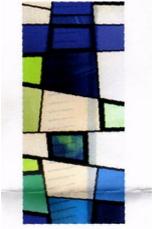


WELCOME



Baptism of our Lord 8 January 2017



All I want to say to you is,
"You are the beloved,"
and all I hope is
that you can hear
these words
as spoken to you
with all the tenderness
and force
that love can hold.
My only desire is
to make these
words reverberate
in every corner
of your being.

◆ *Henri Nouwen*
from Life of the Beloved:
Spiritual Living in a Secular World

At Worship Today

Prayer of the Day:

Eternal God,
at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan
you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that all who are baptised into his name
may keep the covenant they have made,
and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

7.45 BCP Book of Common
Prayer
Presiding and Preaching:
Revd Kate
Hymn: 225

No Contemporary Service
today

*The Sanctuary bell will be rung 5 minutes before the service begins
to observe a time of quiet.*

9.00 am A Prayer Book for Australia – page 119

Presiding at the Eucharist: Revd Kate

Musical Setting: “Eucharist” – Michael Dudman

Introit: **Hymn 225**

Sentence: A voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased.’

First Reading: Isaiah 42.1-9

Second Reading; Acts 10.34-43

Gradual: **Hymn 454**

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Sentence: The heavens were opened and the Father’s voice was heard;
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

Gospel: Matthew 3.13-17

Sermon: Revd Kate

Offertory: **Hymn 373**

Recessional: **Hymn 250**

*People of all Christian Churches, who are communicants of their own church,
are invited to share Holy Communion with us.*

First Reading: Isaiah 42.1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Second Reading: Acts 10.34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were

oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gospel: Matthew 3.13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'



Sunday 15th January is Revd Kate's Farewell –
Joint Service at 9.45 a.m. followed by Brunch.
Revd Dianne is away this weekend (8th)
attending her nephew's wedding near Warrnambool.

From your Vicar

Last week I mentioned that Epiphany meant 'manifestation' and why that word was chosen as the name of the Church's season that explores the significance of the Birth of the Messiah. We continue with this today with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. Just as the Child Jesus was made 'manifest' at His Birth to the shepherds (Christmas night) and to the Magi from the East (last Sunday, Epiphany), so too the adult Jesus is manifest at the River Jordan by the Prophet John the Baptist and by the very presence of the Holy Spirit. So this Sunday again underlines the fact that we do more than celebrate a Baby born at Bethlehem at Christmas. We celebrate the coming of our God actually into the human family – the Creator becomes a creature. What was indefinable becomes definable. More than that, the Almighty becomes our Servant in Jesus as He is baptised into the sins of the world.

The Holy Spirit as Dove

Representing the Holy Spirit AS a dove is very popular in religious art. However, the scriptures are a bit more evasive as they say LIKE a dove – just as scripture says that the Holy Spirit is LIKE a wind, or LIKE a tongue of fire. The image is deliberately elusive and intangible as that is the nature of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who comes to point out the identity of Jesus as the Son of God, and to reveal the truth of His teaching. The Holy Spirit does not reveal himself but Jesus does (Gospel of John). The Holy Spirit also submerges Himself into our spirit to become a witness within us that we are the Children of God, to the degree we are one with Christ. And to manifest that by the variety of ministries and gifts in God's People.

But what about the dove?

At the time of Jesus the Rabbi taught that because of the failure and sins of Israel to live out the Law of Moses the gift of prophecy had died out. There was no one who was worthy or capable of hearing and discerning God's voice and Spirit. Access between heaven and earth had been sealed – except that is for a very righteous man (not a woman!) who would be able to hear the echo of God's voice, which would sound like the gentle cooing of a dove.

All this reversed in Christ. Hence the gospel writer uses the image of the sealed heavens as being "torn open" and the voice of God speaking clearly and descending and resting on Jesus "like a dove". In Jesus the gift of the Holy Spirit is returned to the Human family. And we are baptised into this double gift of the Creator – His Son and His Holy Spirit, and we renew this gift through our Eucharist

Did You know?

- The Jordan River runs the length of Israel, from north of the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea in the south and is the life blood of Israel.
- The exact site of the baptism of Jesus by John is unknown but the traditional site is at et-Mughtas, six-and-a-half miles north of the Dead Sea.
- The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'.
- The first Christians were baptised by being plunged into the running streams or rivers, following the practice of John. Later, large fonts were built in Churches and baptism of the faithful, usually adults, was by full immersion, later still infant baptism became popular.

This week you might read over and think about your baptismal promises and how you live them out.

Pax(peace) Dianne

Afternoon Meditation Gatherings

1st Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Chapel, based on Ignatian Spirituality. A Sacred Space where you can find rest and stillness, listen and centre yourself. Spiritual food is offered to aid reflection and meditation. Contact Val Dyke on 9807 3168.

Next Session: 1 February 2017

Evening Meditation Gatherings

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7.30pm in the Old Church, based on the Contemplative Traditions of Christian Meditation. Contact Michael Mosley on 9807 3168.

Our first session for 2017 will be on **Thursday 12 January followed by the 26 January at 7.30pm** in the Old Church.

Parish Jazz Night, 17 February, 2017 6.30 – 9.30 pm

Join us for our popular
and family friendly
jazz night with the

"Clare Castle Jazz Band",
in the Parish Centre.

Tickets will be on sale from 22nd
January onwards



WEAR GREEN FOR PREMMIES

We have been asked to support the Wear Green for Premmies Day on Wednesday 5 April 2017 by knitting green hats for prem. babies as we did last year.

Patterns and wool are available in the Parish Centre. Please see Joan West if you have any questions.

Thank you

Ever considered making a bequest
to the Parish in your Will?

If so, then please speak to one of the Wardens if
you need more details.

Seminar **Christianity, Sexuality and the Modern World**

Bishop Graeme Rutherford, David Cundy and Fiona Sawyer will give talks on Christianity and homosexuality, the history of homosexuality and laws and repression, where we stand today with marriage equality and personal experiences.

This is a not to be missed event.

10am Saturday 21st January, 2017,
Parish Centre, Anglican Parish of St Stephen
and St Mary, 383 High Street, Mount
Waverley, followed by refreshments.

Free Entry



For children to colour in...



JESUS' BAPTISM

"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Dates to put in your Diary

Sunday	8 The Baptism of our Lord
7.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.00 am	Sung Eucharist (SE)
Monday	9
Tuesday	10
Wednesday	11
2.30pm	Volunteers to label music in suspension files
Thursday	12
7.30 pm	Meditation Session
Friday	13
Saturday	14
Sunday	15 Epiphany 2 Joint Service - Revd Kate's last day
Saturday	21
10am	Christianity, Sexuality and the Modern World seminar - Parish Centre
Sunday	22 Epiphany 3
Sunday	29 Epiphany 4

Next Week Epiphany 2 2017
15 January—Joint Service—9.45 am
Farewell to Revd Kate, who will Preside
and Preach.

Readings:
Isaiah 49.1-7
Psalm 40.1-14
1 Corinthians 1.1-9
John 1.29-42

Stewards/Welcomers
Nima Flora
Sue Retschko
Helen Warren

Readers: Jill De Lacy
Geoff Tait

Intercessor: Youth Group

Chalice Assistants:
Joanne Burns, Rowena Ferguson,
Brian De Lacy, Geoff Tait

The Anglican Parish of St Stephen and St Mary Mount Waverley

383 High Street Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. Phone: 9807 3168; Fax: 9807 0978

Office hours: Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 2pm, Thursday 1-5pm

'Like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley

Priest

(Day off - Monday)

The Rev'd Dianne Sharrock

Assistant Curate

(Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun)

The Rev'd Kate Lord

Theological Student

Garry Deverell

Children's and Families' Minister

(Tues, Wed, Thurs)

Becky Sims

Music Director

David Cundy

Treasurer

Helen Warren

Office Administrator

David Cundy

Churchwardens: Brian De Lacy, Bruce Chugg, Sue Retschko

Parish Council: Geoff Crawford, Elaine Fasken, Nathan Goode, Doug Hastings, Sherredan Maher, Peter Northwood, Helen Warren, Joan West

Pastoral Care Ministry:

Home Communion and General Visiting:

Ian Smith

Aged Care Chaplaincies:

Bruce Chugg

Hospital Visiting:

Clergy

Funeral Ministry:

The Vicar

Contemporary Eucharist Contact:

Rowena Ferguson

Pastoral Associate (Emeritus):

Trevor Bickerstaff

Spiritual Director

Val Dyke

Prayer Chain contact

Margaret Syfret

SERVICES: Sunday

7.45am

Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.00am

Sung Eucharist (APBA)

10.30am

Contemporary Eucharist (Children's Participation)

Tuesday

9.15am, Morning Prayer

Wednesday - Friday

9.00am, Morning Prayer

Thursday

10.00am, Eucharist