



The Diocese of Wangaratta
The Anglican Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
23rd March 2014
Third Sunday in Lent

Hymns: 131, 683, 242, 343



Introit Hymn

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *John 3.16.*

THE COLLECT

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 17.1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?' But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?' Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95

Response: O come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

Response

Colin Mawby.

cf. v. 6 O come let us wor-ship and bow down and kneel be-fore our Ma-ker.



O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms./R

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land./R

Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand./R

O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my works./R

'Forty years long I detested that generation and said,
"This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."
'So I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."/R

SECOND READING

Romans 5. 1-11

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Lord, you are truly the Saviour | of the world;
give me this living water that I may never | thirst again.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL

John 4. 5-42

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to

the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there

for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

God, you meet us at the wells, where we are lonely, where we are forgotten, where we are hurt by others, and give us to drink of the grace that brings life again; God, speak to us in the trysting places, where the sinners gather, where the prejudices are made known, where our histories are broadcast, and give us to drink of the forgiveness that brings peace again; God, renew all that we are and have been, fill us with a new future, inspire us with recreation, pull us into resurrection, and give us to drink from the promise of heaven.

God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation, hear our prayers for all who thirst today; we pray for those who are spiritually thirsty, who long to know your presence, but don't know where to find you; we pray for your holy Church, we pray for our Bishop John, and our parish that we may realise our baptismal promise and be a welcoming and faithful community.

God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are physically thirsty, who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals, whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered; those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive, or who have to be content with water that is unclean. We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart because of drought or famine, war or prejudice; for refugees and asylum seekers and those in detention.

God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice, who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations; those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans; those who are working to find clean water, and make it available to those who need it.

God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are alone and without hope, those who long to feel needed and loved, and for those who are searching for meaning and purpose; for the sick and the suffering, for those who mourn lost loved ones; we continue our prayer for all involved in Malaysian Flight 370; we pray for those ending their days and those who wait with them.

God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community as we recover from the fires; for the homeless and the unemployed; for those in need; for those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Request for prayer from: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Lyn Ryan, Alex Impols, May McCormack, Dawn McCormack, Carol Boase, Cathy Moseley, Fr Michael Nelson, Seth Gunter, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Adrian Walsh, Dianne Mitsakis, Bruce Mitchell, Mark Bennetts, Suresh Jain.*

God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the recently departed and those whose years mind occurs this week: Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Gracious and loving God source of living water; hear us as we pray for ourselves; pour your love into our hearts, that, refreshed and renewed, we may invite others to the living water given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray: **Our Father, in heaven [pg. 124].**

Year's mind: Today we remember before God those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: 23rd Jack Cockroft; 25th Carol Matters, Dorothy Drysdale; 26th Beatrice Lazarus, William Thomas, Earnest Hughes; 27th Anthony Burge (Priest), Herbert Haetel.

Saint's Days and Holy Days: 25th The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary; 29th John Keble priest (d. 1866).

Reflections on the Readings

The image of water is strong in the lessons this week. Moses provides water for the thirsty Israelites in the wilderness – although their grumbling and hardness of hearts remains a problem throughout their wilderness journey. Jesus offers the living water that only he can give to this outcast, Samaritan woman of dubious sexual history. The Lectionary calls us to respond to Christ's offer of life – in the Psalm to reject the Israelites' hardness of heart in favour of faithful, trusting worship, and in Paul's letter to the Romans, to embrace and enjoy God's gift of the Holy Spirit, which is our assurance of God's sustaining grace and presence. The choices are clear; the living water is still given for us, and we can receive it with faith, thanksgiving and worship, trusting in our Messiah and the life he offers; or to complain, grumble and allow our fear, self-interest and hard-heartedness to keep us from enjoying this life. The image of water has very real implications - one is the very real issue of clean drinking water which is a massive justice issue in our world today. The other implication is that the living water, the symbol of God's life brought to us in Christ, prompts us in seeking to bring life wherever it may be restricted or destroyed. Either way, we can't help but

come face to face with the poor and marginalised – because in both cases, they are the ones who suffer from desperate need. Much like the Samaritan woman who was driven to the well in the heat of the day when no one else would be there, and who clearly expected nothing good from this Jewish man she found there, the poor are the ones for whom life is a daily struggle. If there is anything that Jesus' engagement with the Samaritan woman teaches us, it is that we need to befriend the least in our world, and seek to bring them life, both by providing physical and living water for them and by bringing them into the centre of our communities. In truth, the real living water is the relationship we develop with those who are cast out – much as in Christ, God has befriended us and brought us into relationship with God's self. And in every community, in every church, there are those who are on the edges – if not completely excluded, certainly unsure of their acceptance and right to belong. In every community there are those who are 'thirsty', who struggle to make ends meet, who have little access to fullness of life. And in every community there are those whose lives are dry and desolate, whether from their own destructive choices, or from the effects of what others have done. Indeed, some communities can be spiritually dry and desolate. As people of the way there are rewards for us individually and as a community when we engage in meeting the deep human need to be part of a community that will embrace and include them in a safe place of love and belonging - a place where they can be healed, restored and discover fullness of life in freedom and connectedness. This means we must learn to freely embrace those who need friendship with God and people, and who long for the life that can be found in such friendship. As we share this living water, so we will find, slowly but surely, that we have less need for grumbling, and that the world begins to be infused with signs of God's reign.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2014) <http://sacredise.com>

Notices

Church4Kids tonight 5.00pm at Christ Church - open to all ages under 16. Songs, activities, games, BBQ.

Parish Council Meeting this coming Wednesday March 26th @ Christ Church.

Gift of Refuge Walk - It has been a wonderful couple of days as Tri Ngyuen, Linda, Beryl, Daniel (Mohammed)l and Majid walked through our Parish on their pilgrimage to Canberra pulling the replica boat of one that Tri travelled in as a refugee. It was great to share worship, hospitality and stories and a privilege to host them on their journey. What a joy to have students from Kilmore Primary and Assumption College and other Kilmore church members joined in to walk through Kilmore. Thank you to those who offered hospitality and helped with the catering on Wednesday night at Christ Church; and those who supported the fundraising evening at Gavan Hall. A total of \$746.70 was raised for Baptcare Sanctuary for Asylum Seekers. We pray God's blessing for Tri and his team as they journey to Canberra. See photos on our website and Facebook.

Lenten Study - Session Three - two opportunities to participate - Tuesday 1st April 2pm at Gavan Hall or 7.30pm at Caroline Burge 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore.

From the Op Shop Committee - Christ Church parishioners are reminded of the Op Shop opening hours which are all day Friday and half-day Saturday. There is no selling outside of these hours. All goods received need to be processed through the Op Shop, and checked, priced, or discarded before selling. This is a necessary safeguard for the Op Shop and customers. When parishioners are approached for certain items please refer the customer to the Op Shop opening hours by when the goods will have been prepared for sale.

Casseroles for the BlazeAid Team

Helen Begley is coordinating cooking of casseroles every second Tuesday for the BlazeAid Team. Meals required at the Wandong Community Centre at 6.00pm. Helen can arrange delivery if required. Please ring Helen 5782 1625 if you can help.

Direct Debit Offerings - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 4649.

Parish life this week

Fourth week of March

Tuesday 25th 2.00pm Bishop in Council
 Wednesday 26th 7.30pm Parish Council - Christ Church
 Thursday 27th 7.30pm Kilmore Friendship Group - Christ Church - palm crosses
 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
 2.30pm Eucharist Caladenia
 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
 Friday 28th 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
 Saturday 29th 10.00am - 12.30pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 30th March 2014 - Fourth Sunday in Lent		
Mothering / Refreshment Sunday		
1 Samuel 16. 1-13; Ps 23; Ephesians 5. 8-14; John 9.1-41		
Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	No service this day - combined with St Matthews
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

Parish Clergy:

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