



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*

24th October 2021

TWENTY-SECOND 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, 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

The lectionary is a beautiful thing. It is the calendar of passages of the Bible to be read at morning and evening prayer, and the Eucharist, each day (ours is more or less the revised common lectionary shared by churches of many denominations throughout the world). What I love about the lectionary: when you or I turn to the Bible of a morning or an evening, the question is not "What strikes your fancy?" or even, "What text do you think you need to hear right now?"

The word of the Lord comes to you from somewhere else. The Word speaks to you as a gift, saying something you did not necessarily expect him to say.

Over the last two months the book of Job has been appointed for evening prayer. Job—the righteous man who has lost everything, and contracted what sounds like leprosy. Throughout the book his friends have offered him counsel which *they themselves have drawn from the sacred tradition*, and they think are the right words to apply to Job's situation. They say that the Lord of the earth is a just God—so if Job is suffering, he must have done something wrong. He must be reaping what he has sown.

As for Job himself, he doesn't know where – what word to turn to! – to make sense of it all. He cries out bitterly, wanting to put his case before the Almighty and hear what God has to say.

When *El Shaddai* (the 'Almighty' or 'All-Sufficient' One) finally speaks to Job out of the whirlwind, the word is not one any of them expected to hear.

El Shaddai turns Job's attention to all these wild, wonderful creatures in the world, and to the incomprehensible majesty of God's Oversight of them, and to the mystery of humanity's place in it all. How could Job presume to understand or question God?

Perhaps it seems harsh. But I'm not sure Job sees it that way. He is humbled, certainly, and stops making demands. 'I relent!' he says, finding himself emptied out. And yet this unexpected word of God is, on another level, just what he needed. '*Now my eyes have seen you!*' he says.

This is not a question of physical sight. At least, I don't think so. I think it is a question of the 'inner eye' of understanding. Or rather, of understanding all one does not understand, and standing with attentive wonder in the sight of El Shaddai.

O taste and see that the Lord is good! How much the Lord gives us to 'work with' in every waking moment! Everything around us has a depth to it, if we are willing to offer it our attention. Everything the Lord has made is 'the subject of his infinite loving attention' (I pinch that phrase from +Rowan Williams). Job's eyes have been opened to that reality.

And once his eyes are opened, he finds the Lord sends him all he needs to rebuild life in the wake of profound loss.

May the light of the Lord our God inspire all *you* see, and be, and rebuild this week. With love and prayers, Kathryn

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

O God, you give light to the blind and comfort to the sorrowing, and in your Son you have given us a High Priest, who has offered the true sacrifice for us, and yet can sympathise with us in our weakness: hear the cry of your people, and lead us home to our true country, where with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered the LORD:

‘I know you can do anything;
no plan of yours can be opposed successfully.
You said, “Who is this darkening counsel without knowledge?”
I have indeed spoken about things I didn’t understand,
wonders beyond my comprehension.
You said, “Listen and I will speak;
I will question you and you will inform me.”
My ears had heard about you,
but now my eyes have seen you.
Therefore, I relent and find comfort
on dust and ashes.

[...]

Then the LORD changed Job’s fortune when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD doubled all Job’s earlier possessions. All his brothers, sisters, and acquaintances came to him and ate food with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him concerning all the disaster the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a *qesitah* and a gold ring.

Then the LORD blessed Job’s latter days more than his former ones. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named one Jemimah, a second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. No women in all the land were as beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave an inheritance to them along with their brothers.

After this, Job lived 140 years and saw four generations of his children. Then Job died, old and satisfied.

(42.1-6, 10-17; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

I will bless the Lord continually: his praise shall be always in my mouth.

Let my soul boast of the Lord: the humble shall hear it and rejoice.

O praise the Lord with me: let us exalt his name together.

For I sought the Lord’s help and he answered: and he freed me from all my fears.

Look towards him and be bright with joy: your faces shall not be ashamed.

Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me: and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him: and delivers them in their need.

O taste and see that the Lord is good: happy are they that hide in him!

(34.1-8)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

But this priest was affirmed with a solemn pledge by the one who said,

*The Lord has made a solemn pledge
and will not change his mind:
You are a priest forever.*

As a result, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. The others who became priests are numerous because death prevented them from continuing to serve. In contrast, he holds the office of priest permanently because he continues to serve forever. This is why he can completely save those who are approaching God through him, because he always lives to speak with God for them.

It’s appropriate for us to have this kind of high priest: holy, innocent, incorrupt, separate from sinners, and raised high above the heavens. He doesn’t need to offer sacrifices every day like the other high priests, first for their own sins and then for the sins of the people. He did this once for all when he offered himself. The Law appoints people who are prone to weakness as high priests, but the content of the solemn pledge, which came after the Law, appointed a Son who has been made perfect forever.

(7.21-28; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus’ son, was sitting beside the road. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!” Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, “Son of David, show me mercy!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him forward.”

They called the blind man, “Be encouraged! Get up! He’s calling you.”

Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said, “Teacher, I want to see.”

Jesus said, “Go, your faith has healed you.” At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

(10.46-52; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ingathering of the Pilgrims...

As restrictions begin to ease, we can now resume some in-person services—thanks be to God! Please do take the opportunity to attend one of these services in coming weeks, as we move back to meeting and sharing in worship together.

This Thursday evening we will celebrate the Eucharist at St Clement's, marking the feast of the apostles Simon and Jude. We can have twenty people indoors (or, if necessary, hold it in the courtyard with a few more present). For the time being, please register to attend this and other services using the link at anglicanaltlav.org.au/attending-a-service (you can also see on this page how many places are still available) or by leaving a phone or email message.

If restrictions continue to ease as forecast, we will return to normal Sunday service times on Sunday 7 November. Daily prayer during the week will begin to transition back to in-person gathering during this week: see back page for details.

All Souls' service

Our annual All Souls' service will be held on Sunday 7 November, 5pm at St Eanswythe's. At this service we remember loved ones who have died, especially (but not only) in the last 12 months. If there are particular people whom you would like to add to the list of those remembered, please give their names to Rev'd Chris.

Please do also consider if there is anyone you could invite to this service: perhaps someone who has lost a loved one recently. (The service will also be live streamed.)

Ordination of priests...

Our assistant curate, the Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse, to the office of priest, on Saturday 27 November at 3pm at St Paul's Cathedral. Unfortunately due to restrictions there cannot be an open invitation to attend, but the service will be live streamed. This will be a wonderful and significant moment in her ministry—our congratulations and prayers are with you, Kathryn!

As a parish we will be making a presentation to Rev'd Kathryn on this occasion, and you are invited to contribute generously! Contributions can be made by direct deposit, with the reference "ordination gift".

...and ordination of deacons

Next Sunday 31 August at 5pm, St Eanswythe's will be hosting an ordination service for two deacons, Andrew Seedhom and Mark Tibben. Andrew and Mark are ministers at Sojourners Church in Werribee (see sojo.org.au), and this church is in the process of joining the Anglican Church and the Diocese of Melbourne. Please pray for Andrew and Mark as this significant moment (delayed by lockdowns) now approaches.

Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held next Sunday 31 October at 10:30am, and as last year we will need to use Zoom. Please don't hesitate to contact the vicar or one of the wardens if you are keen to join in but unable to use Zoom: there are certainly some alternative possibilities which can be arranged.

- Documents relating to the Annual Meeting are steadily being added to [this page](#) on our website. Annual reports will be sent by email and added to the website in the next 48 hours.
- Apologies for the Annual Meeting should be conveyed by email to parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au or by phone to the parish office.

Looking ahead: dates for the diary

31 October

Annual Parish Meeting: 10:30am on Zoom

7 November

All Souls' service: 5pm at St Eanswythe's and live streamed

Readings for next Sunday: 31st October (23rd Sunday after Pentecost)

Ruth 1.1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9.11-15; Mark 12.13-17, 28-34

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?

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For the Glasgow climate conference, convening next Sunday.

The Church:

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

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Perth (Abp Kay Goldsworthy, Asst Bps Jeremy James, Kate Wilmot, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate; Holy Trinity Melbourne East (Grant Edgcumbe).

Our parish & community: For those experiencing anxiety as restrictions ease. For all health and medical workers.

Agencies supported by our parish: Anglican Board of Mission

— their support of ministry among Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Those with particular needs at this time: Joyce, Vivienne, Jim, Cathy, Nalani.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Eleanor Barrow (24), Percy Rice (25), Frank Griffin (25), Thomas Truman (26), John Murray (26), Winifred Underhay (26), Joan Andrews (27).

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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Churchwardens:

Lily Griffin
Anita McAnda
Scott Pitcher

Child Safe Officer:

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

This week in our parish:

Sunday 24th October

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday 25th

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

Tuesday 26th

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

Wednesday 27th

9am Morning Prayer, on Zoom
7pm Point Cook Small Group, meeting in Apex Park

Thursday 28th

Simon and Jude, apostles and martyrs

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
5:30pm Holy Eucharist, St Clement's & streamed on Facebook

Friday 29th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

Sunday 31st October

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

8am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's & streamed on Facebook
9:30am Service of Scripture and Prayer, on Zoom
10:30am Annual Parish Meeting, on Zoom
5pm Ordination of deacons, 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 #.)