



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*

16th August 2020 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, open to join on Zoom

Welcome...

...whether you are sharing in worship online or reading this pew sheet quietly at home. The life of our parish continues!

This includes our ongoing care for each other—please don't hesitate to contact someone else in the parish, or the Vicar, if there's anything you need.

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.

From your priest...

Dear friends,

Today's gospel reading introduces us to a woman whose faith becomes an example to others. It's no wonder that this short encounter was remembered and retold by Jesus' followers, because (as both Matthew and Mark describe) it's one of the few occasions where anyone answers back to Jesus, let alone changes his mind. The woman is not named, but it's made clear that she is a Gentile—someone who is outside God's people of Israel.

At the time much of the New Testament was written, this was a compelling theological question: how should the followers of Jesus (the first of whom were all Jews) respond to the fact that God now seemed to be including outsiders in the promise and blessing which had initially been for the people of Israel? (We see Paul wrestling with this question in today's reading from the letter to the Romans, which is part of a much larger argument in that letter.)

When Jesus meets this Canaanite woman, it seems that he too is completely focused on his mission to the people of Israel: so much so that he dismisses her request for her daughter to be healed, in terms that are almost offensive. It is she who persuades him that even with his focus on Israel, there is still potential for outsiders to benefit from his power and blessing. Jesus in turn recognises this plea as a sign of faith, which warrants a response—and her daughter is healed.

Elsewhere in Matthew's Gospel there are plenty of other reminders that through Jesus, God is reaching out to every people. Near the beginning of the story, magi come from the east to pay homage to the infant Jesus: they are outsiders drawn by the light of the star of Bethlehem. And Matthew ends his account with Jesus sending his followers to "make disciples of all nations". This is the God who constantly crosses boundaries in order to reach out in love.

As Matthew tells it, the disciples wanted Jesus to "send her away": to get rid of this outsider's voice which insisted on being heard, and which refused to accept being cut off from a goodness which is meant for all. I wonder we hear those voices today... the voices of those who insist on a hearing, who remind us that there is room for more people in the blessings that we have been given, and who challenge us to broaden our hearts and even our notion of God. Perhaps it might turn out that they are showing a greater faith than our own.

Peace be with you all,
Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

COLLECT

God of freedom, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives 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 *Genesis 45.1-15*

Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, "Everyone, leave now!" So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's household heard him. Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

"Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.' You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I'm speaking to you. Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you've seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. He kissed all of his

brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *133*

Behold how good and how lovely it is: when families live together in unity.

It is fragrant as oil upon the head, that runs down over the beard: fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron, that ran down over the collar of his robe.

It is like a dew of Hermon: like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.

For there the Lord has commanded his blessing: which is life for evermore.

SECOND READING *Romans 11.13-24*

I'm speaking to you Gentiles. Considering that I'm an apostle to the Gentiles, I publicize my own ministry in the hope that somehow I might make my own people jealous and save some of them. If their rejection has brought about a close relationship between God and the world, how can their acceptance mean anything less than life from the dead?

But if part of a batch of dough is offered to God as holy, the whole batch of dough is holy too. If a root is holy, the branches will be holy too. If some of the branches were broken off, and you were a wild olive branch, and you were grafted in among the other branches and shared the root that produces the rich oil of the olive tree, then don't brag like you're better than the other branches. If you do brag, be careful: it's not you that sustains the root, but it's the root that sustains you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Fine. They were broken off because they weren't faithful, but you stand only by your faithfulness. So don't think in a proud way; instead be afraid. If God didn't spare the natural branches, he won't spare you either. So look at God's kindness and harshness. It's harshness toward those who fell, but it's God's kindness for you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise, you could be cut off too. And even those who were cut off will be grafted back in if they don't continue to be unfaithful, because God is able to graft them in again. If you were naturally part of a wild olive tree and you were cut off from it, and then, contrary to nature, you were grafted into the cultivated olive tree, won't these natural branches stand an even better chance of being grafted back onto their own olive tree?

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 15.21-28*

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." But he didn't respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us."

Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel."

But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me."

He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs."

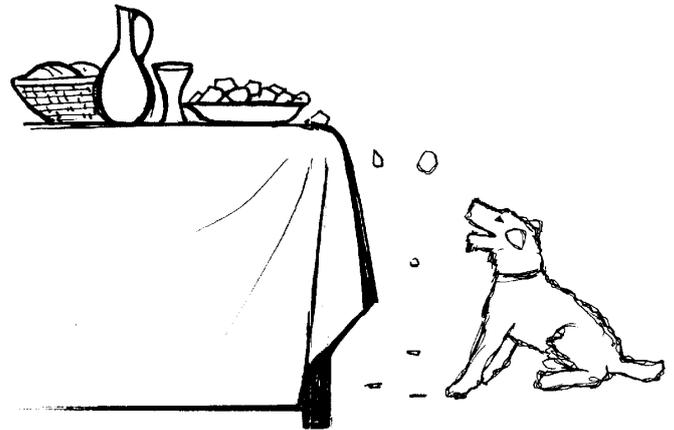
She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table."

Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Readings for next week: 23 August (Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost):

Exodus 1.8-2.10; Psalm 124; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

GROWING IN FAITH Five conversations are on offer in August and September:

- Richard Rohr's chapter "Two Witnesses to Jesus and Christ"
- COVID19: a time of trial; but is it also a time of opportunity?
- When I Pray
- Prayers and Intercession
- Sharing faith in our families

See <https://anglicanaltlav.org.au/growing-in-faith-august-september-2020> for more details on each of these, as well as links to the Zoom meetings for each group. Everyone is welcome to join, and no prior knowledge is needed.

This week:

Wednesday 7:30pm—COVID19: a time of trial; but is it also a time of opportunity? (Conversation hosted by Richard Hallett) Before this group meets, you might like to have a think about your own experience of the last six months—what has been difficult, and what has been an unexpected blessing?

KIDS' CORNER 4-4:30pm on Wednesdays, on Zoom—some games, a story and a chat with others. All welcome! (The Zoom link is the same as for Sundays.)

READERS AT 8AM If you would like to be one of two readers at the 8am Morning Prayer service on a Sunday, please let Rev'd Chris know. The readers join in from home via Zoom, and the service is also live streamed on our parish Facebook page.

OFFICE PHONE The parish office phone (9398 1005) is currently not functioning, due to complications with transferring to the NBN. To contact Rev'd Chris please use 0423 199 850.

THANK YOU to everyone who has found a way to continue giving to the parish over the last four months. Deposits can be made to the parish Bendigo Bank account at any time (BSB 633 000, account number 157 594 722, account name "St Eanswythe's Altona with St Clement's Laverton Anglican Churches"). For further details see the *giving* page on our parish website: anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For collaboration and goodwill in medical research to develop a coronavirus vaccine.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Liberia and Sierra Leone. For Christians who are persecuted and martyred today, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: General Synod Standing Committee.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; hospital chaplains; St Mark's, Dromana.

Our parish & community: For those unable to see loved ones who are unwell; for those who are grieving.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Particular current prayers: Peter, Faye, Susan, Jane, Gustavo.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Br Roger of Taizé (16), Lucy Featherby (17), Charles Grieve (19), Lionel Saunders (21), Dennis Preston (21), Irene King (21), Muriel Hudson (22), Joyce Stapleton (22).

Ongoing prayers (remembered at Morning Prayer through the week):

Sharilyn, Ruby, Paul, Mavis, Belinda, Joseph, Daniel, Stuart, Nick, Vahid, Malek, Davey, Jimmy, Jayden, Ashlee, Tanatha, Julia, Anna W, Elly, Patricia M, Tim.

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...

- ⇒ Pew sheets are 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

The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

www.anglicanaltlav.org.au
Tel: 9398 1005 anglicanaltlav@gmail.com
PO Box 48, Altona VIC 3018

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

Theological student:

Dr Kathleen Alleaume-Ross

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 16th August

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, open to join on Zoom
10:30am Children's time, open to join on Zoom
5pm Parish Council, on Zoom

Tuesday 18th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Wednesday 19th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

4pm Kids' Corner, on Zoom

7:30pm Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

Thursday 20th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Friday 21st

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

Sunday 23rd August

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, open to join on Zoom
10:30am Children's time, open to join on Zoom

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

Services on Zoom can be accessed at zoom.us/j/9726172254
(Or by phoning (03) 7018 2005—when prompted, enter 9726172254#;
then when asked for a participant ID, press #.)