

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona
St Clement's Altona Meadows
O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

22nd March 2020 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

7:45am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
8:45am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's

*Wominjeka :: Haere mai
Welcome*



A warm welcome to our worship today,
especially if you are with us for the first
time or visiting from elsewhere.

This booklet contains the parts of the service
which change from week to week, as
referred to in the coloured service booklet.
Hymns are found in *Together in Song* (the
red book in the pew in front of you).

Our parish lies on the traditional country of the Yaluk-ut Weelam people within the Boonwurrung clan, part of the greater Kulin nation. We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing.

OPENING HYMN: 447

Lord, your almighty word

COLLECT

Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PARISH PRAYER

Creator God, your love gives life in abundance, and makes us whole again and again. Draw us closer to Jesus, we pray, and give us a heart for all your beloved children. By your Spirit, may our parish bring blessing to young and old, and may our lives be good news for a hungry world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING *1 Samuel 16.1-13*

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons."

"How can I do that?" Samuel asked.

"When Saul hears of it he'll kill me!"

"Take a heifer with you," the LORD replied, "and say, 'I have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to

you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you."

Samuel did what the LORD instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. "Do you come in peace?" they asked.

"Yes," Samuel answered. "I've come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice." Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the LORD's anointed right in front.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the LORD sees into the heart."

Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either." So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "No, the LORD hasn't chosen this one." Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD hasn't picked any of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Is that all of your boys?"

"There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he's out keeping the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here."

So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, "That's the one. Go anoint him." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The LORD's spirit came over David from that point forward.

Then Samuel left and went to Ramah. (CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.

He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND READING *Ephesians 5.8-13*

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to

the Lord, and don't participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. It's embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light.

Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, *Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.* (CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN: 229

Jesus loves me, this I know

GOSPEL READING *John 9.1-41*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?"

Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's

mighty works might be displayed in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

The man's neighbours and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him."

But the man said, "Yes, it's me!"

So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?"

He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see."

They asked, "Where is this man?"

He replied, "I don't know."

Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see."

Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't

from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?"

He replied, "He's a prophet."

The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?"

His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. That's why his parents said, "He's old enough. Ask him."

Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner."

The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see."

They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?"

He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear

it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man is from."

The man answered, "This is incredible! You don't know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God's will. No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this."

They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him.

Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One?"

He answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you."

The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus.

Jesus said, "I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don't see can see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, "Surely we aren't blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't have any sin, but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

(CEB)

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN: 153

God is love, let heav'n adore him

COMMUNION HYMN:

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

(Hymn 706)

Words: Taizé Community

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FINAL HYMN: 560

All my hope on God is founded

Readings for next Sunday: 29 March (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

For reflection during the week:

Exodus 6.2-13; Psalm 131; Matthew 27.32-56

From your priest...

Dear friends,

Many of you will have seen my email yesterday, with the news that after today we too will be suspending public services, as we seek to look after each other and our local community. (There are copies of this letter available today too.) We have already this past week suspended most of our other activities: playgroups, Op Shop, Soup and Sandwiches. I very much share with you a sense a sadness and grief at losing—for a time—these familiar ways of worshipping and being together.

But let us also be clear that the church will very much continue during these days! This was well expressed in words written to clergy of the Church of England a few days ago:

Being a part of the Church ... is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support. ... Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that will counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.

As these words suggest, there are plenty of ways that we can each participate in being the church during this time. All that is required, for starters, is a Bible and a phone! Could each of us commit to a habit of reading and reflecting on the weekly Bible readings; and, for example, phoning one other person each day? Another useful resource is our Anglican Prayer Book: you can borrow one today if you don't already have a copy.

There will also be opportunities to join with each other online in shared times of prayer and worship. We will work this out as we go along, but an initial pattern is given on the back page. If you are not used to these technologies, I do encourage you to give it a try. And if you are familiar with these things, is there someone near you whom you could assist in joining in?

The St Eanswythe's church building will continue to be open most days for anyone who wants to sit, to pray, to light a candle.

Please do let me or someone else know if you or someone you know has a particular need—whether for prayer or pasta or something else! Between us we can, I'm sure, care for each other and meet these needs.

With my prayers for our life together as God's people, Chris

Dates for your diaries

5 April

Palm Sunday (NB Daylight Saving ends)

9 April

Maundy Thursday

10 April

Good Friday

12 April

Easter Day

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For health workers and officials, and for all in public leadership as COVID-19 continues to spread.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. For Christians who are persecuted and martyred today, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: Ministry with Torres Strait Islander people.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; Parish of St Thomas', Langwarrin with St Peter's, Pearcedale.

Our parish & community: For all of us as we look for new ways to connect with each other and care for each other. For those who are most isolated at this time.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Particular current prayers: Marge, Faye, Emilija.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Shirley King (22), Jack Kane (25), Lilian Brown (26), Josephine Saunders (29).

Ongoing prayers (*remembered at Morning Prayer through the week*): Sharilyn, Ruby, Paul, Mavis, Bronwyn, Belinda, Joseph, Peter, Daniel, Stuart, Nick, Vahid, Malek, Davey, Jimmy, Jayden, Ashlee, Tanatha, Julia, Elly, James, Eric.

To add names to the prayer list, either those needing prayers now (with their agreement) or those to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please send details to anglicanaltlav@gmail.com or give to the Vicar.



A prayer for these times:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Keeping in touch...

- ⇒ Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ Pew sheets are (and will continue to be) available on our website at **www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets**
- ⇒ Visit **www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav** for photos, links, news and other updates.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive emails regarding news, arrangements for services, and other updates, please send your email address to **anglicanaltlav@gmail.com**

Please send all material for the pew sheet to **anglicanaltlav@gmail.com**

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St Clement's telephone [when church is attended] - 9315 8959

Vicar:

The Rev'd Chris Lancaster

0423 199 850 revdchrislancaster@gmail.com

Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:

The Rev'd Danny McRoberts

0448 841 196 dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Lily Griffin

Anita McAnda

Scott Pitcher

Child Safe Officers:

Sandra Hansen (St Clement's)

Anita McAnda (St Eanswythe's)

This week in our parish:

Sunday 22nd March

Fourth Sunday in Lent

7:45am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

8:45am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's

Tuesday 24th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on

Facebook

Wednesday 25th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

Thursday 26th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on

Facebook

Friday 27th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

Sunday 29th March

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Provisional plan:

8am Holy Eucharist, streamed on Facebook

9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer,

open to join on Zoom

[Lent study groups—plans communicated within each group]

Services on Facebook can be accessed at www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav

Services on Zoom can be accessed at zoom.us/j/9726172254

SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45am St Clement's and 10:30am St Eanswythe's

Groups meeting regularly in the parish (in recess until further notice):

Altona Tiddlers Playgroup: Tuesdays in term time, 10am at St Eanswythe's. Contact Jan Lee (9398 2993)

Clementines Playgroup: Fridays in term time, 9:30am at St Clement's. Contact Louise (9395 5472)

Mothers' Union: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Thursday at 11am. Contact Sandra Hansen (0410 040 661)

Caritas: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Tuesday evening at 7:30pm. Contact Joan Meiers (9398 1906)

Reflective Bible Study: monthly at the Vicarage, first Tuesday evening at 7:30pm.