



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*

30th August 2020 THIRTEENTH 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,

Perhaps you've sometimes had to write a letter introducing yourself to a person or group that you haven't met: maybe as part of looking for a job, maybe to invite them to an event, maybe to thank them for something they've done.

For the last couple of months we've been reading through a very long example of this kind of communication: Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Paul had heard about this community and had plans to visit them (on his way to Spain, in fact, although that never eventuated), but in the meantime wrote this letter which is often regarded as the most significant account of his theological thinking. It includes extended discussions of how the death of Jesus offers new life to all people, how the Holy Spirit leads us towards hope and prayer, and how God's great purpose has room for both Israelites and the wider human family.

Of course, theological thinking is not just an academic exercise, but leads into the way we live together. For Paul, the life of the Christian community needs to speak of all that God has done in Jesus and continues to unfold in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Although those may sound like comfortably large and vague ideas, in the passage set for today Paul boils them down into a whole list of habits of life: specific actions which are *uncomfortably* small and specific! There are around 25 separate instructions, many of them about the kind of things that are part of our everyday lives: love each other, honour each other, devote yourselves to prayer, contribute to the needs of others, offer hospitality, don't think too highly of yourselves... and so on.

What do you think a community would look like if it were deeply shaped by what Paul writes? What would be that community's particular gift to those around it? What would outsiders see and be attracted to?

This is the kind of passage which invites a slow reading, today and again during the week. Notice if there is a particular line, one of the habits of life that Paul describes, which catches your attention. Instead of reading further, simply sit with those few words, chew on them, talk with God about them. And then notice if there is even a single action which is becoming apparent to you, one thing which would be a lived response to this passage from the letter to the Romans. The American pastor and writer Eugene Peterson put it well:

Obedience is the thing, living in active response to the living God.

The most important question we ask of this text is not, 'What does this mean?' but 'What can I obey?'

With my prayers for our life together, even while we are apart, Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

COLLECT

O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life: transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 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 *Exodus 3.1-15*

Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people

out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me."

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

105.1-6, 23-26

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name: tell among the peoples what things he has done.

Sing to him, O sing praises: and be telling of all his marvellous works.

Exult in his holy name: and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

Seek the Lord and his strength: O seek his face continually.

Call to mind what wonders he has done: his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant: O children of Jacob his chosen one.

Then Israel came into Egypt: and Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.

There the Lord made his people fruitful: too numerous for their enemies,

Whose hearts he turned to hate his people: and to deal deceitfully with his servants.

Then he sent Moses his servant: And Aaron whom he had chosen.

SECOND READING

Romans 12.9-21

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honour to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with

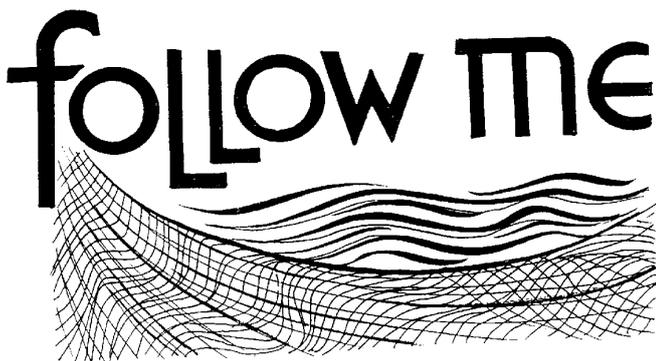
people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL READING *Matthew 16.21-28*

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for next week: 6 September (Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost):

Exodus 12.1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13.1-10; Matthew 18.10-20

GROWING IN FAITH CONVERSATIONS continue this week: everyone is welcome to join, and no prior knowledge is needed. Why not join in and see what you discover?

Sunday 30th at 10:45am—*When I pray* (hosted by Kathleen Alleaume-Ross)

Wednesday 2nd at 7:30pm—*COVID19: a time of trial; but is it also a time of opportunity?* (hosted by Richard Hallett)

Please note that the session scheduled for Thursday 3rd September (*Sharing faith in our families*) has had to be moved to Thursday 24 September. The other meeting for this conversation remains on Tuesday 15 September.

For further details, Zoom links (these are different for each group) and materials to read beforehand, visit

<https://anglicanaltlav.org.au/growing-in-faith-august-september-2020/>

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.)

REFLECTIVE BIBLE STUDY Everyone is welcome to join this time of reading together a passage from the Gospels, and letting it speak to our lives. Tuesday evening, 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom (same link 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.

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 those affected by Hurricane Laura in the USA and by wild weather here in Melbourne.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. For Christians who are persecuted and martyred today, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: Diocese of Melbourne.

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

Our parish & community: For those who are struggling with being alone during this time.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

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

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Carmela Said (31), Victor Nicholas (2), Roy Durbridge (4).

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, Jane.

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

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The Rev'd Danny McRoberts
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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 30th August

Thirteenth 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
10:45 Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

Tuesday 1st September

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
7:30am Reflective Bible study, on Zoom

Wednesday 2nd

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom
4pm Kids' Corner, on Zoom
7:30pm Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

Thursday 3rd

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Friday 4th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

Sunday 6th September

Fourteenth 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 #.)