



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta



The Parish of Kilmore

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

23rd August 2015

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Baptism

HYMNS: 477, 465, 491, 527, 433

A warm welcome to everyone, please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.



Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book

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

Jesus said, 'It is spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' *John 6.63*

THE COLLECT

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Kings 8.22-30, 41-43

[The Ark of the Covenant is placed in Solomon's newly built temple, and the cloud of God's glory fills the temple. Solomon prays that God will keep God's promise to have a descendant of David on the throne forever, and for God to answer their prayers and also to hear and answer those of immigrants when they pray in the temple.]

A reading from the first book of Kings

Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands towards heaven and said: 'Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below – you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it – as it is today. 'Now Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, "You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done." And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true. 'But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open towards this temple night and day, this place of which you said, "My Name shall be there," so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays towards this place. Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. 'As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name – for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm – when they come and pray towards this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling-place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 84

[A Psalm in praise of God's Temple, of the joys of dwelling in God's House, and of God's strengthening of God's people in prayer.]

Response: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Response Alan Rees

v. 1 How love - ly is your dwel - ling place, O Lord of hosts!

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God./R

Blessed are they who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion,
Who going through the barren valley find there a spring,
and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.
They will go from strength to strength
and appear before God in Zion./R

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen, O God of Jacob.
Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.
For one day in your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness./R

For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;
no good thing shall the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.
O Lord God of hosts,
blessed are those who put their trust in you./R

SECOND READING

Ephesians 6.10-20

[The apostle encourages the Ephesian believers to recognise that their struggle is not against human beings, but against spiritual forces of evil, and in order to stay strong they need to put on God's armour and remain faithful in prayer. Then he asks them to pray for him as he seeks to spread the Gospel.]

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Paul writes, 'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lord, to whom | shall we go?

You have the words of e- | ternal life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 6.56-69

[Jesus proclaims that he is the bread that came down from heaven, and that whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood will remain in Christ and Christ in them. Then many disciples grumble and even start leaving, but when Jesus asks the twelve if they want to go too, Peter answers that they have nowhere else to go, because Jesus has the words of eternal life.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the crowd, 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then

what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Baptism - the candidates move to the font

Baptism Hymn

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord of heaven and earth, how lovely are your dwelling places, places we can experience your love and grace for all of us; turn our hearts, minds, souls and bodies to you; inspire us as we worship you, speak to us the words you desire for us to hear so that we may choose what is right.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, although we once were strangers, you receive us as friends and draw us home to you; you set your living bread before us so that from feasting at your table we may be strengthened to continue the work of your Son; we give thanks for all who offer the sacraments in your name; for priests and ministers in your Church; for John our Bishop and our parish as this day we celebrate the baptism of Lauren, Benjamin, Joshua, Stella, Sophie, & Chloe, and we pray blessings on them and their parents and godparents as they begin their spiritual journey with you in your Church.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for countries devastated by hatred and conflict; we pray for all who inflict terror and violence; help your people to stand firm against the forces of greed and destruction and may your good news of justice and peace be proclaimed. We pray safety and security for all refugees and asylum seekers; may they find sanctuary in places of welcome and hospitality.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for those who suffer from neglect or abuse; for those who have no work and those who have no rest; for all who feel useless, rejected or unloved; for the sick and the suffering and those without hope; for all in need, for those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Requests for Prayer: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Tom Scrivens, Franca Caia, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Seth Gunter, Barbara Kaye, Sarah, Lisa, Alex Impols, Elizabeth, Mark Bennetts, Margeurite Kisvardai, Penny;*

As we give you thanks for healing and blessings wherever received, help your people proclaim your good news through acts of compassion and care.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for the faithful who have found their rest in you; for the recently departed, and those whose years mind occurs this time;

Year's mind: *23rd Jack Woods, Amelia Moore; 24th Ronald Matthews; 25th Charles Smith; 26th Stephen Smith; 27th Kathleen Craker; 28th Brian Wright, Gayle Witty; 29th Leslie Gullifer.*

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

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Holy Wisdom, you granted Solomon's request for an understanding mind and the knowledge to discern good from evil; hear us as we pray for ourselves; feed us with the spiritual milk of your love and deliver us from darkness to light; encompass us in the circle of your protection, that, secure in your sustaining power, we may find wisdom and strength.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

God, you shape our dreams; as we put our trust in you may your hopes and desires be ours, and we your expectant people; we pray this through Jesus Christ your son our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week is all about choices. On the one hand there is the choice to obey God's call and to turn to Christ as those baptised today have shown. Another choice always open to us is to abandon our devotion to God and God's ways. In the Gospel, many of Jesus' followers find his call to be completely united with him – to believe that he is the source of life and to take him into their beings (eating his flesh and drinking his blood as discussed last week) - too much to handle and they abandon Jesus. But, his disciples, although they may be feeling like they want to go, recognise that life is found in Christ and so remain faithful. Linked with our choice to follow Jesus there is a call to prayer in this week's readings. In the Old Testament reading, Solomon prays and pleads with God to hear and answer the prayers of all who pray toward the Temple, likewise in the Psalm. In the famous passage from Ephesians, Paul calls the believers to prepare themselves for the attacks of evil by putting on God's armour (making a choice to stay faithful), and he calls them to prayer for themselves and for him as he seeks to spread the Gospel. The theme this week is simple and clear: everyday we will be faced with

the choice to remain faithful to Christ or to turn away, and we will need the intimacy with God that comes through prayer and through sharing in the life of Christ to remain true to our calling. In a world where religion is being questioned and falling out of fashion, and in which many parts of the Church are in decline, this choice, and the call to prayer, are as important as ever. It also means that when we resist evil, we always have to look beyond individuals and persons to the institutions, systems and ideologies that oppose God's Reign. Only then can we love our enemy, while fighting for justice. In our neighbourhoods, communities and homes, we need this "Jesus perspective". And to get this "Jesus perspective" requires a life of deep, transforming prayer which goes beyond just asking God for things, and becomes about immersing ourselves in the life and mission of God. This is the stuff of our daily Christian living – praying, choosing daily to stay true to the love and grace of Jesus, and working to heal whatever evil we encounter within and outside of us, without rejecting other people in the process. May God help us as we seek to rise to this challenge.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2015) www.sacredise.com

NOTICES

Church4Kids 5pm tonight at Christ Church

Confirmation Classes continue on Wednesdays 4.45pm at the Rectory.

Next Sunday is a 5th Sunday - Combined service of St Stephen with St Matthews at St Matthews.

ABM - MYANMAR FLOOD EMERGENCY APPEAL - The aim is to raise \$50,000 to help rebuild the many communities affected by this disaster. Please donate generously.

Episcopal Parish Visitation - 25-27 September. Watch this space for details. Book now for Gavan Hall Dinner Friday 25th \$30/head contact John Patterson.

Parish Fete - Saturday 21st November - Next Fete Meeting is Wednesday 9th September at 7.00pm at the home of Caroline Burge. Those interested in running or assisting on a stall please attend or contact Caroline, Lucy or Robyn.

Plant Cuttings - With spring just around the corner, please start striking some cuttings or planting some seeds for the Plant Stall.

Thank you - A huge thank you to the small group of students from the International School who cleaned in and around the church as part of their Community Project.

Christ Church Rosters - volunteers needed for dusting, vacuuming, reading, sides persons and morning tea rosters. Please contact Robyn Whitehouse.

Offering Envelopes are now available - please help yourself. You might consider using Electronic Transfer of Funds.

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

Financial Statement from Parish Council		
end of July 2015		
Income	Offertory	\$4,366.35
	Opshop	\$4,044.65
	Fundraising	\$
Total		\$8,411.00
Budgeted Monthly Expenses		\$11,250.00
Variance		-\$2,839.00

Parish life this week

Monday 24th **[Bartholomew, Apostle & Martyr]**
 Wednesday 26th 10.00am Eucharist Christ Church Seymour
 Thursday 27th *[Monica, mother of Augustine (d. 387)]*
 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews Broadford
 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
 4.00pm Eucharist Diana
 Friday 28th *[Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher (d. 430)]*
 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House
 Saturday 29th *[Beheading of John the Baptist]*
 10.00am- 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES		
Next Sunday: 30th August 2015 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost		
Song of Songs 2.8-13; Psalm 45. 1-2,6-9; James 1. 17-27; Mark 7.1-8, 14-23		
Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11.00am	No service this day combined with St Matthews
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No service this day

Parish Clergy

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155
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Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett St Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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