



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*

8th November 2020 23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's and streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, 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,

As restrictions have started to ease, many of us are probably starting to return to activities and habits that have been very familiar in the past: routines around school, work, shopping, exercise, social activities, and plenty more. This process of emerging, of engaging more widely and directly with others, is welcome in so many ways—and yet after all these months it is also a process of re-forming habits!

During this week as we have resumed some small in-person services, I've noticed in myself the joy and energy that comes from returning to habits that are life-giving: especially to the familiar words and actions of sharing the Eucharist with others. With you, I look forward to being able to do that in steadily larger gatherings over the coming weeks and months.

It's worth noticing the habits of the life of faith in this time of transition. We have, of course, had to suspend the central habit of gathering together as the people of God, the body of Christ. But other habits may have formed during this year. Some of you have made a point of sharing regularly in Morning Prayer, on Facebook and/or Zoom. Others have spent more time in reading the Bible and in individual prayer. Some have found fresh life simply in doing less, in being less busy.

So in these coming weeks, I do invite and urge you to be thinking about this process of forming and re-forming the habits of the life of faith. What will it mean for you to recommit to gathering with God's people, on Sundays and perhaps other times in the week too? Are there habits of prayer and time with God which you want to hold on to, or to form anew?

There are some resources available on our parish website at anglicanaltlav.org.au/resources-for-prayer-at-home/, and I'm always glad to hear of others if you discover them.

With my prayers for us all as we grow in faith together,
Chris



IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT —

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

COLLECT

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes we may go out joyfully to meet him, and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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 *Joshua 24.1-3a, 14-25*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to the entire people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates. They served other gods. Among them was Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. I took Abraham your ancestor from the other side of the Euphrates. I led him around through the whole land of Canaan.

...

"So now, revere the LORD. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the LORD. But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "God forbid that we ever leave the LORD to serve other gods! The LORD is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we've gone and in all the nations through which we've passed. The LORD has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

Then Joshua said to the people, "You can't serve the LORD, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won't forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you leave the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will

turn around and do you harm and finish you off, in spite of having done you good in the past."

Then the people said to Joshua, "No! The LORD is the one we will serve."

So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD."

They said, "We are witnesses!"

"So now put aside the foreign gods that are among you. Focus your hearts on the LORD, the God of Israel."

The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and will obey him."

On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people and established just rule for them at Shechem.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *78.1-7*

Give heed to my teaching, O my people: incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

For I will open my mouth in a parable: and expound the mysteries of former times.

What we have heard and known: what our forebears have told us,

We will not hide from their children, but declare to a generation yet to come: the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works.

He established a law in Jacob and made a decree in Israel: which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

That future generations might know, and those yet unborn: that they in turn might teach it to their children;

So that they might put their confidence in God: and not forget his works, but keep his commandments.

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 4.9-18*

You don't need us to write about loving your brothers and sisters because God has already taught you to love each other. In fact, you are doing loving deeds for all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. Now we encourage you, brothers and sisters, to do so even more. Aim to live quietly, mind your own business, and earn your own living, just as I told you. That way you'll behave appropriately toward outsiders, and you won't be in need.

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus. What we are saying is a message from the Lord: we who are

alive and still around at the Lord's coming definitely won't go ahead of those who have died. This is because the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the signal of a shout by the head angel and a blast on God's trumpet. First, those who are dead in Christ will rise. Then, we who are living and still around will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord in the air. That way we will always be with the Lord. So encourage each other with these words.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 25.1-13*

Jesus said: "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

"When the groom was late in coming, they all became

drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'

"But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

"Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

"Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour."

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for next week: 15 November (24th Sunday after Pentecost)

Judges 4.1-10; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Parish Meeting is this Sunday 8 November at 10:30am, on Zoom. Reports are on the parish website at <https://anglicanaltlav.org.au/2020-annual-meeting/>.

THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN The November issue of TMA is now available: printed copies are on the shelves outside the office, and you can read it online at <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>.

ATTENDING SERVICES As we begin to resume some small services, it's important to bear in mind our responsibilities to each other so that we can gather as safely as possible. The key points are:

- Numbers are limited to 10 people (rising to 20 from 9 November), and it is essential to register in advance: either online at anglicanaltlav.org.au/attending-a-service or by contacting the office by phone or email.
- Everyone is welcome, but please consider your own wellbeing in deciding to attend, especially if you are already at higher risk of becoming ill.
- Everyone attending will need to wear a mask.
- If you are at all unwell (cough, cold, runny nose, temperature, sore throat), or have been in close contact with someone who is unwell, you must stay at home.

More details are on the parish website, and you are welcome to contact Rev'd Chris with further questions or concerns. Services open to attend in the coming week will be on Thursday at 10am and Sunday at 8am.

ORDINATION The Rev'd Dr Alan Smith will be ordained priest on Saturday 28 November at 11am, in a service in the parish of Gisborne/Macedon. Numbers are of course restricted, but the service will be live streamed (details to follow when they are available). We pray for Alan as he moves towards this next step in ministry.

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER PARTNERS DINNER Due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions, we are unable to hold this function this year. I am sure that everyone involved is as disappointed as I am at the moment, but we can only pray that things will be better next year. As we cannot meet together to exchange cards, I suggest that we all post a card to our prayer partner. If anyone does not know the address of their prayer partner, they can ring Sandra on 0410 040 661 for information. Thank you all for your prayers this year. Keep praying and we will all meet together soon. Sandra Hansen, Mother's Union President

THANK YOU to everyone who has found a way to continue giving to the parish over the last six 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 respect for due process and calming of tensions in the United States.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, and Australia. For Christians who are persecuted and martyred today, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: Diocese of Rockhampton; defence force chaplains.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St Mark's, Reservoir West.

Our parish & community: For children and families from our parish playgroups.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Particular current prayers: Jeremy, Olivia, Peter.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Amelia Hodgetts (11), Redvers Morris (14).

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, Susan, Faye, Gustavo.

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

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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 8th November

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

8am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's and on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom
10:30am Annual Parish Meeting, on Zoom

Tuesday 10th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Wednesday 11th

8am Morning Prayer, on Zoom

Thursday 12th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Friday 13th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom

Sunday 15th November

24th Sunday after Pentecost

8am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's and on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom
10:30am Children's time, on Zoom

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

Services on Zoom can be accessed at zoom.us/j/9726172254 (passcode 93981005)
(Or by phoning (03) 7018 2005—when prompted, enter 9726172254#;
then when asked for a participant ID, press #.)