

Seventh Sunday of Easter 12th May, 2024



PSALM 23 WEEK 4

Commentary on Psalm 23 by Claudio Carvalhaes in Upper Room Disciplines, April, 2024

On our last week reading Psalm 23, the words that come to me are “God leads me in right paths for God’s name’s sake.” This is a continuation of the “Lord is my shepherd.” The shepherd always chooses the best paths to take his sheep and teaches them where to go, how to go, and what to be careful of. In Christian language, this is a parable for discipleship, the art of learning how to live with God and from God. In our journey with Jesus we learn where to go, what to avoid, how to orient ourselves, and with whom we should be. The paths the shepherd leads us on are oriented by God’s namesake. We cannot forget that God’s namesake is love! (See I John 4:8). Love is what orients our lives. To learn to love is to learn the wisdom of life. Love is the art of being free.

It was St. Augustine who said, “Love God and do whatever you please: for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the One who is Beloved. “Isn’t this beautiful? With love as the

core of our being, we cannot help but act in ways that spread God’s love throughout the world. Jesus reminded us that it is by our fruits



that will be known (see Matthew 7:20). Our fruits will be our witness.

What paths do you walk? What paths does your church walk? Who are the ones who walk with you? Do they have a heart filled with love and compassion? What is the namesake you carry in your heart? What name are you called, the name that comes before your own name? To be led in the right paths, we need to carry the namesake of God in our lives: the mighty name of love!

God, lead me in the right paths for your name’s sake.. (Repeat three times.) Amen.

‘GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL’

Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras

Rev’d Shirley’s mobile: **0422 567 072**

Rev’d Shirley’s Email: littras@optusnet.com.au

Reverend Elizabeth Bufton Healing Ministry Co-Ordinator

Rev’d Elizabeth’s mobile: 0437 524 865

Rev’d Elizabeth’s Email: staughtonvale@bigpond.com

St Stephen’s Church: 42 Regent St. Belmont VIC 3216 Phone: (03) **52432557**

Web: www.ststephensbelmont.org.au

Email: ststephensang2@iinet.net.au

The church office is open from 9am to 5pm each week on Wednesday and Thursday



Today's Service: Seventh Sunday of Easter 12th May, 2024

Sentence: Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' John 17.11

Collect: Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth until the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings Acts 1.15-17, 1.21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5.9-13, John 17.6-19

pray for those in

need

- Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rev Liz Bufton, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, George Littras, Keith Grigg, Yvonne Fyfe, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durran, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Lyn Hilcke, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Del, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Carolyn Melling, Robert Dodds, & Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Mason Wood, Mavis Palmer, Lorraine Bignoux & Dale Price
- For the Dying and their Support Services.

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 Bishop (The Rt Dr Brad Billings).
- For the Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Stephen Pollard).
- For The Rev'd Jennifer Furphy as Vicar of St Paul's. Commissioning 7.30pm Thursday 23rd May 2024
- For the incumbency committee of St Albans North Geelong as they seek a new Priest .

- For countries experiencing natural disasters
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan as they face an uncertain future.
- For a peaceful solution to be found for the war between Israel and Gaza. For all who have lost loved ones and their homes.
- Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients.
- For Wellspring Initiative for finances and the leadership team

pray for the

Community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and for treaty.
- For those without influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For those God is calling to come to know Him
- For those in financial difficulty due to rental and mortgage rate increases and the cost of providing for their families.
- Pray for all the families and friends who are grieving for those killed or injured through the stabbings in Bondi Junction and the Syrian Church..

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Pray for

Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George.
- For Reverend Elizabeth Bufton and Peter as she builds up her strength for the coming treatment.
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for all St Stephen's parishioners.
- For the Eucharist Assistants.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the leaders and participants doing the Alpha that God's Holy Spirit will continue to be revealed to each person.
- Please pray for Jan and Elisabeth as they bring their baby Bonnie Huelwen Brueggemeier for Baptism on 19th May

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth
to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow
in spiritual commitment to you,
in numbers,
And in service to our
local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



**Turn off
all mobile
phones**

THANK YOU

From Lyn Hilcke

A huge thank you to everyone who helped by providing food, serving it up, and cleaning up afterwards. Setting up of Church and Hall, to Helen for allowing me to park in her drive, those handing out the Order of Service, and attendees.

It was all hugely overwhelming, and I'll be eternally grateful.

GEELONG HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY FUND

If you would like to support this extremely valuable work, we have Direct Debit Request Forms available to enable us to contribute directly to the Geelong Hospital Chaplaincy Fund. Pam Osborn has the forms and, if required, can assist you in completing them.

Pam : 0425 729 163

A very Happy Mother's Day
to all the mother's in our congregation.

Thank you to all who provided precious flowers from their gardens, those who donated money towards purchasing the flowers from the wholesalers, to Shirley for creating the cards we attached to the posies, and to everyone who helped create the posies and distribute them in the Belmont shopping area yesterday morning.

If you are last to leave the Church, the Hall or the Meeting Room, please turn off the heaters and lights. Check that ALL doors are locked.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Free help with your energy bills

We have a new team ready to help you with your electricity and gas bills.

We can help you:



Talk to your energy retailer and get help if you have debt



Access extra financial support



Check you are getting your Government energy concessions and ensure the concessions are applied to your bill



Find and move to an affordable energy plan



Understand your bill and fix any possible errors



Save money by changing the way you use energy around the home



Understand what other supports are available

All you need is a copy of your most recent bill.

Call Anglicare Victoria's Energy Team on 1800 531 741

(between 8am and 7pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays)

Or email energy@anglicarevic.org.au

We can also organise to meet you in-person at one of our outreach locations across Victoria. Call us to find out more or book an appointment.



Scan here to find out more.



Translating and Interpreting Services are available

This program is supported by the Victorian State Government



BETTER TOMORROWS

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

IMPACTS OF FAMILY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



We all have the right to live free from violence, but anyone who experiences violence should be able to access support so they can be safe while they recover and go on to live happy, healthy, full and free lives.

Unfortunately, the impacts of family and gender-based violence mean this is not currently a reality for many people, and these experiences are disproportionately gendered.

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SAFETY AND THEIR HOME

OF ADULTS SEEKING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

due to family and domestic violence in 2018-19



90% WERE WOMEN¹



FAMILY VIOLENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Of women who temporarily left violent partners, and later returned, 15% returned because they had no money and nowhere to go²

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019) Specialist homelessness services annual report 2018-19

² Summers, A. (2022) The Choice: violence or poverty: A report into domestic violence and its consequences in Australia today

SAFE+EQUAL

A Daily Prayer

Loving Lord God, we cry to you for all who are victims of violence, particularly today for beaten girls and battered women.

For women bashed in their own homes, and for their children who witness the violence; for those trapped in destructive relationships, manipulated and controlled; for the women who hide their bruises and lie about their injuries for fear of the next attack: we cry out to you: bring justice!

For young girls given or sold in marriage, and for unwilling brides with no way out; for the rape survivors who live with its scars; for women sold or tricked into the sex trade; for female-children who are unwanted or the first to be aborted and abandoned; for girls denied access to education and the women denied religious freedom: we cry out to you: bring justice!

For the women harassed in their workplaces, underpaid or threatened with losing their job; for women in prison, abused and abusing, beset by poverty, mental illness and addictions; for older women, frail in body or mind, fearful of violence, manipulation or neglect: we cry out to you: bring justice!

We cry to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for our sisters, our daughters, our mothers, ourselves. Hear us, Lord Jesus Christ, for you know what it is to be stripped and beaten, humiliated, betrayed and shamed. Amen.

THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

It is our hope & prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

Resources to help in your endeavour to draw those you love into the family of God can be found on the table at the back of the church.



THY KINGDOM COME

Light Up The World In Prayer

9th – 19th May 2024

thykingdomcome.global

'This is the confidence we have in approaching
God: that if we ask anything according to his will,
he hears us.'

1 John 5:14

We are on 'Zoom' every Sunday.

Here is our Zoom link for people to access our 9:30 am service if they are not able to attend live church. It will be the same Link, Meeting ID and Passcode information
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86484911358?pwd=eDdUa1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3YYUT09>
Meeting ID: 864 84911358
Passcode: 379683

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

Tuesday in the Hall 9.30am

Meditation Group

Thursday in the Hall 10am

Prayer Group

Thursday in the Hall 11am

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

1/15 Patern St, Highton 2.30pm
Ph 5243 1095

Wednesday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm
Ph 0421 017 882

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 13th May 7pm

Wardens Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 7pm

Parish Council

Tuesday 21st May 7pm

Alpha Camp

Friday 17th May, 6.30pm—Sunday 19th May, 1pm, Staughton Vale Outdoor Education Camp

Pentecost Sunday

19th May 9.30 with a Baptism

Trinity Sunday

26th May 8.00am & 9.30am

Messy church

26th May 9.30am

Youth Church

9th June 9.30am

Rev'd Shirley and George on leave

5th June—26th June.

Parish Contacts

Vicar

Rev'd Shirley Littras
Church Office: **5243 2557**
Mob: **0422 567 072**

Email: littras@optusnet.com.au

St Stephen's email address.

ststephensang2@inet.net.au

Vicar's Warden

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

Church Warden

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

Parish Treasurer

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Kid's Church

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Playgroup

Pam Osborn **0425 729 163**

Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

Men's Breakfast

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney **0439 419 694**

Rosters

Jan Douglas **0428 621 121**

Child Safety officer and

Family Safety champion

Cassie Calder **0448 024 951**

Link Editor & Advertising

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Key Ministry Co-ordinators Families

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

Pastoral Care



Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:26-36

Romans 8:22-27

John 11:26-27; 16:4b-15