

The Anglican Church of Australia  
The Diocese of Wangaratta

**29th January 2017**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**



WITH BROADFORD, TALLAROOK  
& PYALONG

**Hymns: 160, 618, Pewsheet, 430**



*Introit Hymn*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

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

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6.8*

## THE COLLECT

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Micah 6.1-8**

[God challenges God's people regarding their tiring of God, and calls them to love mercy, do justice and walk with God in humility.]

*A reading from the book of prophet Micah*

Listen to what the Lord says: 'Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. 'Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. 'My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.' With what shall I come before the and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 15**

[Those who are true worshipers, who may enter God's presence, are the ones who live with consideration and compassion for their neighbours, and with justice and integrity.]

**Response: O Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?**

**Response** Colin Mawby

*v. 1a* O Lord, who may dwell in your ta - ber - na - cle?

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may rest upon your holy hill?  
Whoever leads an uncorrupt life  
and does the thing that is right;/R

Who speaks the truth from the heart  
and bears no deceit on the tongue;  
Who does no evil to a friend  
and pours no scorn on a neighbour;/R  
**O Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?**

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed,  
but who honours those who fear the Lord.  
Whoever has sworn to a neighbour  
and never goes back on that word;/R

Who does not lend money in hope of gain,  
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;  
Whoever does these things shall never fall./R

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1.18-31

[God is not known through the wisdom and power of this world, but in the foolishness of the cross, which, to those who believe, is the wisdom and power of God. In this cross alone do we boast.]

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians*

Paul writes, 'The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward is great in heaven.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

[Jesus teaches his disciples that those who are poor, mourning, pure in heart, working for peace, desperate for justice and persecuted for following Christ are the ones God blesses.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*For the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

---

## **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Special intention - pray for all those impacted by the Bourke Street tragedy and for Dimitrious Gargasoulas accused perpetrator.*

Holy One, we come to you humbled by your greatness, your wonderful love, your holy wisdom.

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

We bring our praise of you, praise of your creation, praise of you tender mercies you bestow on us.

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

We come singing our love for you.

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

Lord, we pray for those who are poor in spirit that they may be made rich in you.

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

Lord, we pray for comfort for those who mourn.

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

We pray for those whose lives have been humbled by hardships that may be strengthened.

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

We pray for those who are hungry that their bellies be filled. But we also pray for those who hunger spiritually, may their souls be filled.

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

We pray for those who need mercy in their lives, may we show them your mercy in the way we treat them.

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

We pray for those who don't know God that one day they may.

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

We pray for peace in our world especially for those places where there is great unrest and tension.

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

We pray for those all around the world who are martyred, persecuted and flee as refugees that they will be kept them safe from harm.

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

We pray for those who are bullied, pushed around, made fun of and rejected; that others will stop the bullying, stand up for them, love them and accept them.

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

We pray for those in need, the sick and the suffering, and those who have requested prayer;

*Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Faye Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Sharon De Battista, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson, John Leonard, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Rosalia Bendastinto.*

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

We pray for those we love but see no more, for the recently departed; for those killed in Bourke Street *Zachary Bryant, Thalia Hakin, Matthew Si, Jess Judie, and the unknown Japanese man*; and those whose years mind occurs at this time;

*29th Walter Kirby, Pam Rhue; 30th Harold Napper; 31st Olive Hutchinson; Feb 1st John Kirkpatrick, Diane Robins; 2nd Douglas Schofield (priest); 3rd Jennifer Hedley; 4th Geoffrey Booth, Ken Payne.*

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

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

We pray for ourselves.....; grant us grace and the courage to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with you our God.

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

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray; **Our Father ...[pg. 124]**

---

### **A Reflection on Micah and Matthew**

The Prophet Micah reminds people how God has acted in the past during times of danger then proceeds to make fun of the ritualistic religion of the Temple which relied on formulas and sacrifices instead of courageous faithful behaviour. The crescendo in Micah's satire of Temple religion needs to be acted and not merely read. The extravagant demands of rivers of oil and thousands of rams to be sacrificed serve as a way of framing the simpler, yet more difficult requirements of God "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Resistance under the new regime will be enhanced when we pay attention to what God really requires because it is so different from what the current leaders of the land want to do. Kindness, justice and humility will have to climb upwards from resisting churches to the hills of power, do not expect them to flow down from what is often referred to

as The Hill and even less from the White House and definitely not from the modern Tower of Babel, aka Trump Towers. Walking humbly with our God can, and must, be interpreted to mean among other things as “reduce your carbon footprint.” Become a Christian ‘Earthist’ and defend earth and all of its inhabitants, especially the most vulnerable. There is where the doing of justice and the loving of kindness can be made effective and real but that task will not be easy under the current regime. That is why the lesson from Matthew is also so important. The Sermon of the Mountain opens with the Beatitudes which include the blessing of the peacemakers. It is not surprising that Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. relied so much on these wonderful Scriptures and based non-violent resistance and activism on them. What is less known is that a more recently another movement also turned to the Beatitudes for inspiration and strength to resist injustice and bring about significant change. St. Thomas Church in Leipzig is mostly remembered for housing the great Johan Sebastian Bach for several years. However, in the months leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall that very same church was at the centre of the resistance to the oppressive Soviet regime. Young people gathered every Monday for prayers but also to talk about more ways to end the shameful separation of East and West Germany. As the movement gathered momentum warning began to come in against the Monday prayers but they did not stop. Finally a confrontation became inevitable. Fearing the size of the Monday night gathering on 9th October 1989, the police put out a warning that any demonstration would be stopped “with whatever means necessary.” Doctors of nearby hospitals stopped by the church before the October day gathering to inform the pastor that they were making preparations to deal with the flood of gunshot wounds they were expecting. The pastor was nervous. He didn’t know what to expect. On 9th October 1989 7,000 people crammed into the church and over 70,000 people stood on the streets surrounding the church. Each person held a candle in their hands – which for them was a symbol of non-violence: for, to keep a candle from going out on a cold October night in Leipzig, you have to hold the candle with both hands, which makes it impossible to throw a stone. There alongside the 70,000 in the streets were the tanks of the empire, ready for the protestors to turn violent but they never did. When someone began to get agitated the group would call out, “No violence!” and everyone would settle down. A government official said later, “We had everything planned. We were ready for anything – except candles and prayers.” The tanks withdrew. Candles and prayers stopped tanks and military power. A few weeks later the wall came tumbling down reminiscent of the one that Joshua had demolished in Jericho centuries earlier. Today we are in the second Sunday after Trump’s ascendancy to the presidency. He promised to erect a wall on the USA’s southern border - a wall that will also come down under the non-violent resistance and power of prayer and candles. We have a choice. We can dwell in the world of the empire. We can believe that the poverty, oppression, racism, sexism and homophobia of the world is the reality with which we have to live. We can get up every morning and feel hopelessness seep through our souls. We can be prisoners in this reality....or we can sing out the promises of God. The promises of God will be waiting for us as we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God..

*Adapted from Ignacio Castuera (2017) [www.processandfaith.org](http://www.processandfaith.org)*

## **Hymn: Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit** [Tune TiS 392 NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D]

Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.

Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.

Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.

God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.

Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.

They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.

Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.

God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.

Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.

Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.

When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting,

God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.

*Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

---

## **Notices**

**Australia Day ABM Fund Raiser Luncheon** - an enjoyable day of fellowship and over \$200 raised - thanks to all who contributed and to Caroline for hosting.

**Parish Council Meeting** - The February meeting this Wednesday 1st February at Gavan Hall.

**Farewell Gift for Rev'd Maryann and John** - A cheque was presented to Maryann as a farewell gift from the parish. Contributions towards this gift are requested - please give your donation to one of the parish wardens or place it in the offertory plate in a marked envelope.

**Concert at St Matthews by The Chamber Philamonia of Cologne.** Book through Robyn Whitehouse 5781 1185 by 8th February leave a message re number of tickets you require (\$35 Adult; \$30 Concession; \$25 Child/Student), your name, and phone number. There will be wine and cheeses offered before the concert and an after concert supper. Tickets are \$10 for wine and cheeses; \$10 for supper or \$15 for both. Please book extras with Robyn when ordering concert tickets.

**Assistance with transport to church and functions.** Parishioners requiring transport, please contact Robyn Whitehouse (5781 1185) prior to the Sunday.

**Monthly Parish BBQ's commence 12 March.** Hosts are needed for this year. April has been filled - please contact one of the wardens or Fr Kim.

**Lenten Study 2017** - This Lent we will use familiar Lenten themes to explore how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. There are five sessions in the series - please let Fr Kim know if you wish to attend.

**Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details have changed** - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB

633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please change your bank details when making offerings.

## Parish life this week

Fourth week of January

Wednesday 1st Feb	12.30pm Aged Care & Spirituality Meeting - Dianella 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting - Gavan Hall
Thursday 2nd	10.00am Eucharist St Matthews Candlemas 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 11.30am Eucharist Caladenia
Friday 3rd	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 28th	10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

### Next Sunday: 5th February 2017 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58 1.1-9; Ps 112; I Corinthians 2.1-13; Matthew 5.13-20

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Morning Prayer
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

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

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764 [www.anglicankilmore.org.au](http://www.anglicankilmore.org.au)

Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning