



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



**12th July, 2020 – Sixth 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

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. John 6.63, 68

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

Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy,
and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
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 Genesis chapter 25 verses 19 to 34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this

way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119.105-112

Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.

**I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements.**

I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.

**Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.**

I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.

**The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.**

Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.

**I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 8 verses 1 to 11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13
beginning at the 1st verse*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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!

Spirit of God, hear our prayers for your world and your church:

For the nations

Spirit of Peace, grow in us so we resolve our differences without violence or cruelty. Open the eyes of international leaders to see the suffering caused by some of their decisions. Continue to strengthen and support our local leaders, especially Premier Dan Andrews and his team.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the Church

Spirit of Truth, give us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to understand that we may receive your words and bear much fruit to your glory. Help us to avoid the snares that derail our best efforts.

Spirit of Wisdom, bless our communities of St George's and St Mary's, the clergy & people, our Bishop Matt and other people of faith in

Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Shire. May we be lights in this gloomy winter time.

In your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For those in need

Spirit of Love, help us to reach out in welcome to all around us that we may build relationships of mutual affection, trust, generosity and respect. We try to be your hands and feet – strengthen us in your service.

Spirit of Compassion, increase our concern for others and help us to bring comfort and care to those in need. We hold up before you those who have asked us to pray for them. 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.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for Carmen, James, Niamh, and Rupert, as well as Colin and Jenny this week as they prepare to welcome their new baby on Wednesday.

We remember Jan Dixon this week and offer our prayers for Eldin, Edwina, Geordie, and Sarah.

Encourage us by her example, so that we may live the life that lies before us, and share with them in the fullness of joy in your kingdom. 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!*

** At 2.26pm on Wednesday 8th July AliceAnn Taylor officially became a permanent resident! She sends her thanks for the financial assistance, letters of support, and prayers from the parish.*

**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.*

**Happy birthday to Maegan Scholtz, Sean Scholtz, Bette McLaren, and Brenda Durban.*

Question Time: What is a blessing?

Let's sing the hymn together Abide with Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte 1793–1847 *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*

It has been a difficult week watching our neighbours in Melbourne go back into lockdown. If, like me, you have family in some of the 'hot spots' no doubt you would have spent some anxious moments recently thinking about your loved ones.

It was particularly hard to hear the news of the people in the social housing towers being locked in because of the worrying number of cases.

There was a lot of criticism of the Premier and other community leaders in the way that this lockdown was done – there were definitely issues surrounding this but I can see why it was done without notice.

The current situation in those housing towers should be raising additional questions in our community. For example:
Should we have protested about the state of this housing earlier?
Why is it that we think it's an acceptable thing to have people of lower socio-economic circumstances living in 'vertical cruise ships'?
How did we not see the high infection rate coming when there are, according to some reports, only two hand sanitiser stations in the lobbies and none in any other communal areas?

Housing is a human rights issue, a social justice issue, a safety issue and we should all be concerned by the conditions in these places.

There have been amazing stories coming out of this situation though; the sense of community that exists in these buildings has become visible, groups like the ASRC catering and Sikh Volunteers have provided meals, not to mention the stellar effort of health care workers to get all of the residents tested for COVID19.

Please pray this week for those still in stage 4 lockdown in the towers, and as you do give thanks for the incredible community support that has risen up as a result of recent events there.

Peace, Mel

Next week's readings – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28.10-19

Psalms 139.1-11, 23-24

Romans 8.12-25

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

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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Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday