



FAITHFUL HOPES AND INTENTIONS

Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 by Erin Racine. Disciplines, in Upper Room, October 2025

Many years ago, I worked in a church that had a large statue of Jesus. One day, as young children were gathering for a time of worship, a little girl came running in. She shouted excitedly, "I found Jesus!" The adults in the room chuckled. We knew she was talking about the statue, but her words had the zeal of an evangelist. She had found Jesus, and she wanted everyone to know about it.

Years later, I happened to be at the same church on a Sunday when graduating high school seniors were leading worship. That little girl was now a young adult, ready for college. As she spoke about her faith, I thought about her many gifts and how she was using them to honour Jesus, whom she had found so many years ago. But I also thought about the faithful community of saints who had honoured Jesus by caring for her as she grew, praying for her, teaching her, and eventually empowering her for ministry. As God worked in

and through all of them, Jesus was glorified.

This letter to the church of the Thessalonians, which began with a prayer of thanksgiving, continues with a prayer that God would accomplish good and faithful work through them. The gifted people of God in this model church are worthy of their call only by the grace of God; their hopes and intentions will be fulfilled only by God's power. While the work of faith is theirs to do, the outcome is up to God. Yet when they faithfully seek to honour Jesus, Jesus honours them.

Though we may not always witness the outcome of our faithful hopes and intentions, let us pray that God will accomplish good and faithful work through us. May Jesus be glorified!

O God who calls us, work in and through us that our faithful hopes and intentions may glorify Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

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Sentence: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false; they will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Psalm 24.4, 5

Collect: Faithful God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: grant that we, encouraged by the example of your servants, may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at last with him/her we may attain to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1.11-23, Luke 6.20-31

pray for those in

Need

- Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, Keith Grigg, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durran, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, 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.

- The people of Afghanistan following the devastating earthquake.
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- Give thanks for the peace between Israel and Gaza and pray that it will continue and become permanent
- For the Hamas to release all the remaining prisoners.
- 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

Pray for

Our Church

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Cont'd from page 2

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George
- For Jen Zradovkovski, Josh and Eloise.
- 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.

**ALL REPORTS FOR THE
ANNUAL MEETING ARE
DUE BY
TODAY
THE ANNUAL MEETING
16th NOVEMBER
Following the 9.30 service**

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**

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

9.30 am Tuesday in the hall

Meditation Group

10 am Thursday in the meeting room

Prayer Group

11 am Thursday 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

Book Study

Wednesday 7pm, and Thursday 2pm

Ladies Afternoon Tea

3rd November 1.30pm in the meeting room

Pastoral Care

13th November 12 noon

Kids Church

Kids Church & Youth Church

9th November, 9.30 am

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 10th November, 7pm

Working Bee

Saturday 15th November A general tidy up in the church and vestry including the vestry kitchen including washing windows, floors, and the pews in the church.

Annual Meeting

16th November following the 9.30 service.

LyCig

19th November in the meeting room

Parish Council

11th December 7pm

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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR THOSE IN NEED

St Andrew's Anglican Church Corio

With Christmas approaching, we are seeking donations for St Andrew's Anglican Church Corio food pantry so their clients can receive something 'extra' at Christmas. If you are able to give at this time, here are a

couple of ideas – they are mostly looking for Christmas treats:

Christmas biscuits, Christmas cakes,

chocolates, plum puddings, custard, cordial, jams.

Please leave items under the Cross in the sanctuary of the Church. Donations will be delivered to Corio Thursday 4th December. If you have any questions, please contact

Jan – 0428 621 121

Thank you.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 2nd November 9.30am

**CELEBRATING
ALL SAINTS DAY.**

END OF YEAR DINNER
Parish Council & Wardens
LyCig members

Where: Valley Inn Hotel

When: 18th November

What Time: 7pm

RSVP: Rev'd Shirley by
16th November

30th November
Farewell Lunch for
Reverend Shirley &
George

More information closer to
the date.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

23rd November

Parish Council & Wardens

Cockpit Crew

Prayer Team

Pastoral Care Team

DECEMBER MESSY CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS OUTDOOR
SERVICE.**

14th December

5pm

Remember to invite family & friends.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Can you help on Saturday 15th November from 9:30am to give the church and Vesty kitchen a good spring clean (such as windows, chairs, pews, kitchen, floors).

Please contact Jan Douglas if you can help or would like to help on another day - that would be great!

Contact Jan – 0428 621 121. Thank you

The Fantastic Pet Blessing Day



From top left:

Adeline & Camilla with little furry friends

Ruby and Bobbie (fur babies of Marg and Dale)

Belinda and Buddy

Brett and Eddy

Fady, Elijah and JayDee



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. Go to the home page of St Stephen's web-site and click on "Zoom Link"

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 9th November

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-40

Parish Contacts

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Vicar's Warden

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

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**

Pastoral Care

Jennifer Zdravkovski **0408389159**

