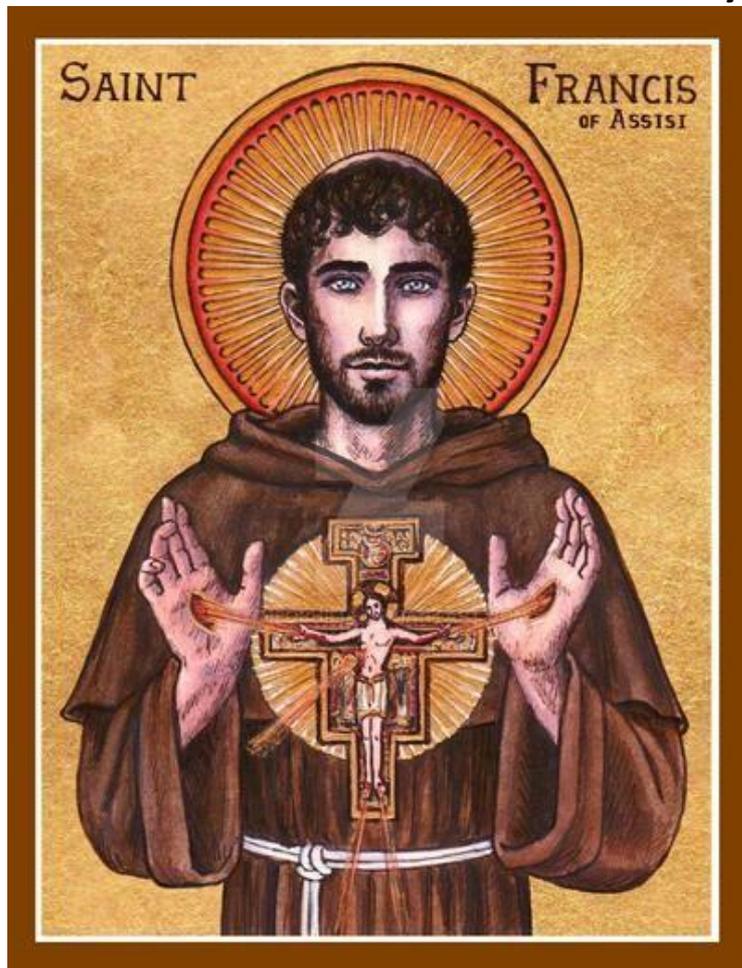


THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

Live Stream via Facebook 11am Sundays



4th October, 2020 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Pets Blessing Sunday

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

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, let us press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3.13b–14

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

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders,
and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone:
grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us,
we may become living stones built up into your dwelling place,
a temple holy and acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah chapter 5 verses 1 to 7

Let me sing for my beloved

my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard

on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Psalm 80 verses 7 to 15

*Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

**You brought a vine out of Egypt:
you drove out the nations, and planted it in.**

You cleared the ground before it:
and it struck root and filled the land.

**The hills were covered with its shadow:
and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.**

It stretched out its branches to the sea:
and its tender shoots to the Great River.

**Why then have you broken down its walls:
so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?**

The wild boar out of the woods roots it up:
and the locusts from the wild places devour it.

**Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts:
look down from heaven, and see.**

Bestow your care upon this vine:
the stock which your own right hand has planted.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians chapter 3 verses 4 to 14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have

suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21 beginning at the 33rd verse

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the

owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Faithful God, in whom we place our trust and hope, hear our prayers: We pray for the people of the world: for those deprived of a just share of the earth's resources; for those of this land whose heritage has been stolen.

We pray for Leaders of countries, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Premier Daniel Andrews, Local Leaders and their governing colleagues, all who hold peoples' lives in their decisions.

We give thanks for the hours of work and dedication they have practised in their decision making when dealing with the Covid 19 epidemic. We give thanks to all our Healthcare Workers, ancillary staff and their families.

We pray for Police and their families, especially remembering their sacrifices made both in their carrying out the law and in some of losing their life doing so.

Faithful God, we pray for the people affected by the Californian fires. We understand the destruction and fear that bush fires evoke, and ask that you look after the wellbeing of the firefighters.

Faithful God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your worldwide church: for those who face hardship, danger or persecution for their faith; for Bishop Matt, Rev'ds Mel and Ian and for the people of this parish. We give thanks for Rev'd Mel's pastoral care and dedication to service

Faithful God, we pray for our community: for the unemployed, for those struggling with everyday life during these living restrictions, for those living alone and missing being with loved ones.

We pray especially for those living their final years in Aged Care Facilities, for those in hospital and in Intensive Care, for their families and for those who have died. Touch the hearts of the suffering that they may reach out for love and healing.

We remember and pray for the following in our Parish Jeanette, Jim, Michael and Sue, Nic, Sarah, James, Dorothy, and Helen.

We give thanks for the life of Carmella Carnovale and pray for her many family and friends as they mourn her.

And we remember this week Keith McDonald, Barbara Gray, and Georgie Langford.

Faithful God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the Blessed St Francis, who showed love to all creatures.

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures, we pray for your blessing upon all animals. We give thanks for our animal friends. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. We pray for their health and find with them peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant, Francis.
Amen.

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.*

**this coming week would usually be clergy retreat, this year we will be 'retreating by zoom' on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons so Rev Mel will not be available between the hours of 1 and 4.30pm on those days*

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

**Pets' Blessing*

Thanks to those who assisted and supported the pets blessing yesterday

in Trentham.

St Mary's today 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)

*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 today to James Fiford

Let's sing the hymn together Fairest Lord Jesus

D A D / Bm A7 D / G
A D Em D A / D B7 Em /
A7 D / Bm D A7 D

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Lord of all creation,
Son of God, and Mary's son:
you will I cherish,
you will I honour,
you are my soul's delight and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands
robed in the greenness and bloom of spring:

Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes the saddest heart to sing.

Fair are the flowers,
fairer still the children
in all the freshness of youth arrayed;
yet is their beauty
fading and fleeting;
Lord Jesus, yours will never fade.

Fair is the moonlight,
fairer still the sunshine,
fair is the shimmering starry sky:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines clearer
than all the heavenly host on high.

Jesus, all beauty,
heavenly and earthly,
in you is wondrously found to be;
none can be nearer,
fairer or dearer
than you, my Saviour, are to me.

Anon., Münster 1677 *tr.* Joseph Augustus Seiss 1823–1904 and others

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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*

Thanks to Sylvia for her intercessions this morning and for this this lovely quote from an unknown author:

God said “I need somebody strong enough to pull sleds and find bombs, yet gentle enough to love babies and lead the blind; somebody who will spend all day on a couch with a resting head and supportive eyes to lift the spirits of a broken heart.” So God made a dog.

Such a lovely reflection for us for St Francis Day.

Saint Francis has such a special place in the hearts of many Christians and many non-Christians because of his much celebrated love of animals and nature – many of us relate very closely to that love through our own pets and gardens; but his dedication to helping the poor and to offering God’s peace to them through service was a huge part of his mission.

When we were in Assisi last year everywhere we went we saw signs proclaiming this peace “Pax et Bonum” (Peace and Goodness) everywhere – in fact our hotel was called The Pax Hotel!

Francis wanted God’s peace and goodness for all of God’s loved creatures and creation and it is a message that lives on in that small and beautiful city.

I certainly felt peace and goodness as I went into the various churches to pray, wonder, and sit quietly (it’s very easy to be quiet in Assisi I discovered). It was a beautiful place to be after the busyness of Rome, and the rock and concrete of Malta...but it was more than that. It was a city that was *prayed in*.

I went to Assisi expecting to love Francis’ story more than I when I arrived, and I did, but what happened while I was there was that I discovered a closeness to Francis’ fellow worker Clare.

Clare is not as famous as her brother in service Francis but she was every bit as dedicated to the message of Peace and Goodness for all people – but especially to the poor.

To sit in the chapel of her final resting place was a very moving time for me and I hope that one day I get to go back and spend some more time with this remarkable saint and fellow worker for the poor.

I encourage you to learn more about her story

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare_of_Assisi

Pax et Bonum, 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.

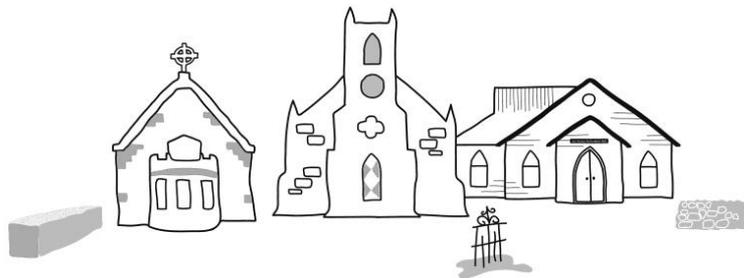
Next week's readings – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32.1-14

Psalms 106.1-6, 20-24

Philippians 4.1-9

Matthew 22.1-14



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Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday