

THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

A member of the Central Highlands Cluster Ministry

Live Stream via Facebook 11am Sundays



6th September, 2020 – Fourteenth 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

'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.' Matthew 18.20

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

Go before us, O Lord,
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
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 12 verses 1 to 14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or

from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Psalm 149

O praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song:

O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:

let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Let them praise him in the dance:

let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people:

he adorns the meek with his salvation.

Let his faithful ones exult in his glory:

let them sing for joy upon their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouths:

and a two-edged sword in their hands,

To execute vengeance on the nations:
and chastisement upon the peoples,

**To bind their kings in chains:
and their nobles with fetters of iron,**

To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed:
such honour belongs to all his faithful servants.

Praise the Lord.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 13 verses 1 to 10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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 10th verse*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Prepared by Rebecca Caminiti:

Heavenly God, we pray for the people and the leaders of the nations. We especially pray for those suffering in Beirut as they continue to come to terms with the devastation. Give them strength to rebuild and be with those who are still recovering from injuries.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our own nation and we pray for our leaders. Please help guide them as they continue to lead us and make difficult decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly God, we pray for the church and its faithful people as we continue with online fellowship during this time of isolation. We pray that we will be able to meet together again soon. We pray for our own Diocese, for Bishop Matt and Reverend Mel, and we give thanks as they continue to lead us with their wisdom and grace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly God we pray for our own community as we work together to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and we continue to support each other. We give thanks to those working in essential services and we pray that you be with them and help keep them safe.

We especially pray for those who are alone during this time of isolation, we ask that you comfort them and give them strength to reach out to someone if they need help.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Heavenly God we pray for our own who are sick, grieving or are in need. Especially we pray for: Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Michael and Sue, Nic, and Sarah.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Heavenly God we remember our faithfully departed and we give thanks for the wonderful lives they led. We especially remember Humphrey Campbell, Betty McKenzie, and Ted Leifman.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Heavenly God, you care for us as a parent for their child, we ask you to bless all fathers and those who are father figures on this day. May the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, step fathers, and foster fathers among us know your love and reflect that to the children entrusted to them.

May they be patient and kind in their caring, faithful and determined in their raising, and passionate and skilful in their teaching.

We pray this day for those who are missing their dads, for those who have had difficult relationships with their dads, and for those who grieve not being able to be dads. 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!*

**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.*

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

**Happy birthday to John Durban this week*

Let's sing the hymn together Love is His Word.

C G F Am / G F Dm G /

C D G Bm / Am D G /

Refrain C Dm G /

Ri - cher than gold is the love of my Lord:

Am Dm G C

bet - ter than splen - dour and wealth.

Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with friends, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is his way.

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
sisters and brothers, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.

Refrain

Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another, I have loved you.'
Love, only love, is his law.
Refrain

Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one.
Love, only love, is his word.
Refrain

Luke Connaughton 1917-79 *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*

I read a very interesting and challenging article this week about what it means to be Eucharistic people (people who gather and celebrate our life together in and through the bread and wine) in a time when we physically can't come together. I'm sharing parts of the article here with you and there is a link at the end of this reflection if you'd like to read the entire piece.

I don't agree with all that the author says but it certainly is food for thought and supports the idea that regular (daily) prayer with biblical texts, as well as a Mass (a service including the Eucharist) is important for our spiritual well-being.

The pandemic has become a cloud, a spectre that hangs over our lives. As everyone knows, most people who normally go to church, synagogue, or mosque, have been prevented from doing so. And as all of us who have tried to worship at home know, whether staring at a computer or television screen, it is only the palest shadow of praying and singing and engaging in the liturgy as a community. Everything else we do in front of a screen has formed us to know that what is worshiped with this screen is anything but the God of Jesus Christ.

I have said elsewhere that live-streaming liturgies is a good thing, and that people can be encouraged to make an act of spiritual communion, asking the Lord to receive the benefits of the Eucharist even though they cannot receive sacramentally. I stand by that. But I also don't think that spiritual communion is the solution to this crisis, at least in any long-term way. It's a temporary one, and it was useful before we slowly began to realize that this might be more than just a problem of a few weeks or months. Another idea that is definitely not a long-term solution is simply to substitute Morning Prayer (The Office) for the Mass. The Office and the Mass are two distinct kind of liturgies: in the Office, we pray the text of the Bible, saturate ourselves in it, and listen for the voice of God, knowing that we will encounter the Lord if the Word of the Lord is on our lips and in our hearts. But the Eucharist is a distinct kind of ritual action, the other lung of the church's public worship, we might say.

The key question, then, is this: what makes the Eucharist distinctive, and thus what is lost when Christians are separated from it? I begin my practical liturgy class with the following claim: Everything flows from a proper understanding of what it is that Christians do when they gather on the Lord's Day to celebrate the Eucharist.

There's been an unfortunate tendency among Western Christians who regularly celebrate the Eucharist and speak about it as the Body and Blood of Christ to think about the Eucharist primarily as something that

we get. What gets lost in all this is that the Eucharist is first and foremost an act of worship. A very particular form of worship.

The Eucharist is the principal act of Christian worship (as the prayer book says) because it is the most praiseworthy action that we can do when we gather “on the Lord’s Day and other major Feasts” (BCP, 14). From the beginning, Christians understood themselves, as a religion marked by a particular kind of shared ritual life. The loss of the Second Temple in AD 70 presented an existential and practical crisis for Judaism: What did it mean to be a Jew without the Temple? Judaism had to adapt in dramatic ways.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew S. C. Olver.

<https://livingchurch.org/covenant/2020/09/01/the-loss-of-ritual-in-coronatide/>

I’d love to know what you think about this article if you get the chance to read it in its entirety.

Blessings and love from your fellow pilgrim on the way, 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.

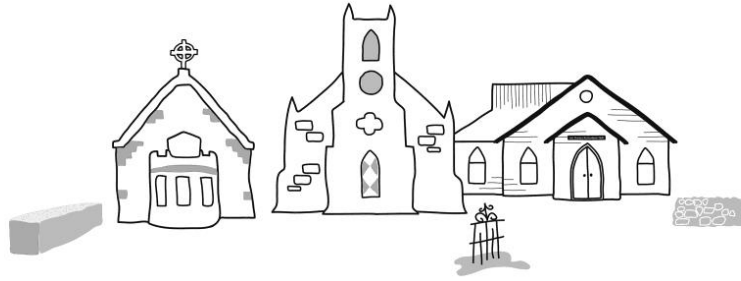
Next week’s readings – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14.19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14.1-14

Matthew 18.21-35



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Rev. Mel's days off are Thursday and Friday