



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*

6th September 2020 FOURTEENTH 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,

In today's gospel reading we hear Jesus talking about the passionate love of God, like a shepherd who will search out a single sheep rather than allow it to be lost. It's a story that has been told and re-told for young and old, and it speaks to something deep in us: none of us want to be lost, and at some point we have all longed for someone to be seeking us out, and restoring us to a place of belonging, relationship, and security.

There is a beautiful hymn by the New Zealand writer Colin Gibson, which further explores this idea of a God for whom nothing is lost, and for whom everyone and everything is precious.

*Nothing is lost on the breath of God,
nothing is lost for ever;
God's breath is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world for ever.
No feather too light, no hair too fine,
no flower too brief in its glory;
no drop in the ocean, no dust in the air,
but is counted and told in God's story.*

*Nothing is lost to the eyes of God,
nothing is lost for ever;
God sees with love and that love will remain,
holding the world for ever.
No journey too far, no distance too great,
no valley of darkness too blinding;
no creature too humble, no child too small
for God to be seeking, and finding.*

*Nothing is lost to the heart of God,
nothing is lost for ever;
God's heart is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world for ever.
No impulse of love, no office of care,
no moment of life in its fullness;
no beginning too late, no ending too soon,
but is gathered and known in God's goodness.*

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During this time when for many people there is much sense of loss, how might these words point us to hope and trust in the goodness of God?

With my prayers for all that God might be seeking out in us, Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

COLLECT

Go before us, O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 12.1-14*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbour nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Don't eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. Don't let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the LORD. I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

"This day will be a day of remembering for you. You

will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time."

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *149*

O praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song: O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Let them praise him in the dance: let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people: he adorns the meek with his salvation.

Let his faithful ones exult in his glory: let them sing for joy upon their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouths: and a two-edged sword in their hands,

To execute vengeance on the nations: and chastisement upon the peoples,

To bind their kings in chains: and their nobles with fetters of iron,

To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed: such honour belongs to all his faithful servants. Praise the Lord.

SECOND READING *Romans 13.1-10*

Every person should place themselves under the authority of the government. There isn't any authority unless it comes from God, and the authorities that are there have been put in place by God. So anyone who opposes the authority is standing against what God has established. People who take this kind of stand will get punished. The authorities don't frighten people who are doing the right thing. Rather, they frighten people who are doing wrong. Would you rather not be afraid of authority? Do what's right, and you will receive its approval. It is God's servant given for your benefit. But if you do what's wrong, be afraid because it doesn't have weapons to enforce the law for nothing. It is God's servant put in place to carry out his punishment on those who do what is wrong. That is why it is necessary to place yourself under the government's authority, not only to avoid God's punishment but also for the sake of your conscience. You should also pay taxes for the same reason, because the authorities are God's assistants, concerned with this very thing. So pay everyone what you owe them. Pay the taxes you owe, pay the duties you are charged, give respect to those you should respect, and honour those you should honour.

Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbour as yourself*. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 18.10-20*

Jesus said: "Be careful that you don't look down on one of these little ones. I say to you that their angels in heaven are always looking into the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If someone had one hundred sheep and one of them wandered off, wouldn't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillsides and go in search for the one that wandered off? If he finds it, I assure you that he is happier about having that one sheep than about the ninety-nine who didn't wander off. In the same way, my Father who is in heaven doesn't want to lose one of these little ones.

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or

sister. But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Readings for next week: 13 September (St Eanswythe):

Wisdom 3.1-9; Psalm 34; Philippians 4.4-9

NEXT SUNDAY we will celebrate the feast of St Eanswythe, and Archbishop Philip Freier will be joining us and preaching at both services. After the service, there will be some time for conversation with Archbishop Philip—please do bring any questions you would like to raise!

THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN The September issue of TMA is out now: you can read it online at <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>, or if your permitted exercise takes you past the parish office, there are copies on the black shelves.

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?

Tuesday 8th at 7:30pm—*Richard Rohr's chapter "Two Witnesses to Jesus and Christ"* (hosted by Dean Mason)

Wednesday 9th at 7:30pm—*Prayers and intercession* (hosted by Michael Francis)

For further details, Zoom links (these are different for each group) and any 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.)

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 strong and wise leadership which nurtures a commitment to the safety and wellbeing of others.

The Church:

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

Anglican Church of Australia: Diocese of Sydney.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; hospital chaplains; St Oswald's, Glen Iris.

Our parish & community: For those separated for many months from loved ones interstate or overseas.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

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

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Harry Marshall (13), Elsie Oatway (13).

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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Scott Pitcher

Child Safe Officers:

Sandra Hansen (St Clement's)
Anita McAnda (St Eanswythe's)

This week in our parish:

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

Tuesday 8th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
7:30pm Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

Wednesday 9th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

4pm Kids' Corner, on Zoom

7:30pm Growing in faith conversation, on Zoom

Thursday 10th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Friday 11th

9am Morning Prayer, open to join on Zoom

Sunday 13th September

ST EANSWYTHE

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, 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 #.)