



Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 23 August, Pentecost 13



**Welcome to services of Holy
Communion at:**



8.30am | St Mary's Munro



10am | Holy Trinity Stratford

**Jesus said: I tell you, you are Peter.
And on this Rock I will build My church**

Matthew 16:18



and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it

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: 'Hallelujah, sing to Jesus'

**1 Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
hallelujah! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
hark, the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
'Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood.'**

**2 Hallelujah! bread of heaven,
and on earth our food, our stay;
hallelujah! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**

**3 Hallelujah! King eternal,
you the Lord of lords we own;
hallelujah! born of Mary,**

earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
you within the veil have entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
you on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

Words: William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98

Tune: Hyfrydol

Together in Song 517

Public Domain

Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

In bright light and dull darkness,
in the energy of each day and the rest that comes with night,
We remember the goodness of God.

In the heavens high above our heads,
in waters that run deep around the world,
We remember the goodness of God.

In rest and reflection, in wonder and worship,
We remember the goodness of God.

The Sentence

Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

(Matthew 16.15–16)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
whenever two or three gather in your Son's name,
He is present among them.
We gather now to renew our strength and confidence
for our engagement with the world.
May we be surprised by new insights at every fresh encounter,
as the disciples were at Caesarea Philippi.
And may we know Jesus as Messiah, Son of the living God.
Amen.

The Prayer of the Day – *Together*

Let us pray.

**O God, fount of all wisdom,
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter
you have shown the foundation of our faith:
give us the light of your Spirit,
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God,
we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;
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.**

The Ministry of the Word

Early talk

The First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, ‘Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives

feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’ ¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ ⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’ *Exodus 1.8-2.10*

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

Psalm 124 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**¹ If the Lord had not been on our side,
now may Israel say:**

**if the Lord had not been on our side,
when our enemies rose against us,**

**² Then they would have swallowed us alive:
when their anger was kindled against us.**

**³ Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,
and the torrent gone over us:
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.**

**⁴ But praised be the Lord:
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.**

**⁵ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.**

**⁶ Our help is in the name of the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**

The Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 12.1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in

teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. *Romans 12.1-8*

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

Gospel Reading

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

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. *Matthew 16.13-20*

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 Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

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 Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence for self-reflection

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**God of ages,
be our fortress and our shelter
in troubled times.
Be our strength and our courage when we are afraid.
Be our grace and forgive us for when we have
fallen short this week.
Be our inspiration and our guide
as we strive to serve you and your world fully.
In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

The Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

Offertory Hymn: 'I am the church, you are the church'

Refrain:

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

***All who follow Jesus all around the world,
yes, we're the church together!***

**1 The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting-place,
the church is a people!**

Refrain

**2 We're many kinds of people
with many kinds of faces,
all colours and all ages too,
from all times and places.**

Refrain

**3 And when people gather
there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes
all of it saying:**

Refrain

**4 I count if I am ninety
or nine or just a baby;
there's one thing I am sure about, and
I don't mean maybe:**

Refrain

*Words: Richard K. Avery, 1934-
Composer: Donald Marsh, 1930-
Tune: Port Jervis
Together in Song 467
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Offertory Prayer

**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

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank and praise you almighty Father.
In wisdom you guide the course of the world
and cherish us with all tender care.

We thank you that we can come together around this table
in the name of Jesus your Son, the first born of all creation.
In him all things were created, visible and invisible,
and all things hold together in him.

We thank you that you have sent your Holy Spirit
to make of us a new community of faith to serve you
within your creation.

And now we give you thanks
because you have given the earth into our care,
and call us to praise you day by day for the marvels of your creation.

And so with the wonders of creation
and the songs of praise of all your creatures both in heaven and on
earth we join in one great act of awe and adoration:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of all creation,
send your Spirit upon the goodness of the earth,
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that in them we may recognize and receive the fullness of the Risen
Christ: bread broken and wine poured, Body given, and Blood shed.

On the night he sat at table with his disciples
and with them recalled the wonder of your creation
and the wonder of your covenant with your chosen people,
He took bread, gave you thanks, blessed it and broke it, saying:
'Take this all of you and eat it.
This is my Body, which will be given up for you.'

In the same way he took the cup and giving you thanks and praise,
He gave the cup to his disciples and said:
'Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my Blood,
the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

**As we remember the death and resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we celebrate the goodness of the earth,**

**our companionship in this world
and the sharing of all skills and arts that enrich our lives.**

**We share the cup of our humanity
matured over the unnumbered centuries of the long struggle
that has gone into making of this world;
our living and dying, our fears and our hopes.**

**Together with those who have drawn sustenance from this soil,
those with whom we share it,
and those to whom we pass it on,
we share this bread and raise this cup
in fulfilment of the Lord's command:
through him, with him, in him in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

**As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

The Sending Out of God's People

Creator God, you give seed for us to sow,
And bread for us to eat; make us thankful for what we
have received and generous in supplying the needs of
others so all the world may give you thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,

**to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words
and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Announcements

Missional Hymn: 'Be unto your name'

**1 We are a moment, You are for ever
Lord of the ages, God before time.
We are a vapour, You are eternal,
love everlasting, reigning on high.**

Chorus:

***Holy, holy, Lord God almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.
Highest praises, honour and glory
be unto Your name, be unto Your name.***

**2 We are the broken You are the healer,
Jesus Redeemer mighty to save,
you are the love song we'll sing forever,
bowing before You blessing Your name.
*Holy, holy...***

*Words and music by Chris Tomlin
Mission Praise 1122
© Integrity's Hosanna! Music*

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve our God.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Bulletin Prayer Points

Everlasting God, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ and for revealing him as Messiah and Saviour of the World. Thank you that your son gave St Peter the keys to the kingdom as a reward for his lively and outspoken faith and so became the bedrock foundation of YOUR church here on earth.

Everlasting God, we thank you for our church leaders; locally in our parish, our diocese and throughout the Anglican Communion.

We pray for our Bishop Richard and his family, and for our Priest Dave. May Dave be blessed with Your healing as his convalescence continues. May your Holy Spirit walk with him in all his ministries, guiding and supporting him.

Bless Emma and their children.

We pray for all who preach your word, inspire, lead and grow us as disciples as we reach out to those in our community, in our country, and world.

Father God, may our closeness to family and friends make us never exclusive, shutting others out, but always inclusive, welcoming others. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love. We ask for your wisdom to discern your wishes and direction in our lives and how to deal with those we encounter in our daily lives.

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, the seas, and the skies. Forgive us for the ways we have misused your creation. Inspire us to be faithful stewards, protecting the environment for future generations.

We lift before you the nations of the world. Where there is conflict, bring reconciliation; where there is injustice, bring righteousness; where there is suffering, bring relief.

We pray for leaders and decision-makers, that they may act with wisdom, integrity, and a heart for the common good.

Loving God, we thank You for the gift of life and pray for those whose lives are troubled by illness, grief, poverty or injustice. We pray that in the darkness of their suffering and pain Your light will shine to bring them the assurance and hope they need.

We remember at this time those known personally to us and those who have requested our prayers thinking especially of Dave, Kerrie, Gail, Barb, Fiona, George, Paul, Edie, Tim, Keith, Angela, Cynthia, Lloyd, Dawn, Mick, Judy, Deb, Joy, Marion, Jan and Graeme.

We remember those who have died in the faith and now rest in your presence. Comfort those who mourn and give us all the hope of resurrection through Jesus Christ.

Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our saviour, who walks with us on our life's journey. We pray for all who travel with us in our family, among our friends and within this community. We pray for a deepening awareness of our need for one another and of your image in the hearts of everyone we meet. Amen

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning, friends,

This is the first week in the Season of Creation

A Prayer in the Season of Creation

*Creator of wind and water,
teach us to walk gently,
to hear the earth's quiet song,
to hold its gifts with open hands.*

*Let rivers run clear,
forests stand in praise,
and every creature find rest in our care.
Renew us,
that we may live in harmony with all you have made.*

Dave writes: - *Dear friends,*

*As circulated by Bishop Richard in a recent Ad Clerum, the Season of Creation will be launched at the Anglican Schools Evensong this Sunday 23 August at the Cathedral, at 5pm. The service will be live streamed, so you may wish to gather in small groups locally to join with us, or to participate from home. The order of service will be included on the live stream, which can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/seEudBBEFrI> Please also find an up-to-date 'Called to Care online Study Group' flyer as attached.
Kind regards, Dave*

The Mission Planning Meeting will convene at 11.15 am today, after worship.

Next Sunday is the fifth Sunday of the month. Our combined 10 am service will be held at St Mary's, Munro. We hope everyone can join us.

The Budget Planning Meeting will convene after worship at St Mary's, at 11.15 am. Everyone is warmly encouraged to attend.

The Ecumenical Service will commence 5pm at Holy Trinity. We will serve soup and sandwiches after the service.

Parish Council will meet at 7pm this Tuesday.

High Tea

This year, we will recognise the service of our volunteers—especially those at the op shop—with a 'High Tea' in the parish hall instead of a luncheon. Judy Kelly will lead the catering, and we invite everyone who can, to contribute treats suitable for a high tea.

The high tea will be served from 1-30pm on Wednesday 16 September. To ensure a range of treats please discuss with Judy what you could contribute in terms of savouries, scones, slices or cakes.

**CAKE STALL
& CAR BOOT
SALE**

Cash Only

SEPTEMBER 5TH 2026
FROM 9AM

St John's Anglican Church, Maffra
(Cnr Church & Thomson Streets)

Sites Available **For All Enquiries:**
Email - ogilvieml12@gmail.com or find us
on facebook @ St Johns Anglican Parish of Maffra

Handmade Items for Sale **Plants for Sale**

**Biscuits, Cakes
& Slices**

Yummy Baked Treats **Fathers Day Raffle**

READINGS AND ROSTER FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST. PENTECOST 14

Exodus 3.1-15 Romans 12.9-21

Matthew 16.21-28

**PIC Dave. LA Gail. Chalice Judy K. 1st Reading Denise. 2nd Kerrie S
Intercessions: Gail. Org: Vic. Sides: Bev H. Judy T.
Camera: Paul, PPT. Denise. Flowers: Judy K
Morning Tea: Wendy. Bev T.**

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

AUGUST

Thursdays. *mainly music, 9.30am in the Parish Hall during School Term*
Fridays. *9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity*
Mondays *7.30pm Bible Studies*

Retiring Offertory: Australian Collaboration Cambodia

Tues 25 7pm Parish Council Meeting
Fri 28 **Family Movie Night**

Sun 30 Pentecost 14, **All-age services**
10am Combined Parish Churches service.
Budget Planning Meeting to follow service.
5pm Ecumenical Service at Holy Trinity. Speaker Sarah Gover.
Social Justice Sunday *Social justice Sunday is observed every year on the final Sunday of August. This year's commemoration falls on 30 August.*

Parish of Avon: The Reverend David Perryman: 0401 035 379.

Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com