



GREED, EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION

Commentary on Amos 8:1-12 by Nicolas Iglesias Schneider. Disciplines in Upper Room, July 2025

How can we denounce, like the prophet, the greed, exploitation and oppression of the most vulnerable in society? How do we prioritise the call to be peacemakers that Jesus gives us in the Sermon on the Mount? From a Christian perspective, we are called to address these problems not through violence but through peace and justice.

Amos, a prophet of God, raises his voice against exploitation and injustice in the society of his time. He denounces those who oppress the needy and enrich themselves at the expense of the poor. This passage reminds us that injustice and exploitation are unacceptable in the eyes of God.

As peace-seeking Christians, we follow the example of Jesus, who called us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Non-violence is a fundamental principle in our faith. In the face of injustice and oppression, our response is not violence but peace. We seek to build a world in which the dignity of every human being is respected.

Exploitation and oppression perpetuate the cycle of violence and suffering. But instead of responding with violence, as followers of Christ we seek peaceful and just solutions. We believe in reconciliation and restoration rather than revenge. We believe in the ability of God's grace and love to transform lives and societies.

In Amos 8, we see a vivid description of economic exploitation and corruption. This prophecy reminds us that God is on the side of the oppressed and expects us to act with justice and compassion. We see that our faith becomes alive and credible when we address injustice through nonviolence, the promotion of equality, and the defence of human rights.

God, help us to be agents of peace and justice in a world full of oppression. Guide us to respond to injustice with nonviolence and love. May justice and compassion prevail as we follow the example of Jesus. Amen

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

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Sentence: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength. Isaiah 30.16

Collect: Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ and make yourself our guest: amid the cares of our daily lives, make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings Amos 8.1-12, Psalm 52, Colossians 1.15-29, Luke 10.38-42

pray for those in

Need

- Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, 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, Robert Dodds, & Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Lorraine Bignoux, Mavis Palmer, Dale Price, Judith Kus & Joan Ham
- 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 the new Archbishop Rick Thorpe 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 incumbency committee of St Albans North Geelong as they seek a new Priest.

Pray for the

World

- For all world leaders during this time of stress and turmoil.
- For countries experiencing natural disasters: particularly those in our own country trying to recover from the devastating floods.
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- For the conflict between Israel and Iran
- For the Hamas to release all the remaining prisoners.
- For the countries involved in bringing a peaceful resolution between Israel and Hezbollah
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan as they face an uncertain future.
- 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 families struggling with the cost of living and difficulty due to rental and mortgages. increases

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Pray for

Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George
- For Jen Zradovkovski, Josh and Eloise.
- For Lwe Moo San Tay and her family during her time with us
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for LyCig and Parish Council as they plan for 2025
- 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 of Alpha on Thursday evenings

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 spir-
itual 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

Yesterday, many of us attended the Fashion Parade where funds were raised to support Morijana (Wellspring Initiative).

Thank you to everyone who helped with ironing, baking goods for the afternoon tea, inviting family and friends, and assisting on Saturday.

A very big thank you to Rev Shirley and Alyce who were the beautiful models.

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

Tuesday 22nd July in the hall

Meditation Group

Thursday 24th July, 10am in the meeting room

Prayer Group

Thursday 24th July, 11am in the meeting room

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

29 Jacobs St, Belmont 2.15pm
Ph 5243 1835

Thursday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm
Ph 0421 017 882

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 11th August 7pm

Warden's Meeting

Tuesday 12th August 7pm

Parish Council

Tuesday 19th August 7pm

LyCg

20th August 7pm in the meeting room

Kids & Youth Church

Every Sunday, 9.30 am for primary and
10th August, 9.30 am for Youth Church

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.



KINDLY JOIN US
FOR THE

Baptism

OF OUR DAUGHTER

ISABELLA
MARCELLE
RANNER

AUGUST

SUNDAY

3

9:30 AM

2025

ST STEPHENS ANGLICAN CHURCH
42 REGENT ST, BELMONT VIC 3216

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE SERVICE

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=eDdUa1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3VYUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 84911358

Passcode: 379683



A PRAYER FOR CHOOSING A NEW INCUMBENT

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Send your Holy Spirit to give those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for

Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Readings for Next Sunday 27th July

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalms 85

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

Parish Contacts

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Church Warden

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0439 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 Afternoon Tea

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

& Ladies Afternoon Tea

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

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Jennifer Zdravkovski **0408389159**

