

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



**26<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 – Eighth 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**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8.38–39

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, the fount of wisdom,  
you have revealed to us in Christ  
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:  
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,  
that, in the midst of the things of this world,  
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,  
and be ready to renounce all else  
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.  
We ask this 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 Genesis chapter 29 verses 15 to 33*

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will

serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

(Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her maid.) So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. He served Laban for another seven years.

When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. Leah conceived and bore a son, and she named him Reuben; for she said, “Because the LORD has looked on my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.” She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also”; and she named him Simeon.

### **Psalm 105 verses 1 to 11**

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:  
tell among the peoples what things he has done.

**Sing to him, O sing praises:**

**and be telling of all his marvellous works.**

Exult in his holy name:

and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

**Seek the Lord and his strength:**

**O seek his face continually.**

Call to mind what wonders he has done:

his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

**O seed of Abraham his servant:**

**O children of Jacob his chosen one.**

For he is the Lord our God:

and his judgements are in all the earth.

**He has remembered his covenant for ever:**

**the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,**

The covenant that he made with Abraham:

the oath that he swore to Isaac,

**And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:**

**to Israel as an everlasting covenant,**

Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:

to be the portion of your inheritance',

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 8 verses 26 to 39*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 44<sup>th</sup> verse*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?” And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.” And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

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!**

Eternal God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct those who speak where many listen and write what many read, that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

Lord, we pray for the countries where COVID-19 cases are increasing, notably the United States, Brazil, India, Mexico, South Africa, Colombia, Argentina, Iraq, Indonesia, Oman and here in Melbourne.

God our Mother, we come to you in our grief. We find ourselves going through the stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Grant us the grace and space to grieve for our own losses, and the grace and space to allow others to grieve theirs. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

O God, behold and visit the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate racism and violence so that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

God our Father, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in Jesus' steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you. Even though so many of us around the world right now are never alone, we feel lonely. We miss communing, and we also miss conversations with strangers. We have sacrificed anniversaries and graduations and weddings and birthdays and birth plans in order to keep our communities safe. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

We pray for our religious leaders and essential workers.

We pray for health care workers and death care industry personnel.

We pray for the unemployed.

We pray that scientists and politicians alike.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

We pray for those we know who are sick or grieving, especially Christine, Maisy, Wendy, Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Michael and Sue, Neil and Stephen, Gerard, Marion, Sam, Emma, Yvonne, Ella and Sarah.

### *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.*

*\*the editors of The Spirit are keen to hear "Stories of Faith" from lay people: reflections on what we have learned about our faith while COVID-19 has substantially changed the way we do church.. If you would like to contribute the articles must be no more than 300 words and must mention Jesus. Accompanying photos are welcome.*

*Please provide submissions by **Monday 10 August.***

*\*Do you have a person on the prayer list? Please let Rev Mel (by email if possible) if they need to stay on the list. All names will come off this week unless otherwise advised.*

*\*If you need a disposable mask to go shopping or to an appointment and don't have one please let Rev. Mel (she has a stash 😊 )*

*\*Happy birthday to Celia Ho for yesterday, Lauren Ho for today, and Sylvia Dalton and Rosie Baker later this week*

### Let's sing the hymn together God is Love

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

God is love, let heav'n adore him;  
God is love, let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
God, who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heavens above,  
and who breathes through all creation,  
God is love, eternal Love.

God is love, and gently enfolding  
all the world in one embrace,  
with unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.

God is love, and, though with blindness  
sin afflicts our human hearts,  
God's eternal lovingkindness  
holding, guiding, grace imparts.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees 1874–1939 *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*

On Wednesday it was the day that the church celebrates Saint Mary Magdalene. I make no secret of the fact that she is one of my all time favourite saints so July 22<sup>nd</sup> is a special day for me each year as I think about her ministry to Jesus and her example to us throughout the centuries.

She inspires me for many reasons but none more so than the fact that she stuck around through all of the horror of Jesus' trial, such as it was, his crucifixion and death, and her love was so enduring that she was there on Easter morning. She was there and obedient to not hold onto to Jesus but to go and tell the best good news the world had ever received: that Jesus was raised from the dead.

I believe that her enduring legacy is her ability to be present and faithful through all things.

One of the things that has made many of us so very sad during the pandemic is the fact that people are dying without family members or friends around them. Wonderful Nurses and health care workers are offering comfort and love where they can but it's not the same as having your family with you.

I like to think that Mary Magdalene might have taken up this ministry of being present and sitting with the dying to offer them the promise of God's unending love as they move from this world into their heavenly home.

I like to think that when we lament the fact that we can't physically be together that she's with us too. I'm sure I feel her urging me on during the hours that feel so hard because we can't be together to share the feast on Sundays.

Thank God for Mary Magdalene and her ability to simply be. She is an example to us all.

Blessings, Mel

## Blessing For The Mitzvah Of Putting On A Mask

Baruch ata, Adonai Eloheinu,      בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
Melech ha-olam,                      מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav      אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
v'tzivanu al shmirat hanefesh.      וְצִוָּנוּ עַל שְׁמִירַת הַנֶּפֶשׁ

Blessed are You, Eternal our God,  
Sovereign of the world,  
who has sanctified us with commandments,  
and commanded us to protect life.

*From Temple Beth Israel*

### Next week's readings – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32.22-31

Psalm 17.1-7, 16

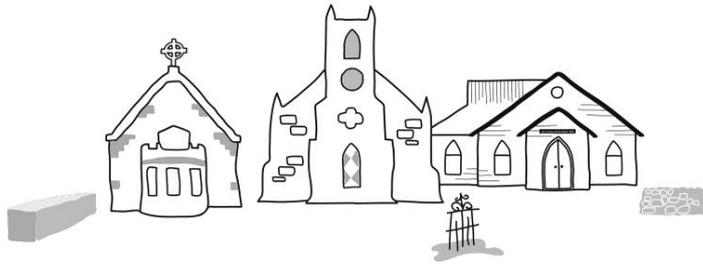
Romans 9.1-8

Matthew 14.13-21

### 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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Wardens: Greg Donaldson 0401 994 453 Robyn Leeder 0415 216 711



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*Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday*