



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
8th May 2016
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION



HYMNS 231, 552, 520, 179

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



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

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. *Acts 16.31*

THE COLLECT

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 16.16-34

[After freeing a fortune-telling slave girl of a demon, Paul & Silas are imprisoned. They continue to worship even while in jail, and the prison bursts open, giving Paul an opportunity to lead the jailer and his family to faith in Christ.]

A reading from the book of Acts

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.’ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned round and said to the spirit, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her. When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, ‘These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.’ The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.’ Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood. 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.' The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I will not leave you orphaned, | says the Lord.

I am com | ing to you.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 17.20-26

[Jesus prays for his disciples and for all who will come to believe in him, that they may be one, and that through their love and their 'belovedness' the world may be brought to know of Jesus.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

O Lord our God you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending; our source of love, and lover of all humankind, hear our prayer for your beautiful world and for all peoples.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

God of the new Jerusalem, we pray for the universal Church that all Christians may strive to be one in Christ, one in justice, and one in compassion; we pray for the National Council of Churches, and for the World Council of Churches in their service to the world; for the Church in Australia; for John our Bishop; for our parish and our work of bringing your peace and love through our worship and mission.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

God of power and might, we pray for those tasked with governing our nation, and that you will inspire them with courage and new understanding as they manage our economy, and seek our electoral support; may all who would seek asylum in our country be treated effectively and compassionately, and we pray for all held in detention.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for healing in the human family; for all victims of violence, exploitation slavery and war; that you will heal their pain, ease their fear, and give them courage in the face of despair and destruction; for all impacted by drought and natural disasters, by earthquake and storms, for the peoples of Syria, Iraq, Ecuador, Japan, Latur and Ethiopia, and for the thousands who lost homes and property in Fort McMurray, Alberta; for all agencies delivering aid, as they work in difficult and dangerous places.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, we give thanks for the care and support of our families especially we pray for blessings for all mothers and those who have been like a mother to us: may God strengthen and inspire them in their loving and caring.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for families that are divided or dysfunctional; pray that God will heal the wounds of hurt and conflict; bring comfort to those who have lost loved ones; we pray for the homeless, for runaway children and those living on the streets.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are ill and suffering for healing of bodies, minds, and spirits so that all may live and celebrate God's gift of life; for all in need, those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Denise, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Susan, Leonie Upton, Fr Keith Shepherd; Joan Grimmwade, John Leonard.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

God of love; **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Lord, we pray for the recently departed, especially those who have no one to pray for them, and for those years mind occurring at this time.

10th Rodney Heppell; 11th Elvie Walker, Brianna Hodges, Bill Beckingsale; 13th Alisha Becker; 14th Milton McLoughlin (priest), Kenneth Chapman.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**
God of love; **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you who wishes to gather your people as a mother hen gathers together her brood, hear our prayer as we pray for ourselves.....; and as we give thanks for all mothers, bless all who mother, and give to all mothers your comfort and strength; help us as brothers and sisters in Christ to be your family on earth, as we shall be in heaven. Hear us as we pray as our Lord has taught us; **Our Father.....** [Pg 124]

Reflections on the Readings

At first glance, the readings this week seem completely unconnected. But a closer look reveals the simple theme of invitation. In Acts, Paul and Silas are given a unique opportunity to invite a jailer into the way of Christ. In the Psalm, God's glory and power are the context for an invitation to those who are 'godly' to find refuge in God. In Revelation the invitation to all who would 'drink of the waters of life' is proclaimed, along with the assurance of Christ's return to love and welcome those who respond to the invitation. In John, Jesus prays for unity and love among believers so that others may see this, know the truth about Jesus, be drawn (invited) into the life of Christ, and of the loving, beloved community of faith. It is appropriate that this theme should follow closely behind last week's focus on hospitality, and on the celebration of the Ascension – which proclaimed both God's divine reign, and God's gracious immanence. God seeks intimate relationship with humanity, and, as an integral part of this intimacy, we need to share God's love with one another. Thus, even as we accept God's invitation to beloved life, we are called to extend the invitation to others. The Gospel is, after all, at its heart an extravagant, divine invitation. But the invitation is not intended to create a bunch of philosophical and religious hoops for people to jump through before they can be accepted as 'in', but rather to remove obstacles, and, through practical, lived and shared love, make God's grace as easy to access as possible. In much of the conversation around "Church" these days we are constantly bombarded with statistics about people leaving the church and stories of those who have been hurt/disillusioned/marginalised by the church. Both the stats and the stories are good and need to be heard, but our responses are often to seek new "solutions" or "programs" or "techniques" or even "theologies" to stop the bleed and get back on top – or at least back to being alive to some degree. Jesus, though, doesn't seem particularly concerned about "the Church" and whether it grows or not. What he is concerned about is that people should know about God's grace and life which is available through Christ and which is demonstrated by a community of love. God's invitation, in the end, is not a message or an institution. It is a relationship with God and with those who love God and know they are beloved of God. Perhaps the best way we can be a people

of invitation is to stop speaking, “reaching out” or trying to be attractive, and to start simply loving God and each other – and anyone else who happens to enter our circle of awareness.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2016). © Sacredise - www.sacredise.com

Notices

Parish Monthly BBQ TODAY 12.30pm - at Piva House next to St Matthews Bradford - hosts are Maryann and John Leonard. Bring own meat, salad and desert to share and refreshments. All welcome and don't fret there is always plenty.

Faith Enhancement Group - meets 7.30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 13 The Parade. The group will recommence on this coming Tuesday 10th May, continuing with *Living the Questions* series. Further information contact Fr Kim.

Day of Pentecost - next Sunday the local tradition is to wear something red.

Confirmation 2016 - Please contact Fr Kim for more information on confirmation later in the year. Classes to start soon.

Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea: Tuesday 17th May hosted by the St Matthew's Friendship Group, 10.00am at Gavan Hall, Broadford. See Parish Diary for contact details and for further information.

Parish Directory: At the back of each centre there is a copy of the current Parish Directory. Please check the names, and if you aren't listed, and wish to be included in the 2016 edition, provide your name, address (residential, postal and email), and phone number/s. If your details have changed, please amend. All names on the current list will automatically go into the new edition unless you choose to delete your details.

Lay Ministry Licensing

The process of Lay Ministry Licensing will commence this weekend. This is of concern to those who assist in the life of the Parish: wardens, servers, eucharist assistants, worship leaders, musicians, readers, intercessors, welcomers, morning tea hosts, money counters, church cleaners, flower arrangers, op shop volunteers, gardeners. Parish clergy will circulate the forms and set up the procedures for obtaining these checks. Although some parishioners have already completed forms these need to be reviewed to ensure that everyone complies. If you have any questions or concerns contact Fr Kim or one of the wardens.

Direct Debit/EFT Offerings: Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 464.

Parish Diary

2nd Sunday of month: Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details

2nd & 4th Tuesday: Faith Enhancement Group meets 13 The Parade Broadford.

3rd Tuesday: St Matthew's Friendship Group; Gavan Hall 1.30pm fellowship & afternoon tea; contact Edie Simpson ph.5784 1246 for details.

1st Wednesday: Property Committee Meeting 7.30pm see notices for venue

3rd Wednesday: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm see Notices for venue.

Parish life this week

Second week of May

Tuesday 10th 10.30am Baptism interviews Christ Church
4.30pm School student project Church House
7.30pm Faith Enhancement Group 13 The Parade Broadford

Thursday 11th 10.00am Eucharist St Matthew's
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
11.30am Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella

Friday 6th 10.00am – 4.00pm Op Shop Church House

Saturday 7th 10.00am – 12noon Op Shop Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 15th May 2016: DAY OF PENTECOST

Genesis 11.1-9; Ps 104. 26-36; Acts 2.1-21; John 14. 8-17

Christ Church	9am	Sung Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764 Ph 5782 1155
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Hon Associate Priest Revd Maryann Leonard, Piva House, 78 High Street,
Broadford, 3658; Ph 5784 3007; m 0439 066 553;
associatepriest@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young, 9/40 Powlett St, Broadford, 3658 Ph 5784 2224

P O Box 289 Kilmore 3764

Visit our website www.anglicankilmore.org.au

