

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*

17th December 2023 **Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30am St Clement's :: 10:30am St Eanswythe's
1:00pm Te Wairua Tapu St Eanswythe's :: 5:00pm St Clement'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.

INTROIT HYMN 282 The voice of God goes out to all the world

OPENING HYMN 272 Come, thou long-expected Jesus (5:00pm)
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

A candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

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.

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.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND PREPARATION

Heavenly Father, you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son: forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were proclaimed by John the Baptist: help us also to prepare your way.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you speak through the prophets: make us attentive to hear your word

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The priest says:

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAISE

253 Oh Lord Jesus (5:00pm)
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

The Collect (prayer of the day)

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Opening the Scriptures

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Isaiah (61.1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

PSALM (126)

When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion: then were we like those restored to life.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter: and our tongue with singing.

Then said they among the heathen: 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

Truly the Lord has done great things for us: and therefore we rejoiced.

Turn again our fortunes, O Lord: as the streams return to the dry south.

Those who sow in tears: shall reap with songs of joy.

They that go out weeping, bearing the seed: shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

SUNG RESPONSE 17 The Lord will bless (5:00pm)
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (5.12-28)

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in

love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN 497 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring good news to the poor.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (1.6-8, 19-28)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not

know,
the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’
This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing .

For the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



SERMON

Let us together confirm the faith of the Church

APOSTLE CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

The prayers may include this or another response:

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.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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. Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the basket/box provided.

Celebrating at the Lord's table

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN 288 Not the powerful, not the privileged
 268 Joy to the world! The Lord is come (5:00pm)
 (found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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:

...to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying:
**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:

...we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:
**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, and concludes:

...all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou
**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.**



**Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke āke āke. Āmine.**

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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.

Everyone is invited to share communion or receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a personal blessing, please indicate when the minister comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you:
Holy are you, Lord.**

*(Hymn 723)
Words: Anon (from Argentina).*

**(5:00pm)
Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

*(Hymn 706)
Words: Taizé Community
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Going into the world

The Eucharist offers us a way to be 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.'

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us
with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully
and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

DISMISSAL

As we wait our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**In the name of Christ
Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 526 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
CLOSING HYMN 531 Sent forth by God's blessing (5:00pm)
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

With Advent Blessings

The season of Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) is a time of preparation and prayer. It is a wilderness time, perhaps best represented by the figure of John the Baptist who announced the coming of the Holy One, and who called upon God's people to repent. As Christmas draws closer, our attention is also drawn to Mary, who followed God's call to a vital role in the Word becoming flesh.

There are two horizons to the waiting and longing which are characteristic of Advent (which simply means 'coming'). Most obviously, we look towards Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. But we also look towards Jesus' future coming in glory, the time when all things will be gathered into God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

The liturgical colour of Advent is purple, reflecting the note of expectancy. We are invited to a deeper awareness of our dependence on God for the healing and redemption of all nations and the whole creation. The fundamental Advent prayer is expressed in the Aramaic word Maranatha ('Our Lord, come').

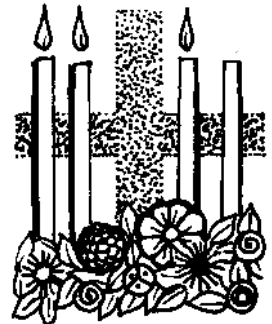
The tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath, week by week, originated in northern Europe in the nineteenth century and has been widely adopted by Christian churches around the world. In the northern hemisphere, Advent falls at the darkest time of year and so the symbolism of light in darkness has a particular resonance. In Australia, the season of Advent leads us towards the longest, brightest days of the year, a different but equally powerful image.

Lord Jesus, come!

Almighty God,
you have made us and all things to serve you:
come quickly to save us,
so that wars and violence shall end
and your children may live in peace,
honouring one another with justice and love;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

epray®



Notices

Margaret Ann Hall:

Dear parish following the passing of Margaret Ann Hall on 4 of December and funeral (memorial) last Thursday we continue to hold Theo and Margaret's family in our prayers. To God Be the Glory. Abide in Eternal peace dear Margaret. Grace & Blessings to you all. *Regards: Dave Thompson*

Intinction for the Receival of Wine in Holy Communion: Hello everyone. I have received authority from Bishop Brad to offer Intinction for the receival of the wine in Holy Communion. This is in view of the continued growth of Covid and the remaining sensitively to the consumption of the wine from the single Chalice. What this looks like would be: one of the stewards would remain close to the president as they distribute the Host. Parishioners can indicate whether they would prefer Intinction or wait for the single chalice. If you indicate a preference of Intinction...the president will dip the Host into the chalice that is near, dip it and pass it to the parishioner. If you indicate a preference for the single chalice, the president will hand you the host and you can take the wine from the second chalice as it is offered by this steward. I offer this in view that there are all sorts of good reasons to take the wine from the single chalice as there is utilising the art of Intinction. It is the Bishop's preference that only the priest 'dips' the host into the chalice for Intinction. The offer is made in view of what I have stated above. I hope this assist people in their worship. Grace & Blessings to you. *Dave T*

Empty Christmas Tree Appeal Advent 2023: Donations are invited of non-perishable foods and new unwrapped toys to be placed under our Empty Christmas Trees at St Eanswythe's or St Clement's. (Toys by the second Sunday in Advent please as these will be delivered for distribution by 12 December). All donations of food will continue as per usual Sunday practice. Enquires may be directed to Fred or Alta McAnda at St Eanswythe's or Sandra Hansen at St Clement's.



Tearfund Gift Shop: By buying and giving gifts from Tearfund's Useful Gifts catalogue, we can help to create change that lasts. As from 19 November at St Eanswythe's gifts will be available after mass until 17 December. On Sunday 26 November gifts will be available at St Clement's after the combined service. They will also be available after the 5pm service at St Clements on 3 & 10 December. Please see Phillis or call 0417 869 595.

Family Service Christmas Eve 5.00pm at St Clement's

Assistance is needed to present a family service at St Clement's. Many things have come up to make this service in threat of not going ahead. Lily has offered to run this service but she will need assistance. If you are available to help this service to continue please give Lily a call on 0413 065 705.



Planned Giving 2024/25: Pat Baines has decided that this year is her last as co-ordinator of the Planned Giving Programme. We are asking for any interested parishioners to speak to Pat on 9315 7838 or one of the Wardens who would like to take the opportunity to help undertake this important and vital role. You can also email the parish office on parish@anglicanaltlv.org.au.

Advent & Christmas Giving Envelopes: Hello everyone. I have received from the Anglican in Development mission requests to distribute their Advent & Christmas giving envelops for 2023. I would need someone from the parish to supervise or at least overlook the collection of these envelops. I can place them in the narthex of each worship centre...and you call make your own judgements whether this something you wish to contribute to. Please give this some prayerful thought.
Regards: Dave T

Thank you: Louise Matthey has expressed her thanks to all, especially Lily and Sandra, for a beautifully presented afternoon that was arranged as a 'thankyou' to the volunteers at Church for a very enjoyable and relaxing evening.



Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Everyone is welcome as we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
bringing hope and joy for young and old!



Sunday 24 December ~ Christmas Eve
5pm Christmas Family Service (St Clement's)
10:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist (St Eanswythe's)

Monday 25 December ~ Christmas Day
9:30am Christmas Eucharist (St Clement's)

St Eanswythe's, Altona—cnr Queen & Bent St
St Clement's, Altona Meadows—cnr Central Ave & Skehan Blvd

During late December and January our Sunday service times follow a different schedule, details to follow.
www.anglicanaltlv.org.au

For our Prayers This Week

The world and nation:

We pray for the people of Australia facing floods, heavy rains, storms, heatwaves and tropical cyclone Jasper. Keep them all safe in your hands dear Lord.

The Church:

World Council of Churches:

Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China.

For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Ballarat (Bp Garry Weatherill, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: St Matthew's Anglican Church Wheelers Hill (Gerald Crispin).

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglican Overseas Aid – for work with partners and communities in Vanuatu,

India and Kenya.

Our parish & community: For God's guidance, love and care of our people. Holding our incumbency committee in our prayers as they pray and meditate about our future parish needs.

Those with particular needs at this time:

Denise, Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Toby, Lewis, Christopher, Maria, Kay, Shane, Michael, Anna, John.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Dot Kearsley (19), Grace Ngatai (19), Betty Duckmanton (19), Noel Landers (20).



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 the clergy or parish office.

Parish Contact List

St Eanswythe's: Cnr Bent & Queen St, Altona 3018 | PO Box 48, Altona VIC 3018

St Clement's: 85-95 Central Ave, Altona Meadows 3028

www.anglicanaltlav.org.au | T: 03 9398 1005 | E: parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Locum: The Rev'd Dave Thompson

M: 0431 041 555 | E: dthompson@melbourneanglican.org.au

Assistant Priest and Maori Minister: The Rev'd Danny McRoberts

M: 0448 841 196 | E: dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Lily Griffin, Soon Ghee Yap & Denis Lee

This Week in our Parish

Sunday 17 December: Third Sunday of Advent

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

Tuesday - Friday

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop
re-opening on 20 January 2024

Tuesday 19 December

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

Wednesday 20 December

9am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

Thursday 21 December

10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Friday 22 December

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 24 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Christmas Family Service,
St Clement's
10:30pm Christmas Eve Service,
St Eanswythe's

Eucharist Readings for this Week

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings for this week.

Readings for Wednesday 20 December

Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm 24.1-6; Luke 1.26-38

Readings for Thursday 21 December: Thomas, Apostle & Martyr

Habakkuk 2.1-4; Psalm 117; Ephesians 2.19-22; John 20.24-29

Readings for Sunday 24 December

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Psalm 89.1-4, 19-27 & Song of Mary; Romans 16.25-27;
Luke 1.26-38

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's on
Tuesday and Friday morning at 9am. Everyone is welcome.



Keeping in Touch

- ⇒ 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 www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and livestreamed services.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, you can sign up at anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets

Third Sunday of Advent



Finding Joy in resilience

Twelve long years have passed since Rima* and her family fled their beloved home in Syria as the devastating civil war unfolded. Forced to leave everything behind, they sought refuge in Jordan, carrying with them only the essentials. With your kind gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can support Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, continue to provide vital food packages, hygiene kits, and the long-term support that refugees need to rebuild their lives. **Please give today.**



*Name changed for safety reasons

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



Advent & Christmas Appeal 2023

To help train leaders within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander churches & communities to build strong communities.

Useful Gifts

MEANINGFUL AND SUSTAINABLE POVERTY-FIGHTING GIFTS FOR ANY OCCASION

The new 2023-24 Useful Gifts Catalogue is here! Featuring brand new *Girls' Education*, *Combat Climate Change*, and *Hunger Response* gifts -- plus all the usual favourites.

Choose a Useful Gift | Share a story of change | Make an impact

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