

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



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

Third Sunday of Advent–13th December 2020

***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.



8am Holy Eucharist 10am Parish Eucharist

Welcome to our Eucharist

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.**

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY:

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "be strong, do not fear! Here is your God!"

Isaiah 35.3-4

The third candle is lit.

Prayer:

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you: come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your children may live at peace, honouring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Hymn. TIS 265

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
who mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God draws near:
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, true Wisdom from on high,
who orders all to mind and eye:
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to grow.
Rejoice, rejoice!...

6 O come, bright Daystar, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:
Rejoice, rejoice!...

7 King of the Nations, come, embrace
and unify the human race;
command our sad division cease
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice, rejoice!...

Tr John Mason Neale 1818-66

Invitation to Confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and
disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence to reflect.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing
our sins 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.**

ABSOLUTION

COLLECT OF THE DAY: *(pause for silent prayer)*

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming
of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear
your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in
power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus

Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

A reading from the book of Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

PSALM 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,**
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping,**
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

¹² But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; ¹³ esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the

idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵ See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

²⁵ Beloved, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 1.6-8, 19-28

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Reflection – Sr Elisa

Advent 3. The pointer

We all look at signs every day.

When we drive they tell us where to go or not to go, where to park or not to park, how fast we must go and the signs go on and on.

When we go places we look for signs which show us where the place is. They might be directional signs, or they might be signs which say this is it.

The way we live also provides signs about what is important for us and what we value.

We feel safe when we have a nice home and car.

We like to have a secure job and if we don't then we like to have a secure income of some sort, like a pension or super.

We like to have good friends and family. Or at least most of us do in some way, shape or form.

These are all signs that we like to be loved and we like to be safe and secure.

There are other kinds of signs as well.

Signs which point to truths and reality. We like to think that we live in the lucky country and when we have families and homes and cars we may believe it, but then something happens which brings the illusion of the lucky country to a full stop. Someone shoots someone. Someone hits someone. Someone is homeless or found dead in their home alone after a few days. A child goes missing or is left in a car on a 36-degree day or is hit or abused. Someone commits suicide. Someone has a car accident.

Or else nature does its thing with Covid19 or fire, flood or earthquake.

Often in the face of adversity, the pointers are incredible. People rise-up and help the down trodden and damaged. They give of their time and their goods to make the situation of others better.

When we look around the world we can't help but be aware of rogue leaders playing with dangerous toys- playing with the lives of others under their care. The signs are all there. The bomb, the arrogant and insensitive behaviours, the suffering of the people under their rule.

Even China's intimidating behaviour towards Australia with our trade.

We live in a world where if we attend to the signs, we will see many things are both happening and are possible. Some of it is bad and some of it is good. That's the world we are living in.

The Gospel of John opens with an introduction to the 'Word of God made flesh' and with this, it goes straight on to the one who points to the one who is coming.

In John's Gospel, John is a witness and a sign of the coming into the world of the Son of God. Like any good sign, John's message has little to do with himself and everything to do with the one who John is called to point out.

Listen to the phrases used in the Gospel about John:

God sent a man named John to tell about the light.

John wasn't the light, he only came to tell about the light.

This is the one I told you would come! He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born.

John told the Jewish leaders, 'I am not the Messiah'

I am not Elijah, I am not the prophet.

He said I am only the voice shouting in the desert, 'get the road ready for the Lord.'

John Said: ‘I baptise with water, but there is someone in your midst whom you don’t know. Even though I was born first, I am not good enough to untie his sandals’.

John the Baptist, in the Gospel of John, is really concerned that we get that John the Baptist is not the Messiah, or has any precedence over Jesus. John’s whole purpose for existing is to be a pointer, to point away from himself, and to point to Jesus.

So, when we look at someone like John, he reminds us that our lives too, are not about us, but about the amazing creator God who loves us so much that he sent his Son, ‘the Word’, who existed before all things, into the world. Our eyes therefore are turned immediately from John to Jesus.

John models for us something important about Christian discipleship.

Our job as followers of Jesus is not to get people to look at us personally, but to enable people to look at Jesus through our lives. All that we do and are needs to be reminders that Jesus is present in the world through the grace of God in our lives.

So then how do we do this? Well we don’t go looking for personal attention. We don’t try to get power over other people, so they live and behave as we think they should.

We begin in a very simple way. We begin by looking at Jesus.

How do we look at Jesus then, because that too doesn't always seem straight forward?

We look with hearts that deeply desire to see him- not for any reason other than the truth that we need his love more than anything. In the end, if we seek him with a deep desire, it truly doesn't matter where or how we look, because the longing in our hearts is truly the key.

But for those who want some help and we all do, here are some clues and practices which will make a difference.

We read and listen to Scripture.

Study Scripture and we pray Scripture, asking God to reveal his Word to us within it.

Gather in the body of Christ, and pray, and listen to his Word, to receive him in the bread and wine, to receive his body and blood. To receive his life into our veins and very beings.

Spend time in prayer and silence.

There's a story of a man in France- a poor man who in his lunch break would go and spend an hour sitting in the church looking at the crucifix on the wall, when asked what he was doing by the parish priest, the man said, 'I just sit and look at him and he just looks at me.'

That's how we begin.

Then we do- while keeping our eyes on Jesus.

We live as Jesus lived, so others will see Jesus reflected into the world through our lives. Through the way we love one another. Through the way we lift up the needy, though the way we give of ourselves. Through the way we love the world and this life. Through our attitude of seeking God's way and God's values.

As these things become integrated into our living we point away from ourselves to Christ as John did. So, we too, become voices in the wilderness of this world, preparing the way for the one who is greater than we are. The one who we can only look at in love and gratitude for the grace given. 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

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, send us out as witnesses to your light, so all might believe through your son; that we may be ready for your coming, and eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the worldwide church, its leaders, and its people and especially for St Paul's, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus: **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations of the earth, especially in these days of Covid19, giving thanks for those who are caring for the sick and vulnerable and those who are researching vaccines, that your peace, justice and healing would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus: **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially Ivor, Daniel, Vicki, David & Vera, Margaret, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Heather, Ann, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Gillian, Pauline & Barrie, Hilary.

All who are sick with Covid19, all who care for them and any others we carry in our hearts this day

Pause

that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.
Come Lord Jesus: **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate birthdays and anniversaries and other important events, that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus: **and hear our prayer.**

In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus: **and hear our prayer.**

O Christ, come upon us and anoint us, that the broken hearted would be healed, the captives would find liberty, your favour would be upon us all, and that you would hear our prayers; Come Lord Jesus. Amen. *Based on*

prayers written by Rick Morely

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. Amen

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]*

Offertory Hymn: TIS 272 Come thou long expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Offertory Prayer

Response: Blessed be God forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The body of Christ broken for you.

The blood of Christ poured out for you.

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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; 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 8am and 10am: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16, Song of Mary, Romans 16.25-27, Luke 1.26-38

Diary for the next week

5.30 pm Wednesday Advent Meditation in the church and on Zoom: Theme this week: Advent Love.

10.30am Thursday Eucharist.

10.30 am Friday, Coffee and chat at 'A Pot of Courage', 25-39 Barkly Sq. Please book with Sue Lanyon. Mob: 0429 092 205

8.00 am and 10 am Sunday Eucharist



Journeying

O Adonai Ruler of ancient Israel, appearing to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, carving in him on Sinai the words of the living law, come, etch your holy way even into the lines of our faces. Jim Cotter 'Cries of Advent' No 3. From Prayer in the Morning, Cairns Publications 1989. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 9:2 The life's journey of an 8 year-old girl in Eastern Cape South Africa was changed by the ministry (the holy way) of MU and the local municipality. Sibabalwe's prosthetic leg brought her smiles, hope for the future and playtime with school friends.

ST PAUL'S CALENDAR 2021

Orders are now being taken for the St Paul's calendar. The cost is \$10 per copy. If you would like to order one please write your name on the list in the church or contact the office.

YEAR'S MIND

Percival Allen, Dustin Blackman (13) John Gladman, Hilary Bilston, Isaac Hellard (14) James Fishwick (15) Daniel Judd, Irene Jakes, Sharyn Slater, Mabel Clearson, Bruce Shuttleworth, Seraphina Strange, Brian Evans, Thomas Smith, Annie Edwards, Edward Allen, Annie Nichols, Harry Colliver (16) William Martin, Lewis Hubbard, William Walker, Stella Flude, Violet Campbell (17) William Lancaster (18) William Brawn, Harry Herbert, Murray Gilmour, Evan Gray, Elizabeth Davis, William Braver (19)

ST PAUL'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The raffle will be drawn TODAY at the 10 am Service

Prizes are 1st -Hamper, 2nd -Christmas Cake, 3rd -\$20 Voucher, plus 9 Mystery Prizes.

Thank you to everyone for your enthusiastic support.

ANGLICARE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Anglicare is requesting donations of toys, Christmas food, vouchers or money. They would also appreciate help delivering hampers.

Christmas Services at St Paul's 2020.



Christmas Eve.

6pm in the Deanery garden-

Children's Service with Holy Communion.

Bring chairs and rugs to sit on.

Children please come dressed as angels, shepherds and wise people.

Christmas Day.

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion.

FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

With 2021 only a few weeks away the Fundraising /Social Committee has planned for several social gatherings and events for next year---

Dates for your 2021 Diary

16th February Shrove Tuesday --Pancake Tea

28th February or 14th March --Parish Picnic

1st May- Plant Sale

27th June- Patronal Festival

2020 has had many twists and turns but through it all fundraising for St Paul's has continued.

Total for all fundraising so far, for this financial year is \$8752, which is an amazing effort. Well done St Paul's.

MORNING COFFEE AT "A POT OF COURAGE"

Thank you to everyone who has come out in recent weeks and supported our Morning Coffee on Fridays at A Pot of Courage. It has been wonderful to reconnect as we all pick up our lives again post isolation.

Our final gathering for the year will be this Friday 18 December at 10.30am. While it is not essential to book now that the cap on dining numbers has been lifted, it is helpful for table set-up and reservation. So if possible just let me know by the Thursday afternoon so I can confirm with APOC.

Our first meet-up again will be on Friday 15th January. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Sue Lanyon: mob 0429 092 205

ADVENT MEDITATION

This week is our last meditation

1. Advent love. [Wednesday Dec 16 at 5.30pm]

This service is both in person in the church, and on Zoom.

You are of course all invited.

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 ph 0413 158 437

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

Safe Church and Covidsafe Officer:

Sue Lanyon ph 0429092205 suelanyon@hotmail.com

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

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