

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona
St Clement's Altona Meadows
O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi

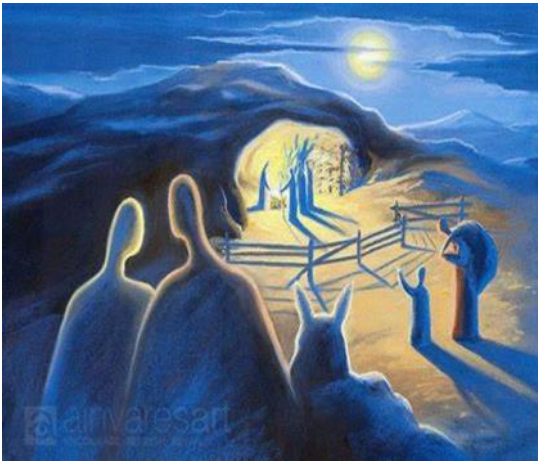


*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

31st December 2023 The Epiphany Of Our Lord

9:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, 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).

INTROIT HYMN 316 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

(FOUND IN THE RED HYMN BOOK TOGETHER IN SONG)

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: mercifully grant, that we, who know you now by faith, may after this life be led to the vision of your glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. (60:1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm (72: 1-7, 10-14)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians (3: 1-12)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,

and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,

reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,

and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;

so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 465 Father in Heaven
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

The Gospel

Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his Glory.
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew. (2: 1-12)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?’

For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd[my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

OFFERTORY HYMN 314 As with Gladness men of old
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song).

Hymn: 454 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For peace and justice for all living in Bethlehem and the Holy Land. Send your Spirit to encompass all those whose lives are torn apart by violence and death in Israel and Palestine....

The Church:

World Council of Churches: Anglican Church of Rwanda – Abp Laurent Mbanda and especially those for whom gatherings are dangerous.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of North Queensland (Bp Keith Joseph, Clergy & People); Relationship Matters (Janet Jukes, CEO).

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglicare Victoria – for prison

Our parish & community: For police and emergency service personnel, and all who face danger in their line of duty.

Those with particular needs at this time:

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

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: John Court (2), Deborah Pullin (5), Peter Haining (6).

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.



NOTICES

Appointment of Reverend Kerry Davis:

On behalf of the Wardens Denis Lee, Soon Ghee Yap and Lily Griffin, we have been informed that the Archbishop Philip has appointed;

Reverend Kerry Davis as our Vicar.

Rev'd Kerry and with his wife Vaoa will be joining us in May 2024 we are so pleased to make this announcement and thank you for your pray-full support for the Parish Nomination Committee.

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@anglicanaltlav.org.au.

NOTICES

Family Service Christmas Eve 5.00pm at St Clement's

Lily would like to thank everyone who came along to the Family Service on Christmas Eve. A special thank you to those who assisted to make this service in our Parish at St Clement's successful.

MESSAGE FROM REV'D DAVE T

Dear parish!

I hope you are having a terrific Christmas! On Sunday the 31st of December we will be celebrating the feast of the Epiphany. It is actually set for January the 2nd...but in many Anglican parishes, they move it to the nearest Sunday. The feast has seen much movement over its history. It is actually one of the most ancient of Christmas celebrations.....and is still seen in many traditions as equally important as Christmas.

For some it is part of the four great Epiphanies of the Lord!...his Baptism, Christmas, the visit of the wise men and the wedding at Cana being others. May Christians celebrate the Epiphany of the wise men coming to pay homage to Jesus on January the 6th. Sometimes due to calendar differences between East and Western Christians and the various emphasise due to cultural and traditional differences it may vary in date due to 'decree' by church leaders.

My wife's family continue celebrating Christmastide until the Epiphany in the R. Catholic church which remains on the 6th of January.

The meaning of the Epiphany has changed in emphasis, but its core meaning remains.....the Magi reflect the recognition of Christ and His light coming to the gentile world. His light is the great gift from God and a resounding affirmation of humanity and its salvation:

for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son.

And why? As Luke states in chapter 1: ...the "dawn (anatole) from on high" that "will break upon us" (NRSV), to give light (epiphanai) to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death". Hallejuha to God the Almighty Father.

Amen.

Regards: Dave T

SUNDAY SUMMER SERVICES IN JANUARY

Sun 7th	9:30am	St Clement's
	1pm	St Eanswythe's (Maori service)
Sun 14th	9:30am	St Eanswythe's
	1pm	St Eanswythe's (Maori service)
Sun 21st	9:30am	St Clement's
	1pm	St Eanswythe's (Maori service)



SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY: NORMAL SERVICE TIMES RESUME

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

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 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).