# 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

# 12th February 2023 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

# Wominjeka :: Haere mai Welcome



A warm welcome to our worship today, especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting from elsewhere. Please do stay to share refreshments at the end of the service.

This booklet contains the full order of service: please join in the parts printed in bold type.

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).

# Gathering in God's name

We meet in God's name, as God's people – children of God in all our rich diversity, with all that we carry from the complexity of our lives.

We turn to God in praise and prayer; this includes recalling all that has separated us from God, and claiming the love and forgiveness that is always held out to us.

The Collect then 'collects' these prayers and turns our attention towards the Bible readings which will follow.

HYMN 693 Come as you are (at 10:30 only, found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness. Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks. we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; vou are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, vou alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Almighty God, you gave the law to guide our lives: grant that we may never shrink from your commandments, but, as we are taught by your Spirit, may fulfil your law in perfect love; through Christ our Lord and Master, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Amen.

# **Opening the Scriptures**

The readings come from different parts of the Bible: different perspectives on the great story of God's presence and purpose among us. In the psalm we respond with the ancient words of prayer of God's people.

The sermon adds to our own reflections on the readings, and then we respond by affirming the faith as handed to us from previous generations.

We bring our prayers for the world and the Church, trusting that all things and all people are in God's hands.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

"So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own wellbeing. Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him you shall serve; to him you shall hold fast; and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

(10.12-22)

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

#### **PSALM**

Blessed are those whose way is blameless: who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his commands: and seek him with their whole heart:

Those who do no wrong: but walk in the ways of our God.

For you, Lord, have commanded us: to persevere in all your precepts.

If only my ways were unerring: towards the keeping of your statutes!

Then I should not be ashamed: when I looked on all your commandments. I will praise you with sincerity of heart: as I learn your righteous judgements.

I will keep your statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

(119.1-8)

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people but rather as fleshly, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still fleshly. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not fleshly and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labour. For we are God's co-workers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

(3.1-9)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 607 Make me a channel of your peace (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

#### THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. **Alleluia**.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

(5.21-37; CEB)

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

### NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church: We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

The response to the prayers is Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer

God of this ancient land, holy beyond time and place, you search us out and name us your beloved children. Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person. Send your Spirit to renew our life, and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls. Amen.

# Celebrating at the Lord's table

At the greeting of peace, we recognise that God's gift of peace constantly renews our human relationships and forms us as the Body of Christ.

Our offerings of money and groceries remind us that we are called to participate with our lives and livelihoods in the coming of God's kingdom of justice, healing and peace.

In the Great Thanksgiving, the priest voices the prayer of the whole assembly, recalling the mighty acts of God, Jesus' saving death and resurrection, and his last meal with his friends. The prayer calls on the Holy Spirit to make Christ present in our sharing of bread and wine, and to remake us as Christ's body in the world. We respond with the Lord's Prayer, as the crucified and risen Jesus prays anew through us.

Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.** 

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** 

Everyone is invited to turn to those around, and offer a greeting of peace from where you stand.

Hymn 233 I will sing the wonderous story (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

During the hymn, offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the bowl/basket provided. The ministry of the parish is sustained by our financial giving, either through the offering plate or by direct bank deposit. Groceries are shared in the community in partnership with Laverton Community Integrated Services and the Hobsons Bay Salvation Army.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God. All join in affirming:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread and says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

This is the Lord's table. All who seek God's mercy are welcome.

Everyone is invited to share communion or to receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. All the communion bread will have wine added to it, but if you also wish to drink from the common cup then please remain and it will be brought to you. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a blessing, please indicate when the priest comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

Take, O take me as I am: Summon out what I shall be, Set your seal upon my heart And live in me.

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# Going into the world

The Eucharist is food for the journey of faith, whatever awaits us as we go out to the rest of our lives. We have been renewed, transformed, and blessed: now we take that blessing to share with others, in our words and actions, our hearts and lives.

'The Eucharist never ends - it must be lived.'

Notices

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, give us courage for our pilgrimage, and bring us to the joys you promise.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

HYMN 590 What a friend we have in Jesus. (at 8:30, found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

#### BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Material for this service is taken from A Prayer Book for Australia (1995) and Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) and is reproduced by permission.

# WORSHIP THROUGH THE WEEK

Praying together and at home

#### READINGS

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?

## Readings for Wednesday 15th February

GENESIS 8.6-22; PSALM 116.11-18; MARK 8.22-26

## Readings for Thursday 16th February

GENESIS 9.1-13; PSALM 102.18-22; MARK 8.27-33

## Readings for Sunday 19th February (Last Sunday after Epiphany)

EXODUS 24.12-18; PSALM 22; PETER 1.16-21; MATTHEW 17.1-9

#### DAILY PRAYER

Morning Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's during the week: see the back page for times this week. Anyone is welcome to these short services.

## For our prayers:

<u>The world and nation:</u> For the people of Türkiye and Syria after the recent earthquake.

### The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland. 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: Abp Philip Freier, Bp Kate Prowd; City on a Hill Melbourne (David Chiswell, David Hewitt, Guy Mason, Matthew Keller, Stephanie Judd).

## Agencies supported by our parish:

Welcome West Wagon – providing support to asylum seekers in the western suburbs.

<u>Our parish & community:</u> For children's ministry at our parish.

Those with particular needs at this time: Denise, Stuart, Anthony, Carol, James, Toby, Johnny, Peter.

## The communion of saints:

Year's mind: George Nevitt (13), Barbara Darling, Bishop (15), Alan Grant (16), Alice Kane (16), Rod Tyrell (18).

To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, for those needing prayers now or to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact one of the clergy. If you have a prayer request to be included as we gather for prayer throughout the week, please find the prayer box near the church entrance and fill out a card, or contact one of the clergy.

## SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Parish friends.

It was lovely to receive the welcome from the parish last Sunday! I had a real sense of the spiritual depth and love for the church that came from the people attending those services.

It is not always easy to hold onto these things — that spiritual depth, that love of the church — in today's climate. The Anglican church (like the church more generally in the West) is struggling in so many places: fewer people attending church, less money and resources, shortage of clergy, division in the church over sexuality and other questions, and past issues of abuse that continue to haunt us. The situation after COVID has not made any of this easier for us.

Because of these issues, you sometimes hear people talking negatively about 'the church': the church is to blame for this and that, the church is the real problem. But the church is not the diocese nor primarily the institution with all its structures. We are the church. We are the body of Christ, the gathering together of God's people around prayer and the Bible and the sacraments. The church is the communion of saints in heaven and on earth, represented above all in the person of Mary of Nazareth who was the first to say 'Yes' to God in the incarnation.

In the New Testament, Paul's letters often refers to the church as 'the saints': that is, those imperfect people who have been set apart by God through baptism to worship God, to become more and more a communion of love and to serve others. We need to remember that that is what we mean by 'church'.

That doesn't mean we don't have criticisms to make about aspects of the institution or the structures, but we need to be careful not to assume that they represent the church. They are one aspect only. The heart of the church is the gathered people of God: you and I on a Sunday morning or evening, brought together to listen to God, to receive the sacraments, to pray for each other and for those in need. It is also our work of mission and evangelism to the world around us.

Reminding ourselves of our identity reminds us also that the church is not actually ours but God's. Yes, we need to consider carefully and wisely, and plan for the future. But in the end, we can leave the church safely in God's hands. The church needs our love and service, but our faith is ultimately in Christ himself and his saving, redeeming work in us and among us, and in our world. Not everything depends on us!

That is good news, liberating us in our present difficulties from anxiety and fear. God is with us. Christ is with us. The Holy Spirit is with us and at work in our world. With us always and for everything. With love, Dorothy

## **NOTES AND NEWS**

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

# **Council of Churches: Lent Study Series**



# The Passion & Resurrection of Jesus In the Four Gospels & St Paul

**Starting February 28** 

Tuesday 7.30pm, St Eanswythe's & St Clement's Anglican Church, via Zoom Thursday 2pm, Holy Trinity Uniting Church, in person Thursday 7pm, Salvation Army Altona, in person Friday 2pm, Mary Help of Christians in Altona, in person

Teaching by the Rev'd Prof. Dorothy Lee

### Palm Crosses: A Call Out

It's that time of year! If you have kept your palm cross from Palm Sunday last year (or have accumulated a few palm crosses at home over the years...) please bring them along to church. From this Sunday there will be bowls to collect them at each of the church entrances. They will be used as the basis of the ashes for—

## Ash Wednesday

The journey of Lent begins in two weeks time with Ash Wednesday. Given the importance of the day, we will be hosting two Eucharist services, one at each center, with "the imposition of ashes" (making the sign of the cross on the forehead), so that you have the opportunity to make a good start to this spiritual season. Details below...

## Looking ahead: dates for the diary

February 19	Baptism at our 5pm Eucharist, St Clement's
February 22	Ash Wednesday: The Holy Eucharist with Imposition of
	Ashes at 9:30am, St Clement's, & 7:30pm, St
	Eanswythe's
February 28	Lent Series Begins: 'The Passion & Resurrection the Four
	Gospels & Paul', Zoom, 7:30pm
March 3	World Day of Prayer, Salvation Army Altona, 10:00am

## Keeping in touch...

- $\Rightarrow$  Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ If you are or have been away for a Sunday, you can see recent pew sheets on our website at anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and 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 Diocese of Melbourne is committed to churches being places where everyone is safe, especially children and vulnerable people. All church workers and volunteers are required to complete training and relevant checks. If you wish to raise any concerns about misconduct, past or present, please contact the independent Professional Standards body, Kooyoora (1800 135 246; www.kooyoora.org.au).

# The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

## www.anglicanaltlav.org.au

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#### Locum:

Rev'd Canon Prof Dorothy Lee (Sun, Mon & Thu) 0409 214 072 dorothyl@trinity.edu.au

#### **Assistant Curate:**

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse (Sun-Fri) 0416 378 748 kathryn.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

### **Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:**

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

#### **Parish Administrator:**

Edita Abram (Mon & Thu) parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

### **Churchwardens:**

Lily Griffin Scott Pitcher Soon Ghee Yap

## Child Safe Officer:

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

## This week in our parish:

## Sunday 12th February

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

## Monday 13th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

## Tuesday - Friday

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

## **Tuesday 14th**

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 10am Tiddlers Playgroup, St Eanswythe's 6:30pm Small group dinner, contact Kathryn for details 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting, Zoom

## **Thursday 16th**

10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

## Friday 17th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's 9:30am Clementines Playgroup, St Clement's

## **Sunday 19th February**

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's 10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's 1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's 5pm Evening Worship, St Clement's

## Wednesday 15th

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am St Eanswythe's (resuming in February)
Groups meeting regularly in the parish:

Altona Tiddlers Playgroup: Tuesdays in term time, 10am at St Eanswythe's. Contact Jan Lee (9398 2993) Clementines Playgroup: Fridays in term time, 9:30am at St Clement's. Contact Louise (9395 5472) Small group: Tuesday evenings, online or in person. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse.

Mothers' Union: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Thursday at 11am. Contact Sandra Hansen (0410 040 661) Caritas: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Tuesday evening at 7pm. Contact Joan Meiers (9398 1906)