



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

St George's, Trentham 9.00am | St Mary's, Woodend 11.00am



31st March 2019 – Fourth Sunday in Lent, Laetare Sunday

We acknowledge the Jaara Jaara people,
of the Dja Dja Wurrung language group,
the custodians of this land where we gather.

We pay our respects to their elders past and present and pray for
reconciliation.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15.21

Gathering Hymn – 194 O love how deep

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. **Whose mercy endures forever.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Prayer of preparation (page 119 of the prayer book)

Almighty God...

The Confession

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted.

Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

The absolution

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray

God of compassion,
you are slow to anger, and full of mercy,
welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts:
receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you,
and seat them at your bountiful table,
that, with all your children,
they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of Joshua chapter 5 verses 2 to 12

At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time." So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the Israelites travelled forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the LORD. To them the LORD swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

For the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

Psalm 32

Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:
whose iniquity is put away.

**Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame:
and in whose spirit there is no guile.**

For whilst I held my tongue:
my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.

**Your hand was heavy upon me day and night:
and my moisture was dried up like a drought in summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you:
and my iniquity I did not hide;

**I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord':
and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.**

For this cause shall everyone that is faithful
make their prayer to you in the day of trouble:
and in the time of the great water-flood,
it shall not come near them.

**You are a place to hide me in,
you will preserve me from trouble:**

you will surround me with deliverance on every side.

'I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you should go:
I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you counsel.

**'Be not like horse or mule, that have no understanding:
whose forward course must be curbed with bit and bridle.'**

Great tribulations remain for the ungodly:
but whoever puts their trust in the Lord,
mercy embraces them on every side.

**Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad:
and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart.**

*A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians chapter 5 verses
16 to 21*

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

For the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

*Praise to you Lord Jesus, King of endless Glory
Saviour of the world, Saviour of the world.*

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke chapter 15
beginning at the 11th verse*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are

always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

For the Gospel of the Lord **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

The Sermon

The affirmation of faith (page 123 of the prayer book)

The Prayers of the People

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

We pray the prayer of Approach (page 125)

The Greeting of Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Chant – (repeat until the altar is ready)

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

We give thanks for the offered gifts

God our sustainer,
receive the gifts we bring before you,
and feed us continually with that bread which satisfies all hunger,
and the wine that quenches all thirst,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The preface to the Great Thanksgiving prayer is on page 151

....for ever praising you and saying

**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 Lord's name
Hosanna in the Highest**

we return to page 128

...we say together

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

...in songs of never ending praise

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours forever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,**

on earth as it is 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 for ever. Amen.

The Sending out of God's people

Prayer after communion...

God of mercy,
May we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world. **Amen.**

The Notices

Final Hymn – 341 My song is love unknown

The Blessing and Dismissal

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
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.

****some thoughts from Rev. Mel*

Today is known as Laetare Sunday in the church. The word *laetare*, comes from the Latin meaning "to rejoice". It is sort of the mid point of Lent and is, traditionally, a day when the austerity of Lent is lessened a bit.

Traditionally the liturgical colour for today is rose and the traditional readings would come from Isaiah 66.10 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult and be filled from the breasts of your consolation' ...hence the laetare meaning rejoice!

We read the story today in Luke of the rejoicing of the father when his wayward son returns. It is such a well known and loved story, but sometimes those well known stories can cause us to switch off a bit because we think we know them so well.

An exercise for us all this week is to read the story of the returned son and picture who **we** are in the story. Are we the returned son, the son who was always there, the slaves, the friends who come to celebrate, do we see some of our self in the father? And what does that mean for us?

Parables enable us to do this often. It is an invitation from Jesus to explore our own hearts and faith.

Peace, Mel

Pew Bulletin

Safe Church

If you haven't done a workshop and you think you need to please speak to Reverend Mel. There are two workshops coming up:

Saturday 6 April at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

Saturday 15 June at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

Please register via the website www.bendigoanglican.org.au

The cost of the workshop is \$35 and the parish will reimburse you if you require.

Saturdays in Lent

We are gathering for Taize style prayer at 6.30pm each Saturday evening during Lent, alternating between the two centres.

April 6	St Mary's
April 13	St George's

Sundays in Lent – God at the Movies

On Sunday afternoons in Lent the BBC series *Broken* will be shown in the Sherlocks' home at 3 Lelant Street, Trentham. Each runs for an hour and will begin at 2.30pm.

Other Lenten and Triduum Dates

Activity	Date	Location
Maundy Thursday	Thursday April 18	St Paul's Kyneton
Good Friday service and ecumenical walk	Friday April 19 9am	St George's Trentham
Good Friday service	Friday April 19 1pm	Woodend Children's Park
Holy Saturday Vigil	April 20 7.30pm	St Mary's Woodend

First Friday Movie

Our First Friday of the Month Film for April will be 'Christopher Robin' starring Ewan McGregor. Please join us from 6pm on Friday April 5.

Lawn Mower inductions

If you have volunteered to mow the lawns at St Mary's with the new ride on the induction will be held on April 13 at 1.30pm.

VCC Emergency Ministries Volunteer Needed

If you are interested in training to be a volunteer for the Victoria council of Churches please get in touch with Rosie Baker.

Face to face training on May 25th with workbook to be completed prior.

News from the Guilds:

St Mary's Guild – Please pick up a bulb order form.

St Mary's Guild - mission giving for the Anglican Board of Mission. If you have some coins to drop in the box at St Mary's as you leave please do.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy birthday to Hayden Clune, Pam Bosanquet, and Jack Shepherd

Years Mind and those who have died recently

We thank God for the companionship of our pets and especially Max the cat. We pray for Keith as he grieves him.

We remember Audrey Harrison, Annie Hutcheon, and John Merchant

Intercessions – our prayers are asked for:

Bill, Sam, Wendy, Jeanette, Carmela, Jim, Judy and John, Hayden, Sandra, Sheryl and Roger, Trevor, Kristina and Jon, Judy, Ron, Fletcher, Russell, Elizabeth, Gael, Faye, Keith, William, Philip, and Michael and Sue.

Readings for next week

Isaiah 43.16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3.3-14

John 12.1-8

Mission and Parish Giving

If you would like to participate in the direct debit offering option our account details are:

BSB 633 000

Account 1498 24906

Ref: Parish Giving



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

*Reverend Mel is in the registry on Mondays
and has her day off on Fridays.*

PO Box 699, Woodend, VIC 3442 |

www.woodendanglican.org.au Priest: Rev'd Melissa Clark 0411 722 718

Wardens: Derek Shepherd 0417 252 222 Robyn Leeder 0415 216 711



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