



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*

29th August 2021 FOURTEENTH 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 together we praise the Lord, reflect on God's word, and pray 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 country of the 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 Song of Songs (sometimes called the Song of Solomon) is the great love song of the Bible. In our three-year cycle of readings, we only hear from it on this one Sunday – so it's a good opportunity to go home and read the rest of this short book. It is poetry of love and longing, of passion and desire, capturing the sheer delight of being in love. Much of it is dialogue, as the two lovers speak to each other and seek each other.

By coincidence, today's evocative passage about the coming of spring does indeed fall in the week that spring begins here – a rare instance of the lectionary fitting better with the southern hemisphere seasons rather than the northern! Around us at the moment, blossoms are starting to appear, gardens are filling with colour, and the days are becoming warmer and longer. In the Song of Songs, as life returns to the earth after the winter, so too the lovers' relationship brims with energy and possibility.

On one level we can read this book of the Bible simply as an affirmation of all that is good and delightful in romantic, even erotic, love between two people. This passage is often read at weddings, together with some later verses which speak of lasting love: "Set me as a seal upon your heart ... for love is strong as death."

We can also see in this human belovedness a glimpse of the kind of longing with which God loves each one of us, always wanting to draw us closer. Certainly we find in God a love which is "strong as death": indeed, a love which in Christ has overwhelmed death itself. But can we imagine God loving us and longing for us? Can we dare to say "yes" to that love?

And what of our longing for God? Is that longing real for you today, a deep yearning to be closer to the One who longs for us? The great bishop and scholar of the early church, Augustine of Hippo, captured this yearning at the start of his autobiography, the *Confessions*:

*You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless
until it finds its rest in you.*

Now as always, there is much that might lead us to become restless. All the more then, may we find our rest and delight in the love of God, today and always.

Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Cleanse our consciences, O Lord,
and enlighten our hearts
through the daily presence of your Son Jesus Christ,
that when he comes in glory to be our judge
we may be found undefiled and acceptable in his sight;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Song of Songs.

Listen! It's my lover: here he comes now,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Here he stands now,
outside our wall,
peering through the windows,
peeking through the lattices.
My lover spoke and said to me,
"Rise up, my dearest,
my fairest, and go.
Here, the winter is past;
the rains have come and gone.
Blossoms have appeared in the land;
the season of singing has arrived,
and the sound of the turtledove is heard in our
land.
The green fruit is on the fig tree,
and the grapevines in bloom are fragrant.
Rise up, my dearest,
my fairest, and go."

(2.8-13; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

My heart is astir with fine phrases, I make my song for
a king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
**You are the fairest of men, grace flows from your
lips: therefore has God blessed you for ever and
ever.**
Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever:
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous
sceptre.
**You have loved righteousness and hated evil:
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with
the oil of gladness above your fellows.**
All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and
cassia: music from ivory palaces makes you glad.
**Kings' daughters are among your noble women: the
queen is at your right hand in gold of Ophir.**

(45.1-2, 6-9)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of James

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from
above. These gifts come down from the Father, the
creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there

is no change at all. He chose to give us birth by his true
word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop
from the harvest of everything he created.

Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone
should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to
grow angry. This is because an angry person doesn't
produce God's righteousness. Therefore, with humility,
set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness,
and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the
very word that is able to save you.

You must be doers of the word and not only hearers
who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do
the word are like those who look at their faces in a
mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and
immediately forget what they were like. But there are
those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom,
and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget,
but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be
blessed in whatever they do.

If those who claim devotion to God don't control
what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion
is worthless. True devotion, the kind that is pure and
faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for
orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the
world from contaminating us.

(1.17-27; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some legal experts from
Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his
disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were
eating without first ritually purifying their hands
through washing. The Pharisees and all the Jews don't
eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a
way of observing the rules handed down by the
elders. Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't
eat without first immersing themselves. They observe
many other rules that have been handed down, such as
the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) So
the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are
your disciples not living according to the rules handed
down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually
unclean hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah really knew what he was talking
about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He
wrote,

*This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far away from me.*

*Their worship of me is empty
since they teach instructions that are human
words.*

You ignore God's commandment while holding on
to rules created by humans and handed down to you."

...

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, "Listen
to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing outside of a
person can enter and contaminate a person in God's
sight; rather, the things that come out of a person
contaminate the person."

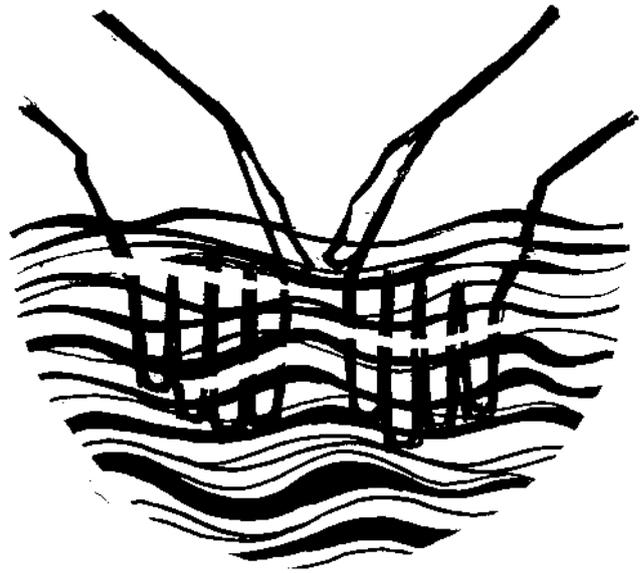
After leaving the crowd, he entered a house where his disciples asked him about that riddle.

He said to them, "Don't you understand either? Don't you know that nothing from the outside that enters a person has the power to contaminate? That's because it doesn't enter into the heart but into the stomach, and it goes out into the sewer." By saying this, Jesus declared that no food could contaminate a person in God's sight. "It's what comes out of a person that contaminates someone in God's sight," he said. "It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight."

(7.1-8, 14-23; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.



NOTES AND NEWS

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

Prayer

Through this week we will continue our lockdown pattern, meeting online at 9am for Morning Prayer and at 5:30pm for Evening Prayer. Do join in as you are able, as we pause to pray together (see details on next page).

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

Services on Zoom can be joined at zoom.us/j/9726172254 (passcode 93981005)

Youth Group

Youth group meets this Friday at 5pm, on Zoom. Anyone in school years 5-12 is welcome to join. Please contact Katie for further details and the Zoom login.

Daily Prayer app

The Diocese of Melbourne Prayer Diary app follows the daily readings for Morning Prayer and provides a short devotion and prayer each day. Available for Apple and Android devices: search for "ADOM Prayer Diary" to download.

Anniversary celebration

On Sunday 26 September there will be a service of Evensong to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rev'd Noel Whale's ordination. The service will be at 5pm at St George's, East Ivanhoe, where Fr Noel was incumbent following his years as Vicar of St Eanswythe's (1976-85). All are welcome to share in this celebration, either by attending in person (restrictions permitting) or by watching online at <https://stgeorgeseastivanhoe.org/online>

Looking ahead: dates for the diary

12 September	St Eanswythe's Patronal Festival
10 October	Blessing of Animals: 4pm at St Clement's
31 October	Annual Parish Meeting

Readings for next Sunday: 5th September (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2.1-17; Mark 7.24-37

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?

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For peace, security and stability in Afghanistan, so that there can be hope for the future.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the church in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Willochra (Bp John Stead, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; Church of the New Guinea Martyrs Croydon South (Bruce Bickerdike, James Raistrick).

Our parish & community: For medical and health care workers: in hospitals, aged care residences, testing and vaccination centres.

Agencies supported by our parish:

Compassion Australia—supporting children living in poverty.

Those with particular needs at this time: Hannah, Jemma, Kay, Vicky, Tania, Nancy, Joyce, Vivienne.

The communion of saints:

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

To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, either those needing prayers now or those to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact one of the clergy.

You can also contact one of the clergy by email or phone, for prayers to be included when we gather for Morning and Evening Prayer on Zoom.



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 anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

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

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 29th August

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday 30th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
5:30pm Evening Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Tuesday 31st

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
5:30pm Evening Prayer, on Zoom

Wednesday 1st

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
5:30pm Evening Prayer, streamed on Facebook

Thursday 2nd

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
5:30pm Evening Prayer, on Zoom

(Unless restrictions ease...)

Friday 3rd

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

Sunday 5th September

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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