamentations that is full of encouragement to 'Pour your heart out like water before the presence of the Lord!' (Lamentations 2.19).

The book begins with a verse that is so relevant to us right now 'How lonely sits the city that once was full of people' and as we read through the chapters, continues to remind us that life has peaks and valleys. God is ever present with us through all of those times.

Jesus reminds us in the gospels to come to God in a child-like way – that means we need courage to be open and honest and ready to be comforted. There is no soldier on brave face needed with God.

Blessings and love as we lament and sing together, Mel

An update on Parish Giving and the Budget

Our parish has been very active in taking up the direct debit giving option so that we can continue to stay open in the way that we are able to right now, and so that we can contribute to local and global mission projects.

It is a testament to your discipleship and your personal commitment to your church that you have continued to give during this time that our buildings are closed and worship is happening in a very different way. Thank you.

Our current giving level is about \$5,000 under where we budgeted for this time of year as you can see below.

Budget	Actual	Variance
\$58,000.00	\$36,807.69	- \$5,016.39

We have been fortunate to have access to Job Keeper so that has assisted to partially cover our diocesan invoices in these past few months. We have also seen utility usage go down so that has helped balance **some** of the budget deficit.

We know that our budget will continue to be a challenge this year as we have no weddings booked in, minimal hall hires*, and almost zero fund raising opportunities that we can depend on to increase our income.

**The hall accounts for about 25% of the overall budget income so the closure of this facility is significant.*

We trust that God will provide to us what we need to continue to do the great work of spreading the Gospel message in Trentham and Woodend, and have hope that all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

Your Wardens, Robyn and Greg.

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.

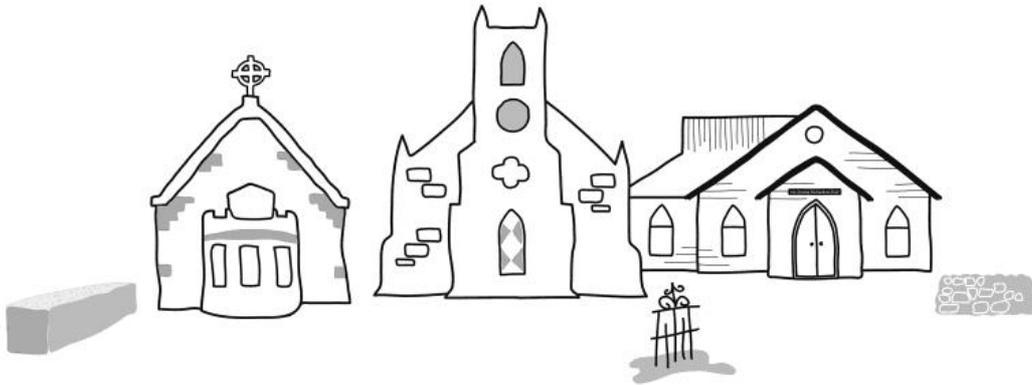
Next week's readings – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3.1-15

Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26

Romans 12.9-21

Matthew 16.21-28



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Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday