

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF BALLARAT
ST PAUL'S - BAKERY HILL

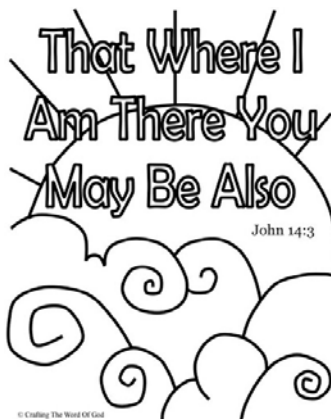


"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

Fifth Sunday of Easter
10th May 2020
Mothers' Day

A Year to challenge violence, injustice & oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation

Welcome to St Paul's Church in this time! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer from where ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact details are on the last page.



© Creating The Word Of God

Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Contact Sister Elisa to be included via St Paul's email or phone number. See back page.

Dear people of St Paul's,

In this time of separation from our church gatherings, we can affirm and encourage each other in prayer. We can also join in worship at our regular times using this form of prayer which is from the Anglican Churches Liturgy. We will use it on Sunday with our Zoom services but if this is not possible for you, then join us at 9.30 am in spirit.

You can use it on your own or with others around you. You may use all of it or a part of it as suits you. If you have some lovely recorded music which feeds your faith, then add that to the mix also.

Further, I suggest you create a prayer space, in it you could have a candle, a cross and /or a picture, none of these are essential, but may be a help for prayer.

Finally, I pray that this difficult season may be one which, despite hardship, enriches and strengthens your faith.

Every blessing

Sr Elisa

When all are gathered, the presider begins:

In the name of God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE "I am the way, and the truth, and the life," says the Lord. "No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14.6

Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Romans 6.10

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance/ *absolution*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John2: 1-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY: (*pause for silent prayer*) Ever-living God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 7.55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

PSALM 31.1-5, 17-18

¹ In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;

do not let me ever be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

² **Incline your ear to me;**

rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,

a strong fortress to save me.

³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

for your name’s sake lead me and guide me,

⁴ **take me out of the net that is hidden for me,**

for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁷ **Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD,**

for I call on you;

let the wicked be put to shame;

let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

¹⁸ Let the lying lips be stilled
that speak insolently against the righteous
with pride and contempt.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2.11-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. ¹² Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

¹³ For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶ As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. ¹⁷ Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 14.1-14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not

speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection - Sr Elisa

After my ordination, a family friend who had known me most of my life, turned to me and said that she thought I was just like my father who was also a priest. To be honest I was really taken aback. My dad was an intelligent, strong and principled man and whilst I have a lot of that, it comes out in my life in a way which is very different to him. So, I replied: 'I don't think I'm anything like dad, why do you think that?'

She said something which I wasn't even aware of, but I can see. She said, 'You have his joy and his faith.' Now that's true. If I'm honest, I can see bits and pieces of both of my parents in myself. I come from them, and have lived with them in my formative years, and been near them throughout my life, so it's not surprising.

Have you ever had people say things like that to you?

In the Gospel today, Jesus is saying that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. Well there is truth that some of that reality comes

from his very nature. His Father is the one behind his incarnate [human] life and his life was lived as closely to his Father as any life. But of course, there is more. The risen transcended Christ who is the pre-existent 'Word of God', exists eternally without beginning or end in unity with the Father and so Jesus can say to his disciples,

'don't you know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, believe me because of the works themselves, very truly I tell you the one who believes me will also do the works that I do...'

This speech is given by Jesus as part of the last supper discourse and in it he is preparing his disciples for his ultimate physical departure, first through his death and then after his resurrection through his Ascension.

As we listen to it unfold, there are three things which I would like to highlight.

1. The use of the word 'believe'.
2. The idea of dwelling in the Father's house.
3. And the idea of Jesus being the way the truth, and the life.

At the end of the Gospel, John wrote a clear purpose statement.

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)

So, for John, the purpose of his book is for the reader *to believe and* the fruit of belief is *life in His Name*.

The Greek word 'believe or believing' used by John, is mostly a verb, something which is active and not static in any way.

It is not just a simple agreement to doctrines of belief. It is a complete, living, and active response to knowing God, through Jesus his Son.

Therefore, the characteristics of belief in Jesus in John's Gospel is expressed in ways such as,

faith in his word, abiding in him, trusting him, loving and obeying him, and faith and worship fixed on him.

So, to believe in Jesus, is to live a life in total trust and surrender to God through Jesus his Son. This is where the peace of God emerges and where our troubled hearts find their rest. If we trust God, we can let go of our fears and concerns.

The idea of having a dwelling place with the Father is the next bit I want to look at.

Jesus promises that he must leave in order to prepare a place for us in his Father's house. The translation and so understanding of this is a bit tricky, but the outcome of it is stunning.

In other parts of the Gospel Jesus speaks of abiding in him and he in us. In this passage, the Greek word used for abiding which is a verb is turned into a noun. So, it becomes an abode. So, when Jesus speaks of a place in the Father's house it means that we are with

the Father. Through abiding, or having a relationship with Jesus, we live with the Father.

Thus, Jesus is our way, our truth, and our life. When we abide with him through believing, that is having a faith which reflects his life in us, then he is the way to the Father for us.

In this regard I just want to speak a little about the Letter from Peter, which shows one way of Jesus being the way, the truth and the life.

In the past, the letter has been used to support slavery and to make slaves accept the injustices of slavery using the example of Jesus' passivity in his sufferings, when he died on the cross. We know that can't be what God wants, because we understand that all of us were created in the image of God, and Jesus died for all of us, so we could be free. Jesus came into the world not just for sinners but for the poor and the oppressed. His death on the cross was not an acceptance of injustice, but God's way of overcoming it.

John particularly makes it clear, that Jesus actively laid down his life for the world- there was nothing passive about it. In this Covid 19 world, we are laying down some of our freedoms, to ensure the ultimate wellbeing and freedom of all people, there is a surrender in it, but it is not passive.

The thing to note in the way Jesus died, is that he did not further the injustice of his enemies. He chose it for a purpose; to heal and reconcile the world to himself. He accepted the cruelty and

punishment of his enemies, but he did not compromise the truth of God's love for all of humanity, despite their hatred and injustice. So, in Jesus there is love and grace and forgiveness. The Christian way does not allow hatred and violence to be perpetuated. Jesus' way is to challenge it with love so that human sin does not overcome. That means to work for justice, healing and reconciliation as Jesus did.

As followers of Jesus, we must welcome and include all people, but we must also stand in the faith of Christ and be prepared to lay down our lives for the wellbeing of the world.

Sacrifice and martyrdom come in many ways. For example, the church speaks of white martyrdom and red martyrdom. Red martyrdom is when a person dies for their faith. St Stephen was a red martyr who was stoned to death for witnessing to the truth of the Gospel.

White martyrdom is the martyrdom which witnesses to God's love in lives given over to God. All Christians in this sense are called to be white martyrs. The word martyr, by the way means witness. It means to reveal God's love and truth with our lives.

That is the way. The way of Jesus is standing in the truth of God's uncompromising love despite hatred, despair and destruction. And the life then flows from this. It is a life which knows the fullness of what it is to be free in the love of God. To find its completeness and integrity without an after-taste of yuk or guilt. It is a life filled with God's Spirit which reflects the love and joy of God even in the face

of suffering. And it is a life which extends beyond itself into the whole of creation and even beyond death itself.

This passage is often used in funerals as a comfort to mourners who recognise that their loved one is with God. There is truth in that. But it is also for the living to know that in Jesus we are with the Father. In Jesus we have a life which is filled with God's grace, joy and freedom and all we need to do is to choose that life by saying continually, yes to Jesus, the word of God made flesh, and alive, in us through his Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

We say the Apostles Creed. And

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Ever-living God, we give you thanks that you sent your Son Jesus to be our way, our truth and our life: in confidence we bring to you our prayers for all people.

We pray for your world:

Those who live in places where Covid19 is still raging.

For those whose lives are scarred by conflict and war.

Those who live in places affected by drought or natural disasters.

We give you thanks for all whose lives manifest your spirit of reconciliation and peace and all who work for a just and sustainable world.

In your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church:

In these days of isolation.

In places where it suffers persecution.

In places where it is divided, faithless or disobedient.

We give thanks for those who risk their lives so that others may hear your good news, and for all who minister faithfully to your people.

In your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community:

For our families and friends and members of our parish.

For charities and all whose work sustains others. Especially doctors and nurses and scientists, who are seeking cures for disease.

We give you thanks for all whose lives shine with a spirit of forgiveness and in their daily lives bring your love to others.

In your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all mothers this Mothers Day:

watch over and support all mothers, on earth and in heaven, and help them to know they are loved and appreciated on Mother's Day and every day.

In your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need:

The lonely, the anxious, the grieving, the sick.

Those who have asked for our prayers:

Keith, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Hazel, Heather, Stephanie,
Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Sue, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey,
Michele, Gillian, Pauline.

And any whom we hold in hearts this day...

pause for a time of silent prayer.

We give you thanks for those whose lives are filled with courage in the
face of adversity and for those who bring your tenderness and
consolation to others.

In your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for your followers of every age:

For Stephen and all who have given their lives for you;

And for those whose lives have drawn others to you.

Lead us in your way and open us to your truth, that with all your saints,
we may be brought to that place of everlasting life, which you
prepare for all people.

In your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Based on prayers in 'Let us Pray' Janet Nelson.

GREETING OF PEACE

Alleluia! We are the body of Christ!

His Spirit is with us! Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Amen.



[We wave to each other as a sign of peace]

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Prayer

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Thanksgiving, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we are dispersed from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Salvation we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The preface continues... forever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic prayer continues...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The prayer concludes with ...in songs of never ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body in Christ,
for we all share in the one bread.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us;
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The body of Christ broken for you.
The blood of Christ poured out for you.

Prayer after Communion...

Eternal God, giver of life, in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord. May we who celebrate this holy feast walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.



Father **we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory, Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia!

All parish activities are on hold or under assessment until further notice

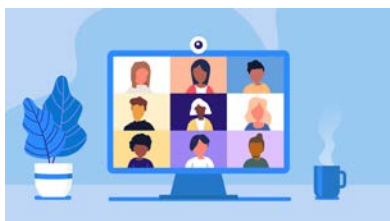
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Readings for next Sunday Acts 17.22-31, Psalm 66.7-19, 1 Peter 3.8-22, John 14.15-21

Diary for the next week

5pm. Tuesday Evenings: Zoom Evening Prayer with focus on prayer for Covid19 & our Diocese. All welcome to join us.

10.30am. Thursdays. Cuppa and chat on Zoom – bring your own cuppa and join us.





Prayer and praise

A cricketer kisses and raises his helmet heavenward; a tennis player kisses the ground. These gestures of prayer and praise are elemental, they burst forth in many ways because we are made in the image and likeness of God, born to pray and praise. Jesus taught us to address his father in an intimate and trusting way that may not even know words but sense the embrace of Love. Respond with singing, art, gardening, seeing God's glory in ALL the world. Alleluia!

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Young people often have a natural exuberance which responds to rejoicing in helping others. Two teenagers wanted to join Mother's Union in UK. Now 20 young members work and pray as their branch assists vulnerable people. We offer our prayers and praise to God for their work.

PLANT SALE

Gardening tips for our November Plant Sale –

Strawberry runners can be nipped off the parent plant and planted into pots. Roses - take cuttings from well ripened shoots a few months old - plant in an open slightly sandy soil, water, pot can be placed in a plastic bread bag and tied at the top to keep a constant temperature. Will not require watering for several weeks.

WOOD SALE

Great news - the wood that was cut for our wood raffle has been sold for \$230 -2 trailer loads. Thanks Ken and wood cutters and a great result.

Books -a great time to sort out the bookcase for our book stall in November--and tell family and friends, can be collected later when we are able to get out and about.

Sheep poo is for sale in \$1 & \$2 bags contact Avis - mob 0408 801 192, Noella 0418 501 382, or Deirdre 0408 433 481 to order.

METAL COLLECTION

June is Metal Collection Month - keep collecting metal items also car and bike batteries

ANGLICARE

Items which are currently required for the Emergency Relief program are: tissues, toilet paper, pasta sauce, long life milk and any other long life food items. Please feel free to drop them in to Anglicare during opening hours.

REQUEST FOR KNITTING YARN

I am reclaiming knitting yarn to be remade into warm jumpers for Syrian children in orphanages and refugee camps. If you are having a sort through during this time of Covid19, and you have any knit wear that could be unpicked please let me know. This might include anything that is too small/too big, out of fashion, or wouldn't sell in an op shop. Yarn would preferably be 80-100% wool. Small or large quantities are welcome. As you know a lot of natural and man-made fibres end up in landfill when it could have a very useful second life. Any new yarn that you may not need would also be welcome.

Please ph: 0429 092 205 if you have any questions or would like to arrange a contactless pick-up.

Many thanks, Sue Lanyon

Parish Directory

Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Garry Weatherill

Parish Priest Sr Elisa Helen, CSC

Tel. 5332 6479 [leave a message]

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Tisdall

The Rev'd Malcolm Thomas

The Rev'd Deacon Bert Muysers

Parish Secretary: Lisa Smith

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin

Mark Stewart:

Heather Clinton

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

St. Paul's Office *[closed during Covid 19 restrictions]*

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