



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 June 2021 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8am Morning Prayer, 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, as we share in prayer together for the world, the church, our community and each other.

We look forward to gathering again in person as soon as possible.

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 (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Dear friends,

The extension of our current lockdown will be affecting us all in different ways, with many plans needing to change and with uncertainty hanging over the coming weeks. There's also the more immediate anxiety for the wellbeing of our families and community, particularly those who are most vulnerable or whose work and other commitments involve contact with larger numbers of people.

All of this and more is part of the life of faith, as the content of our lives becomes also the content of our prayers. So I do encourage you to spend some time simply noticing what is arising in your heart in these days, and bringing it all before God. Sometimes it helps to hold out our hands and imagine what we are carrying... and then while still carrying it, we can pray the words of the Lord's Prayer, or Psalm 23, or something else that takes us back into the great story of God's love and faithfulness.

But also in these days, I wonder if we can be intentional about seeking the *joyfulness* which is described so often by Jesus, and by Paul and others too. "Rejoice in the Lord always," writes Paul to the Philippians, "and again I say, rejoice." Where is there joy to be found and shared, even (indeed especially) in the midst these challenging circumstances? Might we pray to be people whose joy can become a blessing to others? (I remember being struck by one person who, first thing every morning, prayed for joy in order to share it with others!)

Also in your prayers, please do remember those preparing for confirmation and for reception into the Anglican Church: Daniel, Grace, Khouroush, Kristy, Ladonna, Maryam, Neona, Sash (for confirmation), and Richard (for reception). Our preparation sessions are continuing on Zoom, even as we wait for greater clarity on what restrictions may remain when Bishop Kate joins us on Sunday 20 June. As always, the service of confirmation and reception will be an opportunity for us all to recall, celebrate and renew our own identity as baptised Christians and as members of the Anglican Church.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me or Katie if you have any particular needs or concerns during this time.

With my prayers for each of you, Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Almighty God, give us such a vision of your purpose, and such an assurance of your love and power, that we may ever hold fast the hope which is in Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel

So all the Israelite elders got together and went to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "Listen. You are old now, and your sons don't follow in your footsteps. So appoint us a king to judge us like all the other nations have." It seemed very bad to Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us," so he prayed to the LORD.

The LORD answered Samuel, "Comply with the people's request—everything they ask of you—because they haven't rejected you. No, they've rejected me as king over them. They are doing to you only what they've been doing to me from the day I brought them out of Egypt to this very minute, abandoning me and worshipping other gods. So comply with their request, but give them a clear warning, telling them how the king will rule over them."

Then Samuel explained everything the LORD had said to the people who were asking for a king. "This is how the king will rule over you," Samuel said:

"He will take your sons, and will use them for his chariots and his cavalry and as runners for his chariot. He will use them as his commanders of troops of one thousand and troops of fifty, or to do his ploughing and his harvesting, or to make his weapons or parts for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, or bakers. He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves and give them to his servants. He will give one-tenth of your grain and your vineyards to his officials and servants. He will take your male and female servants, along with the best of your cattle and donkeys, and make them do his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and then you yourselves will become his slaves! When that day comes, you will cry out because of the king you chose for yourselves, but on that day the LORD won't answer you."

But the people refused to listen to Samuel and said, "No! There must be a king over us so we can be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us and lead us and fight our battles."

...
"Let's go to Gilgal," Samuel told the people, "and renew the monarchy there." So everyone went to Gilgal, and there at Gilgal they made Saul king in the LORD's presence. They offered well-being sacrifices in the LORD's presence, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration there.

(8.4-20; 11.14-15; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart: even before the gods will I sing your praises.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name: because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness, for you have made your name and your word supreme over all things.

At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer: and put new strength within my soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord: for they have heard the words of your mouth;

And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord: that the glory of the Lord is great.

For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly: and he comprehends the proud from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of danger, yet will you preserve my life: you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will complete his purpose for me: your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; do not forsake the work of your own hands.

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SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We have the same faithful spirit as what is written in scripture: I had faith, and so I spoke. We also have faith, and so we also speak. We do this because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and he will bring us into his presence along with you. All these things are for your benefit. As grace increases to benefit more and more people, it will cause gratitude to increase, which results in God's glory.

So we aren't depressed. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day. Our temporary minor problems are producing an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison. We don't focus on the things that can be seen but on the things that can't be seen. The things that can be seen don't last, but the things that can't be seen are eternal.

We know that if the tent that we live in on earth is torn down, we have a building from God. It's a house that isn't handmade, which is eternal and located in heaven.

(4.13-5.1; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus entered a house. A crowd gathered again so that it was impossible for him and his followers even to eat. When his family heard what was happening, they came to take control of him. They were saying, “He’s out of his mind!”

The legal experts came down from Jerusalem. Over and over they charged, “He’s possessed by Beelzebul. He throws out demons with the authority of the ruler of demons.”

When Jesus called them together he spoke to them in a parable: “How can Satan throw Satan out? A kingdom involved in civil war will collapse. And a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. If Satan rebels against himself and is divided, then he can’t endure. He’s done for. No one gets into the house of a strong person and steals anything without first tying up the strong person. Only then can the house be burgled. I assure you that human beings will be forgiven for everything, for all sins and insults of every kind. But whoever insults the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. That person is guilty of a sin with consequences that last forever.” He said this because the legal experts were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”

His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, “Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you.”

He replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.”

(3.20-35; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Readings for next Sunday: 13 June (Third Sunday after Pentecost)

1 Samuel 15.34-16.13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5.6-17; Mark 4.26-34

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings beforehand. Some things to notice might be:

Is anything here particularly relevant to my situation at this time?

Is there anything here that doesn't immediately make sense to me?

What comes just before and just after this section of the Bible?

Does this remind me of something elsewhere in the Bible?

NOTES AND NEWS

for your information and prayers, from around and beyond the parish

RUTH LORD The funeral service for Ruth Lord will be held this Tuesday 8 June at 12pm. Only ten people are permitted to attend in person, but all are welcome to watch the live stream which can be found at <https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1622736945599304>

THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN The June issue of TMA is out now—copies are on the black shelves outside the office and will be available when we meet together in person; it will also be available soon online at <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>

PLANNED GIVING A big thank you to all who have returned pledge forms for the coming year’s Planned Giving Program. Today marks the start of the 2021/22 program, so please now use your new reference/envelope number when making direct deposits. (Old envelopes should only be used for catching up on the 2020/21 program.) For any queries please contact Pat Baines on 9315 7838 or p.baines@bigpond.com.

MOTHERS’ UNION will not meet this week—the next meeting will be on Thursday 8 July.

COMBINED SERVICE Bishop Kate will be with us on Sunday 20 June for a combined service, at 9:30am at St Eanswythe’s. Subject to restrictions that may be in place at that time, please do mark your diaries and plan to share in that service together. (There will also be a 7:45am service as usual on that day.)

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For health care workers at COVID-19 vaccination and testing centres, in Australia and worldwide.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Eswatini. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: Diocese of Brisbane.

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St Stephen's Congregation - Karen Community Werribee.

Our parish & community:

For those separated from family and loved ones during the current lockdown.

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Particular current prayers: Hannah, Jemma, Kay, Jamie-Lee, Elly.

The communion of saints:

Those who have died recently: Ruth Lord, Patricia Morton.

Year's mind: John McIntyre, bishop (6), Rolf von Kalm (6), Paul LeRoy (9), Marjorie Rodden (9), Alec Aitken (11), Evelyn Meiers (11).

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

Sharilyn, Ruby, Paul, Mavis, Belinda, Joseph, Daniel, Stuart, Nick, Vahid, Malek, Jimmy, Jayden, Ashlee, Tim, Tanatha, Faye, Gustavo, Peter, Olivia, Patricia, Nancy.

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 parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au or give to the Vicar.



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 our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, please send your email address to parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Giving...

- ⇒ 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 pledge giving please include your name or envelope/reference number. For further details see www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

www.anglicanaltlav.org.au

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

Vicar:

The Rev'd Chris Lancaster
0423 199 850 chris.lancaster@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Assistant Curate:

The Rev'd Katie Bellhouse
0416 378 748 katie.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:

The Rev'd Danny McRoberts
0448 841 196 dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

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 6th June

Second Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom

Monday 7th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom

Tuesday 8th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Wednesday 9th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom

Thursday 10th

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook

[provided that lockdown ends as planned:]

Friday 11th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
9:30am Clementines playgroup, St Clement's
10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

Sunday 13th June

Third Sunday after Pentecost

7:45am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
8:45am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's

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 #.)