



## THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

*A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry*

**Live Stream via Facebook 11am Sundays**



### **13<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 – Fifteenth 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**

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130.3-4

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,  
you call your Church to witness  
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:  
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may turn to you;  
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 Exodus chapter 14 verses 19 to 31*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land;

and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

## **Psalm 114**

When Israel came out of Egypt:  
and the house of Jacob from among a people  
of an alien tongue,

**Judah became his sanctuary:  
and Israel his dominion.**

The sea saw that, and fled:  
Jordan was driven back.

**The mountains skipped like rams:  
and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:  
O Jordan, that you were driven back?

**You mountains, that you skipped like rams:  
and you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**Who turned the rock into a pool of water:  
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 14 verses 1 to 14*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

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 18 beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse*

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what

had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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 – supplied by Greg Donaldson*

Let us pray for the World and our own country.

Dear Lord, let us pray that the elections to be held in democracies around the world in the near future are held in a free and fair manner. We pray that those leaders who are elected govern in a manner which glorifies your name. We pray that the world will become a safer place with less anger, hate, and greed and that greater love shown between peoples of all nations.

We pray that in our own country, the process of reconciliation with our first nations people and those who followed, is advanced to ensure that: where there is suspicion, trust is bought forth; where there is hostility, peace shines; where there is injury, justice overcomes all pain.

We pray for those who govern in this exceptionally difficult time of pandemic in our country that they will make decisions which have the welfare and best interests of the community at their core. We pray especially for the good health of our Premier, Daniel Andrews, and his Ministers, that they will have the stamina and the good judgment to see

the pandemic through and ensure its impact on our community is minimised.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own communities of Woodend, Trentham and surrounding districts in this time of pandemic.

Lord, we know that we are blessed with low rates of coronavirus in our community. However, we also know that there are people in our community who are still suffering either with or having had the disease. We pray that those people will make a full recovery over time. We also know that the coronavirus has had more than a health impact on our community. We pray that the economic impact is minimised and that those in business and without jobs are able to survive and prosper in the longer term.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of our Diocese and Parish.

We pray for Bishop Matt and for Reverend Mel as they lead our Diocese and Parish respectively. We know that it is very difficult at times for them to reconcile the desires of all members of our Diocese and our Parish but we pray that you will guide them in these difficult times to know Lord what you would want them to do.

We pray for and give thanks for the families of Bishop Matt and Reverend Mel, as we know that, without their families' support, their support of us would be diminished.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of our Parish and our community

Lord, we pray that those in our Parish and our community who suffer from illness, neglect and lack of respect. We pray that you will teach each of us in this Church to provide comfort to those in these situations

and that we would understand and do what Jesus would do under the same circumstances.

We pray that those who feel that our Church may be able to support them will make themselves known to us and overcome their concerns. Lord, we know that as a Church we suffer from a loss of respect due to those among us and those that have come before us having not lived up to your expectations, especially in terms of loving one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick at this time especially Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Michael and Sue, Nic, Sarah, James, and Uldis.

Lord, we remember your faithful people throughout history, who have brought your reconciling love to the world. We also thank you for those older members of our Parish who have contributed so much to our Church and to your glorification. We pray that we will follow in their footsteps and that when we stand in judgement before you, we too will be found acceptable in your eyes and enter your eternal kingdom.

We remember this week Garry Donoghue and Eileen McLaren

Lord, 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!*

*\*Masks –If you need a mask to go shopping or to an appointment and don't have one please let Rev. Mel know.*

*\*Congratulations to the Tuesday night group who have now finished the Australis Certificate Course, all excepting the final assessment. From this Tuesday we will be reading the book of Esther together, meeting via zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Rev. Mel for the zoom meeting details.*

*\*Prayers on Monday morning at 9am via live stream – this week from St George's.*

*\*Happy birthday to this week to Matthew Gisborne*

### Let's sing the hymn together Now We Come

Gtr. Capo 3 Bb(G) Eb(C) Bb(G) F(D) Bb(G)

Bb(G) D7(B7) Gm(Em) C7(A7) F(D)

F(D) Bb7(G7) Eb(C) Cm(Am) Gm(Em) F7(D7) Bb(G)

Now we come, our heavenly Father,  
one in glad community,  
needing still your guiding mercies,  
stronger faith, more fervent plea;  
all your blessing  
now confessing,  
we would praise you trustingly.

Through the years your Spirit guided  
those who blazed the path we tread,  
in the glow of faith they laboured,  
by the Bread of Life were fed;  
while their yearning  
hearts were learning  
more of Christ, their living head.

Proudly high they held his gospel,  
far surpassing human creeds,  
striving for his church united  
in the things for which he pleads:  
torn no longer,  
but made stronger,  
one church meeting all our needs.

Lift we, then, their torch with gladness,  
pledging all to this high aim:  
your lost world reclaimed from darkness,  
yielded to your sovereign claim;  
visions firing,  
hearts inspiring,  
march we onward in your name!

Clifford George Taylor 1915–94

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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*

Did you happen to watch the 7.30 report on Monday night?

The program concluded with footage of a very empty Melbourne city and the accompanying song was sung by a young lad named George Stirling. George was standing in completely empty St Paul's Cathedral and his voice rang out pure and beautiful as he sang a song called 'Middle of the Air'.

Middle of the Air was written by Paul Kelly (one of my all-time favourite singer/song writers) using the words of Psalm 23.

Paul Kelly is an atheist but grew up going to Mass and Catholic school. He is quoted as saying "Later on, I cottoned on to the Bible. If you are interested in words and language, it's a treasure trove. The Bible has it all - Fellini and Tarantino don't get close."

We talked about this song and one of his others 'Love is the Law' (words from 1 Corinthians 13) on Tuesday night at our conversation group and I've been pondering the great wealth that we have in our holy book for both believers and non-believers ever since.

For those of us who follow Jesus we read these words as a way to get to know Jesus, to see how God has worked and can work in the world, and to gain comfort knowing that we have the Holy Spirit with us.

For those who are not believers it is an inspiring book that tells the history of a people through hundreds of generations.

I have faith that God is working away in non believers' hearts as they read the words that we do and that tiny mustard seeds of faith reside there until the moment they are ready to delve deeper.

Blessings as we ponder together the words that offer us hope and challenge us in equal measure, Mel

*If you'd like to watch the piece from 7.30 click the link here:*

<http://www.australianboyschoir.com.au/blog/meet-me-in-the-middle-of-the-air/>

## **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 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 16.2-15

Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1.21-30

Matthew 20.1-16



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

**Cover artwork is Crossing the Red Sea by Yoram Raanan.**