

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



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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost –9th August 2020
Mary Sumner Day

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

Welcome to St Paul's! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer where-ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact Sister Elisa to be included via St Paul's email or phone number. See back page.



Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Dear people of St Paul's,

This week in our worship we are reflecting on Jesus calming a storm and Peter's faulting walking on water and needing to be rescued by Jesus. We also remember Mary Sumner the founder of the Mother's Union.

We are unfortunately back in level 3 restrictions with only 4 reasons to leave our homes and attending church is not one of the reasons, so we are again in a season when we cannot gather in person. It is our prayer that this Pew Sheet will help and assist you in your personal prayer, especially if you do not have access to the internet and our zoom worship. This week I have included the prayer of Spiritual Communion which you may like to use each week in your own personal worship. In this time of separation from our church gatherings, we can continue to 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 also use this service on Sundays 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.

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE: They cried out in fear, but Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Matthew 14.26-27

Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, 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

'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself'.

Silence to reflect.

Let us therefore bring our sins to the one true God, in penitence and faith.

**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 John 2: 1-2

COLLECT FOR MARY SUMNER DAY:

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life: give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through word, prayer and deed your family may be strengthened and your people served; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY: (*pause for silent prayer*) Mighty God and ruler of all creation, give new strength to our faith, that we may recognise your presence even when all hope seems lost. Help us to face all trials with serenity as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life and come at the last to your eternal peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 37.1-4, 12-28

A reading from the book of Genesis

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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

PSALM 105.1-6, 16-22

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² **Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

⁶ **O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

¹⁶ When he summoned famine against the land,
and broke every staff of bread,

¹⁷ **he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

¹⁸ His feet were hurt with fetters,
his neck was put in a collar of iron;

¹⁹ **until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the LORD kept testing him.**

²⁰ The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

²¹ **He made him lord of his house,
and ruler of all his possessions,**

²² to instruct his officials at his pleasure,
and to teach his elders wisdom.

SECOND READING Romans 10.4-15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 14.22-36

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, ³⁶ and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection – Sr Elisa
Walking on water

If you remember from last week when Jesus fed the 5000 people plus women and children, he had been trying to get away for a time of prayer so he could mourn the loss of his friend, John the Baptist. Today's Gospel begins in the evening of that day.

After sending the crowd away, Jesus sent the disciples off in a boat to go to the other side of the sea of Galilee, while he finally found the time to go apart for prayer.

The disciples were a fair way over the sea when the wind came up and the waves began to be high and the disciples were having to work hard to keep afloat. Then Jesus appeared catching up to them by walking on the water.

Of course, they were cool about it! NOT!

In fact, they were terrified, because they thought they were seeing a ghost. You can imagine, he must have been hard to see clearly in what- ever light they had, and who can walk on water anyway?

Jesus, called out to them.

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

The disciples had been through storms on the sea before. In another story Jesus had been with them on the boat [sleeping but present], in this story he was absent, but came to them in their need.

Before we get to Peter's part in the story; let us pause and look at Matthew's circumstances.

The community Matthew was writing to, was a persecuted community, trying to find their way in the absence of their Messiah, who had walked and talked with them, and healed their diseases and provided for them in miraculous ways.

Now they were afloat in the midst of the storms of life, doing what Jesus had called them to do, only to find themselves overwhelmed, and Jesus seemingly absent.

This is our story; the human Jesus is no longer physically in the world. We modern disciples are endeavouring to be faithful in following him in many different circumstances, and life can seem overwhelming.

Jesus though comes to us in those moments in the form of the Holy Spirit and the reassuring presence of God, and we have a choice to allow the fear to over-whelm us or to hear his voice.

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

That; ‘it is I’ is the Greek; ‘ego eimi’ which is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name of God ‘I am who I am’. So, for the disciples in this moment, Jesus’ presence is a divine revelation, not the same as, but perhaps in a similar category to the Transfiguration. In the story of the Transfiguration, it is God who speaks of Jesus,

‘this is my beloved son, listen to him’.

Today it is Jesus, walking on water, speaking to his disciples

‘Do not be afraid, it is I’

There have been many times in my life when I've felt overwhelmed like the disciples. My major conversion which led me to give my life to Jesus was such a time. I was depressed and suicidal and in desperation I cried out to God for help and a few days later I was given a revelation of the love of God. When I got back in the boat, my storm was over, and my life was changed for ever. That is how it is.

Jesus said: 'Do not be afraid, it is I'

Peter on hearing these words calls out across the water,

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

In this Peter is all of us, uncertain, but desiring to be with our Lord, and at the command of Jesus, is ready to reach out to him within the storm. And so, Jesus says to him, and to you and me, 'Come!'

And so, Peter boldly left the boat. At times in our lives we too boldly step out of our comfort zones at our Lord's direction, and we find ourselves in the swirls of life as they rise and fall and knock us around. We journey OK, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, but; we get distracted and the fear wells up within us, and we become overwhelmed with the terrors around and begin to sink. 'Lord save me', or maybe we berate ourselves with 'Oh Lord, why didn't I remember!'

Peter is often criticised for losing the plot, but in fact he is ahead of the game in that he had the nerve to do as Jesus had called him to do, and his response as he began to sink, 'Lord save me', was perfect.

How might Jesus save us in the midst of our storms in life?

Well the first thing to be aware of, is that the storms will come and go for all of us at different times. Each of us has limits and buttons which can be pushed during various events, and how tolerant and patient and emotionally well we are in these moments, can depend a great deal on character and support and faith. Even just a little faith will be enough.

We may be sick, we may be feeling stressed by Covid19 and the associated rules of isolation, we may be grieving the loss of some one we love, or maybe we have lost our job, or we may have some other issues in our lives. If we look at what we don't have, if we think about ourselves instead of keeping our eyes and ears on Jesus and walking through and over all the challenges of life, we will go under. What is he saying to you now as you ask for his help?

This is part of the cross for us. We take up our cross in whatever circumstance we find ourselves seeking to follow Jesus in that situation. That means, keeping our eyes and ears on him, and letting go of our lives as we've known them and taking the scary step of allowing his to call to us to empower us to step out of whatever boat we are clinging to, and allowing him reach out to us and even save us in the wild seas of this life.

Then he will bring us back to the boat, and things will be different, the storm will cease, and the boat will be like the gathered church of God which knows him, is awed by his presence and power, and in recognition that he is the Son of

God, worships him as we worship today. And we will begin to live again with a renewed and revitalised faith.

May God's love and presence deepen your faith and worship and bring you peace, as you cry out for his help and aid, through the storms of your life. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

Most merciful God, we bring to you our prayers for your world and its people:

We remember today especially the Lebanese people and particularly those living in Beirut after the explosion that has damaged so many lives and the city.

For all those countries where Covid19 is still raging out of control.

For victims of disaster, starvation, and disease.

For all aid and relief workers.

As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that we may take heart from your presence.

Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

We bring to you our prayer for the church.

In places of persecution

In places where it is marginalised and ignored,

In places where it is discredited by discord and disgrace,

In these days of restrictions because of Covid19.

As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that our faith may be rekindled by your presence.

Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

We bring to you our prayers for this community in these days of Covid19,

For all who are in abusive relationships

The homeless.

Those who have lost work and struggling financially.

Those who are unable to care for themselves.

For our families and friends and those with whom we share our lives.

As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that we may draw strength from your presence.

Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

We bring to you our prayers for those in need:

The isolated and lonely and distressed.

Those who mourn.

Those who are afraid, confused or without hope,

The sick and all who care for them.

Those with Covid19 and all who are risking their lives to nurse and maintain control of this dreadful disease.

For all whom we carry in our hearts today and those who have asked for our prayers:

Daniel, Vicki, David & Vera, Ken, Margaret, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Hazel, Heather, Ann, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Gillian, Pauline & Barrie, Hilary.

Silence to remember anyone else.

As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that our terrors may be calmed by your presence.

Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

We bring before you those who have died in the faith.

Especially any we have known and loved and members of our parish

Silence to remember those we carry with us today.

As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that with your faithful people of every age, we may come to find in your presence a place of everlasting peace and joy:

Most merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

Adapted from 'Let Us Pray' Janet Nelson

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ!

His Spirit is with us!

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 SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

We prepare ourselves for an act of Spiritual communion using the words Our Saviour Christ has taught us 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.

**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.

Pause

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen”

Silence to reflect.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God and merciful Father, we give you hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and all your people. We bless you for our creation and preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such a sense of all your mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful and that we may praise you not only with our lips, but in our lives, serving you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Father we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

NOTICES & MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. **Amen**

THE BLESSING

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 9.30am: Genesis 45.1-15, Psalm 133, Romans 11.13-32 (33-36), Matthew 15.(10-20), 21-28

Diary for the next week

- 5pm. Tuesday Evening: Zoom Evening Prayer with focus on prayer for Covid19 & our Diocese. All welcome to join us
- 10.30am. Thursday: Bible Study via Zoom all welcome.
- 10.30am Friday cuppa and chat (via Zoom)
- 9.30 am Sunday Eucharist [Zoom]. *Contact Sr Elisa for the link to the service if you do not have it.*



Mothers' union family

What a privilege it is to belong to a World-wide family whose mission is to bring Love and Peace to men, women and children wherever they may be. The Mothers' Union family is a microcosm of the unity between all of creation. At the halfway point in time from Christ on earth to now, St Francis spoke of Brother Sun, Sister Moon. The intensity of his spiritual awareness can be overwhelming. Let us summon some measure of that feeling of family for other MU members so we may truly regard them as our brothers and sisters.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1: 2-3

A community of other faiths joined the parenting program in Myanmar. Members were prepared to welcome other believers, opening their hearts and minds to welcome all of God's children. Change came about when faith and love increased.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St Paul's AGM will be held today at 11.15am via Zoom.

YEARS MIND

Thomas Sampson, Frederick Childs, Geoffrey Kemp, Georgina Watson, Robert Rollason, William Spence (9) Robert Vance, Maria Anderson (10) Nancy Wood (11) Clarence Praetz, Sarah Eastwood-Harris (12) Peter White, James Stevenson, Lillian Troughton, Charles Hancock, Thomas Gwynn, Peter While, Norm Strange (13) Alice Eason, Edgar Wood (14) Leonard Greenbank, Eric Boyle, William Hughes (15)

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 ph

0438 362 589

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin ph 0414 786 762

Mark Stewart ph 0488 333 481

Heather Clinton ph 0402 262 779

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

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