



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
15th February 2015
The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

HYMNS: 477, 235, 182, 613

*Welcome to all especially any guests
please stay and enjoy hospitality with us after the service.*



Introit hymn

Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and 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

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4.6*

THE COLLECT

Almighty and everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life, look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5.1-14

A reading from the second book of the Kings

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 'By all means, go,' the king of Aram replied. 'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.' So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: 'With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.' As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, 'Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!' When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: 'Why have you torn your robes? Make the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.'

But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed"?' So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50. 1-6

Response: Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Response

Gerry Fitzpatrick

v. 6 Let the hea-vens de-clare his right-eous-ness, for God him-self is judge.



The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken
and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth;
our God comes and will not keep silence./R

Consuming fire goes out before him
and a mighty tempest stirs about him.
He calls the heaven above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:/R

'Gather to me my faithful,
who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'
Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge./R

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9.24-27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Paul writes, 'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The servant of God took | our infirmities
and bore | our diseases

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray to the Lord for all peoples who need mercy, justice, and peace; for those who advocate terror and inflict abuse, and for those suffering deprivation and assault.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

For the church of God, and for all who witness to God's glory; for priests and ministers, pastors and preachers; for John Bishop and our parish that we may bring forth your healing touch and show forth your love.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

For this world and for the just sharing of the earth's resources necessary for health and healing for all.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

For those stigmatized as unclean, for those who touch and heal them, and for all who seek for justice for the dispossessed.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

For all who practice the medical arts, and for physicians of the spirit, and those who walk with the broken; we pray for our community and those we share our lives.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

For all in need, for the homeless and unemployed; the sick and the suffering; those in need of prayer, and for those who have requested prayer; *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Alex Impols, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Dianne Mitsakis, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Lidia, Katie, Franca Cai Hilda, Jenny Curry.* We give thanks for healing and blessings received.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

We remember and commend to the living God the recently departed, all the saints, and those whose years mind occurs at this time;

Year's mind: 15th *Wilfred Diamond*; 16th *John Bowen, Bill Brown*; 17th *Fred Dixon*; 18th *Mary Dow*; 19th *Ivor Hitchman*; 21st *Beryl Brown*.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

God, who sends us to wash in the river of healing, hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; enable us to proclaim your goodness to us and spread the word of your welcome.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our redeemer and Lord; bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know that you are the Christ. We offer our prayer in the name of the great healer Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Post communion prayer

God of tender care, in this eucharist we celebrate your love for us and for all people. May we show your love in our lives and know its fulfillment in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord

Reflections on the Readings

The good news of Epiphany and the Christian message is God's vision and movement toward abundant life, not just for the privileged, worthy, or healthy, but for all peoples in every condition of life. In a world in which politicians still invoke a relationship between poverty and laziness and preachers and spiritual leaders often connect disease with faithlessness, divine punishment, and poor character, today's stories open wide the gates of healing to friend and stranger, and insider and outsider. There is no guilt or punishment, simply grace and restoration. The healing stories of the Bible are often neglected, explained away, marginalized, or seen as metaphors or statements of changed social standing. In contrast, they can reflect past and present experiences of whole-person transformation, embracing body, mind, spirit, and relationships; that they reflect peoples' encounter with a God whose care embraces cells as well as souls and whose ministry now includes meditation and medication, chanting and chemotherapy, touch and tomography, prayer and cognitive therapy and Prozac. Mark's gospel sees Jesus' healing ministry at the core of the coming realm of God. Virtually half of the first ten chapters of Mark relate to healings of body, mind, spirit, and social standing. Last week, we explored the healing of Simon's mother: Jesus touched her and restored her to health and vocation. Today, we reflect on two stories of persons with leprosy, a skin ailment that in the case of first century Jewish communities, led to social ostracism, theological and ethical

judgment, and familial alienation. To heal these forms of marginalization would be enough, but Jesus does more than heal relationships, he cures bodies. God is concerned with the whole person. As recent medical research asserts, prayer, meditation, and religious commitments can have a positive, indeed, curative, impact on people's health. Paul's Corinthian counsel is a bit confusing. Is Paul advocating some form of mortification of the flesh, a severe asceticism, aimed at "punishing the body?" If so, we need to disregard his counsel but we do need to honor our own incarnation of divine handiwork. In so honouring we need to be mindful of embodiment and to treat our bodies in such a way that they enhance rather than detract from our relationship to God. Paul gives us no explicit counsel here, but we can take seriously healthy diet, moral behavior, meditative practices, and affirming touch as part of a recipe for supporting our spiritual lives. We can use our bodies for love and fidelity, not alienation, objectification, and disingenuousness. Psalm 30 rejoices in restoration to well-being. Jesus encounters a man with leprosy in Mark's gospel and chooses to make him well. Jesus responds to his call, stretching out his hand – breaking down social mores relating to "untouchables" – and cures him of leprosy, and in so doing Jesus takes on the man's uncleanness. Cleanliness embraces and redeems the man's social and religious standing, but it also cures his leprosy. Jesus risks his own social and religious cleanliness to bring the energy of healing touch to this man. Hence it is important for us to remain open to prayers and practices that nurture well-being, prevent illness, and help persons find a sense of peace, even the dying.

Adapted from Bruce Epperly (2012) www.processandfaith.org

Reflections on the Lenten Disciplines

Today is the last Sunday after the Epiphany (the time when the Gospel message of hope and healing is extended beyond the Jews to the Gentiles). As the seasons change and autumn comes, so the mood also changes as we move into Lent - the time of preparation for the great celebration of Easter. Lent provides opportunity for the Church to travel with Jesus and his disciples towards Jerusalem and the events that will unfold leading to his arrest and execution. Lent also is a time of self-reflection, examination and renewal. The Church's liturgy provides the vehicle for engagement, but the process of reflection and renewal is not limited to just Sundays. We are encouraged to enter the Lenten Discipline with daily prayer, reading of scripture and meditation. The Lenten Studies are occasions for engaging in the process of examining how we live our lives and how integral is our relationship with Jesus in our daily living. So we end the season of Epiphany on Shrove Tuesday when we symbolically clear out the excesses of our lives for the period of Lent. Traditionally on this day the fats and butters of the feasts of Epiphany are used up in the making of pancakes in preparation for the Lenten Fast when food is limited, plain and not a distraction. It also coincided with the time when food was scarce in the northern winters. Lent commences with Ash Wednesday with the Liturgy of the Ashes. Ash Wednesday offers us a doorway into developing the discipline of confession and repentance, which not only

builds our spiritual connection with God, but which also strengthens our relationships, gives us a clearer and more humble perspective on ourselves, leading us to live well in the world, bringing life, rather than bringing pain. The ashes remind us of our mortality and that we live by the grace of God, that each day lived is a blessing and as such we give thanks and praise to God.

Notices

St Matthew's Friendship Group this Tuesday 17th February 1.30 Gavan Hall.

Shrove Tuesday Liturgy 6.30pm this Tuesday followed by pancakes at Christ Church – please help with pancake mixture and toppings savoury and sweet - also please bring your palms from last year for burning.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy 7.30am St Matthew's Broadford & 7pm Christ Church. - HolyEucharist and Imposition of Ashes.

Parish Council Meeting 7.45pm this Wednesday at Christ Church (following the Ash Wednesday Liturgy).

Lenten Faith Enhancement Group commences Friday 20th February 7.00pm

Baptism of Arden Farrell 9am Sunday 1st March Christ Church.

Parish AGM – Notice is given of the AGM on Sunday 8th March 11.45am @ Gavan Hall, Broadford following t h e **10.00am Parish Eucharist at St Matthews**. A luncheon to follow the meeting.

Annual Reports due. Please submit reports to Caroline Burge asap.

Harvest Festival will be on 9th March at the Parish Eucharist and AGM.

Monthly BBQ's: Last Sunday 14 parishioners enjoyed a very pleasant Sunday afternoon at the Parish Monthly BBQ. Our BBQ venue changes each month and are a time to socialise and get to know your fellow parishioners from other centres in the parish. By popular demand, BBQ's are held on a Sunday lunchtime on the second Sunday of the month (NOT 4th Friday as in last week's pewsheets). All very welcome. Watch the pew sheet for the venue.

Request for prayer list - the list is to be reviewed and names will be removed unless requests are received to keep names on the list. A person must have given consent for any name to be listed. Please inform Fr Kim or the Wardens.

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

Parish life this week

Third week of February

- Tuesday 17th 1.30pm St Matthew's Friendship Group Gavan Hall
6.30pm Shrove Tuesday liturgy & pancakes Christ Church.
- Wednesday 18th ASH WEDNESDAY
7.30am Ash Wednesday Liturgy St Matthews Broadford
10.00am Ash Wednesday Liturgy Christ Church Seymour
7.00pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy Christ Church
7.45pm Parish Council Meeting Christ Church
- Thursday 19th 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
- Friday 20th 10.00am – 4.00 pm Op Shop Church House
7.00pm Lent Study Group @ 13 The Parade, Broadford
- Saturday 21st 10.00am – 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 22nd February 2015 – Lent 1

Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25. 1-10; 1 Peter 3. 18-22; Mark 1.9-15

Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No service this day
Christ Church	5.00pm	Church4Kids

Parish Clergy:

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