

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 5 July. First Sunday of
NAIDOC Week



My yoke

is **EASY**

My burden

is **light**

Matthew 11.30

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn TiS 111 "Praise to the Lord"

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

**2 Praise to the Lord who in all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining:
have you not seen
all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.**

**4 Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes
confounding.
sheds forth his light,
scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.**

**5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.**

Joachim Neander 1650-80 *tr.* Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 and others

Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.
And also with you.

Call to Worship

We wait for the Lord, our souls wait for the Lord,
and find hope in God's word.

Our souls wait for the Lord,
more than those who watch for the morning.

More than those who watch for the morning.
Let us seek hope in our God,

whose power is enduring love,
whose redemption brings healing and grace.

We wait for the Lord,
and find our hope in God's presence.

The Sentence: Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,’ says the Lord. ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.’ Matthew 11.28–29

Opening prayer

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 Confession

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Silence may be kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins
and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,**

**forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit,
enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

God desires that none should perish,
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.
God pardons those who humbly repent,
and truly believe the gospel.
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day - together

**Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters
we do also for him:
give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us;
yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Early Talk

The Ministry of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Zechariah

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double. *Zechariah 9.9-12*

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

The Reading from the New Testament

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to

the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.
Romans 7.14-25

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145.8-14. *We'll read the Psalm by alternate verses*

⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate:
slow to anger and of great goodness.

⁹ **The Lord is loving to every one of us:
and his mercy is over all his works.**

¹⁰ All creation praises you, O Lord:
and your faithful servants bless your name.

¹¹ **They speak of the glory of your kingdom:
and tell of your great might,**

¹² That the whole earth may know your mighty acts:
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom:
and your dominion endures through all generations.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who stumble:
and raises up those that are bowed down.

**Hymn to welcome the Gospel: TiS 602 "O Love that will
not let me go"**

ST MARGARET 88.886 Albert Lister Peace 1844-1912

**1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:**

I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee:
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

George Matheson 1842-1906

The Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁵ Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁶ 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon";

¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet

wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent.

²¹ 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

²² But I tell you, on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.'

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' *Matthew 11.15-30*

For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Time of discussion

During the time of discussion, we move into groups with those around us to discuss questions as displayed on screen, arising from the sermon's themes.

If you'd prefer to remain by yourself in silence, prayer or reflection, please indicate by placing your hands over your heart.

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith of the church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.
This is our faith, the faith of the Church:
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the Intercessions:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

**We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.**

**The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.**

The Sending Out of God's People

**Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.
Take us and use us
to love and serve you
and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements

Final Hymn: *the offertory will be collected during this hymn:*

TiS 233 “I will sing the wondrous story”

**1 I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ Who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross of Calvary.**

***Refrain: Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.***

**2 I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me,
back into the narrow way.**

**3 Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all.**

**4 Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's paths I often tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.**

**5 He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet.**

Prayer of thanks for the offertory.

**Holy Spirit, may you bless
the gifts we bring with your powerful presence.
Through these gifts, bring new life,
new hope, new visions of life, new dreams of hope,**

and new possibilities for unity and love in our world.

In Christ we pray. Amen.

Francis Harold Rowley

We share a Blessing.

May the God of peace equip us with everything good for doing his will, working in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve our God.

In the name of Christ. Amen

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B. J. Beu and Mary Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2024), 186.

Bulletin Prayer Points

Everlasting God, we bring our prayers to you, Lord of all nations, asking that your blessing of love and peace may be known to all people everywhere. Help us to bear abundant fruit from the seeds of potential that you have planted within us.

Holy God, we pray for your church, especially for the people you have called to be Bishops, priests, deacons, lay readers, the laity and all who give ministry in our diocese and parish. We pray that they will be strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit and that through them your Church will reveal the good news of salvation and draw all people together under your rule of justice and mercy. We pray that our priest Dave and his family will enjoy a safe and relaxing time of annual leave and that Dave will return refreshed and reinvigorated.

Creator God, we are your chosen stewards of this beautiful world; you provide us with seed and soil to sow them in but sometimes we abuse this privilege and so we look to you for forgiveness for the damage we

have done to this earth and pray that you would show us ways of healing the wounds that we have inflicted on the land, ourselves and on each other.

We pray for all victims of natural disasters, thinking especially of the people of Venezuela. Please help those who are still alive beneath the collapsed buildings to be rescued. Please inspire their government to send suitable equipment for their rescue and all other nations to give assistance and support to those who are struggling to find loved ones.

Loving father, grant your loving comfort and peace to those who are deep in grief.

Loving Creator God,

We rejoice in the beauty of this ancient land and give thanks for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Nations of this continent. We honour their deep connection to Country, their resilience, and the wisdom passed down through countless generations.

As we celebrate the milestones, history, and survival of the oldest continuing living culture on Earth, we also acknowledge the pains of the past and present. We pray for healing, justice, and the courage to stand together against unfairness.

Open our hearts and ears to listen, learn, and walk humbly with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Bind us together in unity, peace, and mutual respect as we share this precious land.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Gracious God, we raise before you all those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit asking that they will sense the touch of your loving hands and feel your peace and presence alongside them, each and every step of their journey towards healing and wholeness. We especially ask for healing for Kerrie, Gail, Barb, Fiona, George, Paul, Edie, Tim, Keith, Angela, Cynthia, Lloyd, Dawn, Mick, Judy, Deb, Joy, Marion, Jan and Graeme.

Loving God, we remember before you all those who have died. May they see your salvation and find their peace and final rest in you, and we especially pray for those who were a formative part of our lives, who made us who we are and who we still miss.

Faithful God, we offer you these prayers for ourselves and for others. We ask you to accept them and to use them, and us so that your will may be done on earth and more of your kingdom revealed to those who seek you.

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning, friends,

Today is the first Sunday of NAIDOC week. Our heartfelt thanks to Judy

Tulloch for the tasteful NAIDOC display in Holy Trinity.

Bible Study is in recess over the school term holidays

Please check the Diary page for new dates.

The Retiring Offertory for July supports First Nations People (Aboriginal) Ministry in the Diocese. This ministry is led by two ordained Aboriginal Priests who support First Nations People and families across Gippsland. They are also called to travel throughout Victoria and interstate to support families during Sorry Business. Their community work is culturally safe, extensive, flexible, caring and responsive.



NB: "Deadly" doesn't mean something scary; in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, it means something amazing, strong, and deeply wonderful!

50 Years of Deadly

For five decades, NAIDOC Week has celebrated the voices of our communities — steady, unapologetic, and proud. Each year, its themes have called for truth, celebrated culture, honoured resistance, and reminded the nation of who we are.

Fifty Years of Deadly marks a milestone. It's a tribute to the people who built this movement. the Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year.

NAIDOC has always been more than a week — it's a platform, a protest, a celebration, and a statement of survival.

This moment is about looking back at the stories, the marches, the languages, the art, the leadership. At the strength it took to get here. It's about recognising how far we've come, not by chance, but because generations of people refused to be silenced.

It's also about the here and now, who we are today. Grounded in culture. Strong in our identity. Leading change across every field, from health and education to media, business, and the arts. We're telling our own stories, in our own way, on our own terms.

And it's about the future. The next 50 years. The young ones growing up proud. The return of language. The return to Country. The fight for justice continuing with new tools, new voices, and the same fire.

Fifty Years of Deadly is a marker, not just of time passed, but of the momentum still building. It's proof of what our people build when culture leads and community comes first. NAIDOC belongs to mob. It always has. We honour what came before by continuing the work. This is our story. This is our celebration. This is our future. Still deadly. Always.

Looking to support us? Ways to give: - Via the offertory bags passed around during our Sunday services (sealed envelopes also available): Via bank transfer – Anglican Parish of Avon, BSB – 063526, Account number – 10493155.

- Or follow the QR code below:



READINGS AND ROSTER FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

SUNDAY 12 JULY. PENTECOST 7

Genesis 25.19-34. Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9 (10-17) 18-23

PIC Dave. LA Denise. Chalice Kerry C.1st Theresa. 2nd Gail
Intercessions: Denise. Org: Vic. Sides: Judy T. Judy K
Camera: David S, PPT. Miriam. Flowers: Bev T
Morning Tea: Kerry C. May

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

JULY

Thursdays. mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall. During school term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity

Wednesdays Bible Studies during school term.

Winter school holidays Saturday 27 June to Sunday 12 July

Dave on leave till 13 July

Retiring Offertory: Aboriginal Ministry

Holy Trinity Church NAIDOC observances to be both Sundays.

? Auntie Phyllis coming to the parish

Sun 5	Pentecost 6 10am All-age Family Worship at Holy Trinity and 5pm at Briagolong First day of NAIDOC Week. Sun, 5 July 2026 – Sun, 12 July 2026
Sun 12	Pentecost 7. Last Day of NAIDOC Week observances Stewardship Sunday Sea Sunday.
Tues 14	5.30pm Warden's Meeting
Wed15	David Stothers to check and fine tune sound system
Sat 18	Men's Breakfast
Sun 19	Pentecost 8 All-age services 2pm. Community Carols Meeting
Tue 21	Parish Council Reports due.
Fri 24	Family Movie Night
Sun 26	Pentecost 9. Hosting Deans, preaching.
Tues 28	Dave attending the Registry Team Retreat and Organizational Review from July 28-29 at The Abbey.
Thurs 30	7pm. Parish Council Meeting

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