



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*

15th November 2020 24th 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,

There was some significant news for the Anglican Church of Australia this week, which you may have seen reported in the media: the church's highest legal authority, the Appellate Tribunal, issued a decision that a service of blessing for civil marriages authorised last year by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta is valid. This means that in that diocese, the church can offer a service of blessing to any couple who have already been legally married, including same-sex couples. It is likely that other dioceses will soon follow, although in Melbourne this would be more contested than in some other places.

This is a significant step in an ongoing debate which has caused a huge amount of pain and division in the Anglican Church. Many have greeted the decision with joy and delight, as a small movement towards greater inclusion in the church. For others, it is cause for much concern. As always, our task is first of all to recognise the call and image of God in other people, especially those with whom we disagree—whether they are in a distant diocese or sitting next to us. If we can accept and respect that someone's view of any question emerges from humble prayerfulness and a commitment to God's purposes in the world, then we have a starting point for conversation.

So I encourage us to talk about these questions, to pray about them, and to seek to understand what might lead people to form views very different from our own. Most of all, we can pray for those who have experienced exclusion from the life and blessing of the church, for all sorts of reasons, both in the past and in the present. And we can pray for wisdom to see and respond where this continues in our own midst.

Meanwhile, we give thanks for the continued easing of restrictions and for this last fortnight without new cases of COVID-19 in Victoria. The precise nature of the restrictions continues to be something of a moving target—for example, the total number allowed in a church service now further divided into sub-groups with a wide space between groups, which makes a difference to how many we can fit into one service. Nonetheless, the plan remains for us to return to in-person services at the normal times, on Advent Sunday (29 November). There will still be a streamed service each week, but next Sunday will be the last 9:30am Zoom service. Do watch this space for further information, including on how everyone can help with the practical arrangements to make this possible.

Grace and peace,
Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

COLLECT

Everliving God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PARISH PRAYER

Creator Spirit, God beyond our knowing, your love has been poured into our hearts. Renew our trust in you, and shape our lives to the call of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. Make us a people of blessing and hope, so that neighbours and strangers may be drawn to the compassion of Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING *Judges 4.1-10*

After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things that the LORD saw as evil. So the LORD gave them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, and he was stationed in Harosheth-ha-goiim. The Israelites cried out to the LORD because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of Israel at that time. She would sit under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. She sent word to Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the LORD, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. I'll lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'"

Barak replied to her, "If you'll go with me, I'll go; but if not, I won't go."

Deborah answered, "I'll definitely go with you. However, the path you're taking won't bring honour to you, because the LORD will hand over Sisera to a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. He summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand men marched out behind him. Deborah marched out with him too.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 123

To you I lift up my eyes: you who are enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master: or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God: until he show us his mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have had our fill of derision.

Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease: and with the contempt of the proud.

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*

We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labour pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape. But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armour that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 25.14-30*

Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

"After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more,

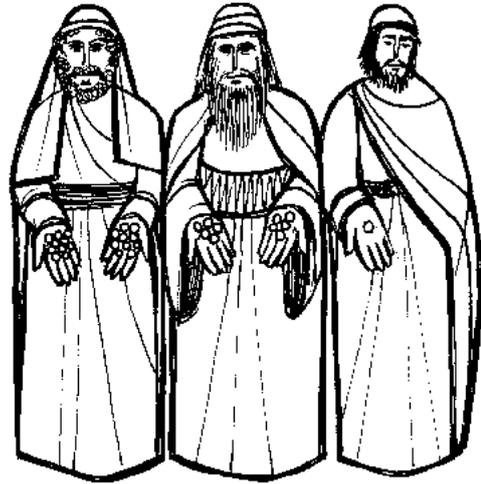
and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.”

(CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Readings for next week: 22 November (Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr)

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46

NEXT SUNDAY we will mark St Clement’s Day and at 9:30am on Zoom we will welcome guest preacher the Rev’d Rob Ferguson, senior chaplain with Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry in Victoria. (This year our parish giving to Anglicare has been for this prison chaplaincy ministry.) Rob be with us for the Zoom service only (not 8am), and there will be a chance afterwards for some questions and conversation with him.

WANTED Do you have a mobile phone that you’re no longer using? The new camera which we are using for live streaming is operated from a mobile phone, and as different people use it at different times, it looks like it will be helpful to have a device (phone or tablet) set aside for that purpose. No SIM required, just WiFi. Please talk to Rev’d Chris for further information.

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 20 people, 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 in the coming week will be on Wednesday at 9:30am, 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.

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 people in places where coronavirus is spreading rapidly. Thanksgiving for this week's progress towards a vaccine.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Timor Leste, Indonesia and The Philippines. For Christians who are persecuted and martyred today, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: Anglicare Australia.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St Andrew's Somerville.

Our parish & community: For those needing to remain isolated to protect their health.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Particular current prayers: Jeremy, Olivia, Peter.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Frank Gill (16), Ruth Barrow (19), Nesta Adams (21).

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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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 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

Tuesday 17th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Wednesday 18th

8am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

Thursday 19th

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

Friday 20th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
5pm Youth group, on Zoom

Sunday 22nd November

Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr

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 #.)