



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*

19th September 2021 SEVENTEENTH 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,

What is your first response to today's reading from the book of Proverbs? Is it irredeemably dated, sexist and patriarchal – even somewhat embarrassing to claim and read as part of our scriptures?

From the perspective of our time and place in the world, we may well have the luxury and even obligation to critique a text like this, and to insist that we would not use these words ourselves without significant qualification or nuancing.

On the other hand, it's worth noticing that this remarkable woman is in fact being held up and honoured, as someone who is fully in control of her destiny: she is honoured for her capability, prosperity, wisdom, humility and faith. Her husband is known by reference to her, as much as or more than the other way round.

In many parts of our world today, meanwhile, countless women are busy walking many kilometres each day to collect water and can only dream of being prosperous entrepreneurs. In these developing countries, the more pressing reality is that the future rests with women: it has long been accepted in development work that educating and empowering women is a key means of securing a community's future. The United Nations reported earlier this year that the COVID-19 pandemic "has tested and even reversed progress in expanding women's rights and opportunities. Women have not recovered lost jobs and income, hunger is on the rise, and school closures threaten girls' educational gains."

Closer to home in Australia, we continue to be confronted by the systemic abuse and inequality which stretches from Parliament House to the houses in our street. COVID-19 restrictions have made life even harder for the many people, the overwhelming majority of them women, where home is not safe due to family violence in its many forms.

So, even if reading this passage from Proverbs is uncomfortable or embarrassing, we shouldn't let that cultural mismatch lead us into complacency that we know better. Here in our own communities, we too still need to hear that it is a loss for everyone when women are not given honour and dignity. And yes, the church needs to hear this too, and to change in many ways and many places – that is a long and ongoing process of transformation in which we all have a part.

With my prayers for each of you, Chris

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

God and Father of all, you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first, and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom: give us the wisdom from above, so that we may understand that in your sight the one who serves is the greatest of all. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 book of Proverbs

A competent wife, how does one find her?
Her value is far above pearls.
Her husband entrusts his heart to her,
and with her he will have all he needs.
She brings him good and not trouble
all the days of her life.
She seeks out wool and flax;
she works joyfully with her hands.
She is like a fleet of merchant ships,
bringing food from a distance.
She gets up while it is still night,
providing food for her household,
even some for her female servants.
She surveys a field and acquires it;
from her own resources, she plants a vineyard.
She works energetically;
her arms are powerful.
She realises that her trading is successful;
she doesn't put out her lamp at night.
She puts her hands to the spindle;
her palms grasp the whorl.
She reaches out to the needy;
she stretches out her hands to the poor.
She doesn't fear for her household when it snows,
because they are all dressed in warm clothes.
She makes bedspreads for herself;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is known in the city gates
when he sits with the elders of the land.
She makes garments and sells them;
she supplies sashes to traders.
Strength and honour are her clothing;
she is confident about the future.
Her mouth is full of wisdom;
kindly teaching is on her tongue.
She is vigilant over the activities of her household;
she doesn't eat the food of laziness.
Her children bless her;
her husband praises her:
"Many women act competently,
but you surpass them all!"
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Let her share in the results of her work;
let her deeds praise her in the city gates.

(31.10-31; CEB)

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

PSALM

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly: nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

But their delight is in the law of the Lord: and on that law will they ponder day and night.

They are like trees planted beside streams of water: that yield their fruit in due season.

Their leaves also shall not wither: and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

As for the ungodly, it is not so with them: they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement: nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

(1)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of James

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

(3.1-12; CEB)

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

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

From there Jesus and his followers went through Galilee, but he didn't want anyone to know it. This was because he was teaching his disciples, "The Human One will be delivered into human hands. They will kill him. Three days after he is killed he will rise up." But they didn't understand this kind of talk, and they were afraid to ask him.

They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about during the journey?" They didn't respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all." Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn't actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me."

(9.30-37; 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

Caritas anniversary

Our parish Caritas group marked its 60th birthday this week—many congratulations! Those 60 years have seen plenty of friendships, fellowship, food and laughter shared in the group and with others. It's such a pity that this is another celebration for which we cannot gather in person, but there's sure to be a party in due course!

Blessing of Animals

This gathering now needs to be on Zoom, but for some animals (and their staff) this may prove more straightforward! Certainly we look forward to a chance to gather together together and celebrate God's creation, and all creatures great and small. Do invite someone you know to join in too, especially families with younger children.

Thursday Eucharist

This service is streamed via the parish Facebook page on Thursdays at 5:30pm: do tune in as we celebrate the Eucharist with an special intention to pray for the regathering of God's people. You can watch live or later on our Facebook page, as well as afterwards via our parish website.

Happily, the guidelines about worship services have changed in the last week: up to five different people can now be present at each recorded service. If you would like to join us for the Eucharist one week, or for Sunday Morning Prayer, please let Katie or Chris know and we will add you to our roster. You do not have to be a confident reader to participate, just have a heart for our Lord and this act of worship.

Looking ahead: dates for the diary

3 October (NB date change) Blessing of Animals: 4-5pm on Zoom

31 October Annual Parish Meeting

Readings for next Sunday: 26th September (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Esther 7.1-6, 7.9-10; 9.20-22; Psalm 124; James 5.12-20; Mark 9.38-50

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 wisdom in seeking peace among nations. For continued progress in COVID-19 vaccinations.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the church in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Newcastle (Bp Peter Stuart, Asst Bps Charlie Murry, Sonia Roulston, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; St Paul's, Frankston (Claudia Mauracher).

Our parish & community: For those in hospitals and residential care who cannot see visitors.

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglican Board of Mission—supporting ministry and education among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Those with particular needs at this time: Kay, Vicky, Tania, Nancy, Joyce, Vivienne, Tom, Belle, Sam.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: James Barger (21), Yvonne Atkins (21), Archie Burt (22), Nesta Barassi (23), Ivy Shillington (23), Betty Priest (25).

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

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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 19th September

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom
5pm Parish Council, on Zoom

Monday 20th

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

Tuesday 21st

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

Wednesday 22nd

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom

5:30pm Evening Prayer, streamed on Facebook
7pm Point Cook Small Group, on Zoom

Thursday 23rd

9am Morning Prayer, streamed on Facebook
5:30pm Holy Eucharist, streamed on Facebook

Friday 24th

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

Sunday 25th September

Eighteenth 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 #.)