

SUNDAY JULY 11th 2021

THE LINK

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BELMONT ~ NEWSLETTER

Chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven...

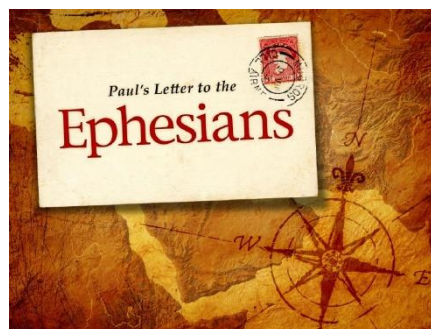
Commentary on Ephesians 1:4-8 by Stephen Rand "New Daylight" May – August 2016

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace [that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.]

In the original Greek, verses 3-14 are one long sentence—a rolling, joyous hymn of praise for all that God has done for us.

Chosen: Not because I am better than anyone else, not because I am deserving; simply because of his love. It is a wonderful privilege. It is also a great challenge and responsibility, because I have been chosen for a purpose—to be holy and blameless, set aside for God and by God to live in the right way.

Adopted: I am more than a follower; I have been brought into the heart of God's royal family. Because the Son of God loved me and died for me, I too can



become a son of God, one of his children, with all the blessings, rights and privileges that

go with being one of the family. This gender-specific language jars a little in the 21st century, but, in Paul's day, it was the son who inherited from the father. So, Paul is emphasising that, whether male or female, we can all inherit the full blessings coming from the Father.

Redeemed: another legal illustration. The slave is set free for ever because the price has been paid in full.

Forgiven: not just a child of God, fully liberated. The barriers have gone, the slate wiped clean; there is no more guilt and no more punishment in view.

These are the riches of God's grace, lavished on us. This is a hymn worth singing!

GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras 52432557

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Rev Shirley will be in the Parish on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday morning and Sunday morning. At other times she can be contacted on her mobile number or by email.

Sentence: Who shall stand in the Lord's holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their hands to what is false. Psalm 24.3–4

Collect: Eternal God, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendour of creation and in the beauty of human life. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share our blessings with our sisters and brothers, and to experience the joy of life in your presence; 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.**

Readings: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:1-14; Mark 6:14-29

Prayers for Today

pray for the world

- For peace and prosperity for all nations in political turmoil especially Myanmar, Israel and Palestine.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and their Support Agencies.
- For all who are afflicted and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, all those who are caring for and treating those who have the disease and for the success of the vaccine roll-out.
- For all affected by the recent severe weather events and for emergency service personnel.
- For all Asylum Seekers and Refugees, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and all Advocates and Support Agencies.
- For Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients, Mach Aliamerara and David Ayuen).

We Need More Helpers to Join the Lawn Mowing Roster ~ please contact Jan

Our lawn mowing roster has been sadly depleted due to illness and disability. Any help would be appreciated.

If you could possibly help with the mowing, please contact Jan Douglas on 0428 621 121.

pray for our church

- For every member of St Stephen's at this time and our new Priest-in-charge: Reverend Shirley Littras (and George of course).
- For Leaders and Members of our House Groups.
- To keep striving to maintain our connection with the community of Belmont and with each other to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the financial and other resources to enable Christ's mission.

pray for the community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and treaty.
- For those within our influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For Banking and Finance Personnel.
- For Bellaire Primary School.
- For The Family and Support Agencies.

pray for the wider church

- For the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
 - For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne.
 - For The Oodthenong Episcopal Area (The Rt Revd Kate Prowd).
 - For The Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Jill McCoy).
 - For the Bellarine Parish: St James' Drysdale, St John's Portarlington and St Leonards.
- (Prayers for those in need are on the back page)

Daily Readings w/c 17.7.21

Prayer of the Week

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday July 12th

Morning

Ps 33; 1 Samuel 31; John 5:1-18

Evening

Ps 31; Micah 6:1-8 Galatians 5:1-15

Tuesday July 13th

Morning

Ps 35:1-17; 2 Samuel 1;1-16; John 5:19-30

Evening

Ps 35:18-29; 36; Micah 6:9-7:7; Galatians 5:16-26

Wednesday July 14th

Morning

Ps 34; 2 Samuel 1:17-27; John 5:30-47

Evening

Ps 119:17-40; Micah 7:8-20; Galatians 6:1-10

Thursday July 15th

Morning

Ps 37:1-17; 2 Samuel 2:1-17 John 6:1-15

Evening

Ps 37:8-41; Song of 3YM 1-22; Galatians 6:11-18

Friday July 16th

Morning

Ps 38; 2 Samuel 2:18-3:1; John 6:16-34

Evening

Ps 39 ; Song of 3YM 23-51; Romans 1:1-15

Saturday July 17th

Morning

Ps 40; 2 Samuel 3(2-5) 6-19; John 6:35-51

Evening

Ps 42; 43; Song of 3YM 52-68; Romans 1:16-25

This Week's Diary

Monday July 12th

2:30 pm House Group at Pattern St
Highton

Tuesday July 13th

9:30 Playgroup in the hall

Wednesday July 14th

7:00 pm Warden's Meeting in the Meeting
Room

Thursday July 15th

10:00 am Meditation in the Meeting Room

11:00 am Prayer Group in the Meeting
Room following the Meditation

7:00 pm House Group at Abervale

Friday July 16th

10:00 am Holy Communion
in The Church

Sunday July 18th

9:30 am Family Communion followed by
a Thank You Morning Tea for
Reverend Elizabeth

Prayer

Gracious Father, thank you for all you have
done and are doing and will do - for me.

Notice for our Ministry Leaders

A message to all those who are Ministry Leaders
within the Parish: could you please email a brief
monthly report on your respective ministry to
the Parish Secretary, Helen McLean at:
ststephensang2@iinet.net.au Thank you.



Please keep your mobile
phone turned off during
the services.
Thank you.

Rosters...are you on?

Sunday July 18th

Leader and Preacher

9.30 am Shirley Littrás

Readings

9.30 am Louise Guilfoyle

Prayers

9.30 am Yvonne Fyfe

Communion Assistants

9.30 am Faddy Issa
and Yvonne Fyfe

Servers

9.30 am Barbara Collett

Kids' Church

Jane Moloney

Welcomers

9.30 am Wendy Cowdrey and Joan Ham

Music

9.30 am Music Group

Audio Visual

9.30 am Faddy Issa

Church Cleaning

Chris Parkinson and Pam Burrows

Linen Helen McLean

Brass Jan Douglas

Flowers Cassie Calder

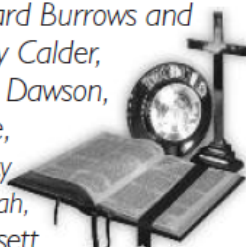
Lawns Geoff Parkinson

More Prayers for Today

pray for those in

need

- For Lyle and Robin Burns, Richard Burrows and Pam, for George Littrás, Murray Calder, June Cook, Jack Laherty, Sheila Dawson, Tom Collett, John and Lyn Hilcke, Alison Walker, Sylvia Biviano, Betty Miller, Diana Smith, Zaher Mhannah, Rhoda Lynch, for Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Rose Edwards, Charlotte MacEndry, Shirley Dougherty, Jim and Joy Durran, Den, Dawn Tait and for Dawn's sister Coral, Bernard Conradie and André, Amira Farag and George, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Carolyn Melling, Alex, and for all others on our hearts.



Parish Contacts



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Church Wardens

Tim Rowlands 0439 412 000

Fady Issa 0408 439 789

Treasurer

Pam Osborn 5243 4122

Ladies' Fellowship

Barbara Collett 5243 5632

Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean 0408 025 204

Kids' Church

Anne Henderson 5243 6699

Playgroup

Pam Osborn 5243 4122

Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands 5241 2233

Men's Breakfast

Max Osborn 5243 4122

Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney 5241 9694

Rosters

Jan Douglas 0428 621 121

Link Editor and Advertising

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email: pfyfe@iinet.net.au

Key Ministry Co-ordinators

Families

Yvonne Fyfe 5243 7183

Pastoral Care

Helen McLean 0408 025 204

Readings for Sunday 18th July

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Ps 89: 21-38

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

