

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king
of Israel!

John 1.41, 49

Gathering Hymn – 658 I, The Lord of Sea and Sky

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

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

Almighty God...

The Shema (page 120 of the prayer book)

Hear, O Israel....

The Confession and absolution (page 120 of the prayer book)

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's
forgiveness.

Merciful God...

The Gloria (page 121 of the prayer book)

Glory to God in the highest...

Let us pray our prayer for the week

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 for ever.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the first book of Samuel chapter 3 verses 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

Psalm 139.1-18

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand,
you comprehend my thoughts long before.

**You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.**

For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.

**You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.

**Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?**

If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.

**If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.

**If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the night will enclose me',**

The darkness is no darkness with you,
but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and the light are both alike.

**For you have created my inward parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

I will praise you, for you are to be feared:
fearful are your acts, and wonderful your works.

**You knew my soul, and my bones were not hidden from you:
when I was formed in secret,
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:
and in your book were all my members written;

**Day by day they were fashioned:
and not one was late in growing.**

How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:
and how great is the sum of them!

**Were I to count them, they are more in number than the sand:
were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 6 verses 12 – 20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?
For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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

Gradual Hymn – 87 You are before me

Alleluia Alleluia

We have seen his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.

Alleluia

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John chapter 1
beginning at the 43rd verse*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

The 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.

Offertory Hymn – 561 Who would true valour see

**a collection to assist the mission of God in this
parish will be taken up during this hymn*

Blessed are you.....(*we give thanks for the bread and wine*)
Blessed be God forever

Blessed are you.....(*we give thanks for money and food offerings*)
Blessed be God forever

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

....for ever 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 Lord's name
Hosanna in the Highest

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 for ever and ever. Amen**

*With our hearts set on the kingdom and our hands open to serve, we
pray as Jesus taught us... (page 141)*

Our Father in heaven...

The Sending out of God's people

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Most loving God...
**you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

The Notices

Final Hymn – 561 Who would true valour see

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds 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.

****some thoughts from Rev. Mel*

I had to get my car passenger side airbag replaced this week – this is the second time I’ve had to replace an airbag in my car because of a recall on a faulty product within the air bag mechanism. I was annoyed to have to take a big chunk out of my day off to go AGAIN and do this...and I had put it off for as long as I could, telling myself that I just didn’t have time to do it.

We dropped my car off and were collected by a courtesy bus and taken to the DFO shopping centre (the car dealership is in Essendon), so we went for a wander for an hour or so, not really buying anything, just browsing. It wasn’t too crowded so it was a nice way to spend an hour.

As we were driving into Melbourne afterwards for an appointment, I realised that my grumpiness at having to “waste” a morning getting my car fixed, and all the other “wasted time” that went with the day, was very unreasonable. It struck me that it is an extraordinary life that we live here. I drive a very safe car on (usually) safe roads, I have access to anything that I want to buy, enough to feed my family, fill my home with whatever we need, and safely drive into the city and home again.

The recent reporting on so called ‘African gangs’ reminds me that not everyone has this privileged life. When I worked with the South Sudanese community in Sunshine it was an extraordinary honour to hear some of their stories from their homelands. Stories that are

horrific – I used to wonder how they made it out with any part of their humanity still intact; but they did, and they were beautifully hospitable, prayerful, joyous people.

The recent reporting of gang violence is not helpful to any part of our community. Yes, there may be some people who have not been able to fully engage with their new country and have taken to breaking the law, but if we consider the recent history of Australia this type of prejudice against “new comers” is a reoccurring thing.

The Europeans who arrived in the 50’s and 60’s, the Vietnamese who arrived in the 80’s and 90’s, the Indians who arrived in the 2000’s and now the Africans; they have all come here fleeing war or famine or extreme poverty to make their lives and their children’s lives better....and, sadly, they have all been reported on in the way that we are now seeing in the media. It seems we have learned nothing.

I pray that as Christians we can continue to open our hearts and arms to people who come seeking a better life. It is, after all, our duty to welcome the poor, the weak, and the persecuted.

Peace

Mel

Pew Bulletin

Every week!

Conversations – resuming again in February

Meditation Group – Monday’s at 5pm in St Mary’s

The Melbourne Anglican

If you would like to receive a copy of The Melbourne Anglican newspaper each month, please let Norma Richardson know.

There is a cost for this subscription.

Diary Date

Our AGM is set for February 11th (the day we will celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus). We need one more Parish Council member so please see Rev. Mel if you're interested or feel called to help your parish in this important way.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
...To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

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Intercessions – our prayers are asked for: John, Sam, Jim, Andrea, Alison, Ethan, Kirsten, Carole, Wendy, Judy, Jonathan, Jeanette, Susie, Trevor, Rudi, Trish, Hugh, Tim, Joshua and family, Alan, Aldyth, Benjamin, Faye, Lynne, Kay, Don and Frances.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to Neil Matthews on Saturday

Years Mind and those who have died recently

We give thanks for Macey Hope Braybon tomorrow and Dr Gweneth Wisewould on Saturday

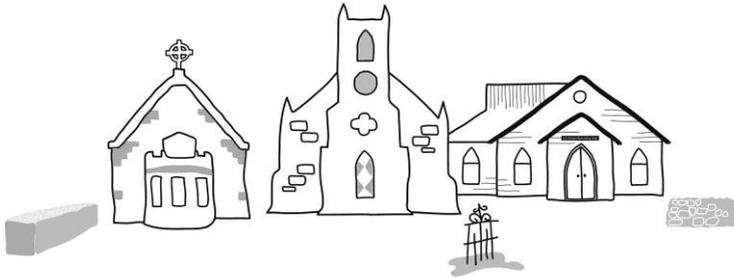
Readings for next week

Jonah 3.1-10

Ps 62.5-12

1 Cor 7.29-31

Mark 1.14-20



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