

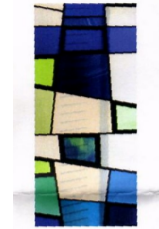
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

26 July 2020



“Accustom yourself to look first to the dreadful consequences of failure; then fix your eye on the glorious prize which is before you; and when your strength begins to fail, and your spirits are well nigh exhausted, let the animating view rekindle your resolution, and call forth in renewed vigour the fainting energies of your soul.”

– William Wilberforce

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This parish is committed to Child Safety and complies with Diocesan and State requirements. This is a shared responsibility of staff and parish. Please see the back of pew leaflet for contact details.

At Worship Today:

**O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,
and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

9.45 am (Sung Eucharist)

Preaching & Presiding:

Revd Greg

Liturgy Setting:

Marty Haugen 'Mass of Creation'

Processional:

'All the hungry, all the thirsty'

Sentence:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

First Reading:

Genesis 12.1-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Optional Descant

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

D G/B Asus4 A G Dadd9 D G/B A7/C# D

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel:

Matthew 13.44-58

Offertory:

'O God, you search me and you know me' vv.1,2,3

Choir Anthem:

'The Lord is My Shepherd' by Howard Goodall

Recessional Hymn:

'Holy Spirit, Living Water'

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First Reading: Genesis 12.1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. 9 And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13.44-58

44 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and

throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 52 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' 53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. 54 He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' 57 And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' 58 And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.



From the Assistant/Curate

God's Blessing

This week we begin the 'second act' in the book of Genesis. So far, God has been a wonderful creator specifically acting through his divine Word. Therefore living according to his Word is wise because in so doing, it is in conformity with nature and therefore the wisdom by which they were divinely made – it would be most unwise if we were to dig a hole in the garden with a straw and sip a cold drink with a spade! There is a 'givenness' to things – physically, socially, morally, and spiritually – that is built into the fabric of God's creation. As such, we cannot treat people, or the environment, or ourselves any way we want without consequences.

In this creative context God speaks a special word to Abraham in Genesis 12. The Hebrew word for 'blessing' (berakah) is plentiful in this chapter as God makes the covenant with Abraham. The concept to receive blessing is more than just mere happiness but it is more akin to multidimensional flourishing. This contrasts the disorder that reigns in Genesis 3-11, with an increasing misalignment of good creation order established in Genesis 1-2. This is multidimensional decay – spiritual emptiness, inner anxiety, crises of identity, conflicts between nations, classes, races, and the exploitation of our natural environment.

But to experience blessing and multidimensional flourishing is to experience God's careful repair of our hearts and behaviour. Spiritually we reconcile and grow closer to God. Psychologically we start to understand ourselves and find our feelings and actions closer in-line with God and his will. Relationally we discover added depth and breadth that common faith adds to human friendship. Socially we serve our neighbours and the broader community. Being blessed ultimately through the Lord Jesus means we conform to his likeness, with gradual healing in all life's dimensions.

In light of the current disorder around us, let us not add to it, but consider how to live according to the fabric of God's ordered creation. Let us move along the grain of his purposes such that we are a blessing to others and creation. In so doing, let us not be downcast and expect a perfect life, but understand that it is precisely through the ups and downs, the successes and struggles that we will slowly but surely grow in Christ-likeness, and therefore experience eternal multidimensional flourishing.

Grace and peace,
Rev'd Greg

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'All the hungry, all the thirsty'

1. All the hungry, all the thirsty,
all who look for strength may come,
all the needy, all the lonely,
all who long to find a home.
Here's a door that's always open,
here a table spread for all,
here a welcome, here a family,
here your heart can heed God's call.
2. All the gifted, all the joyful,
all whose hope is strong, come too;
come with overflowing blessings,
come with treasures old and new.
Here's a task that needs those riches,
here good news is always heard,
here a living faith grows bolder,
here your voice can speak God's word.
3. All the gifts of all God's people,
all the struggles, all the pain,
all the Spirit-sent abundance,
all the grief and loss and gain –
brought together in one Body,
burdens lighten, joys increase,
and together we can ask for
Jesus' strength and Jesus' peace.

words: Elizabeth J. Smith

OFFERTORY HYMN

'O God, you search me and you know me'
vv. 1,2,3

1. O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
2. You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life and death, you are.

3. Before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,
you have known its meaning through and
through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future too.

Bernadette Farrell 1957-

RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Holy Spirit, Living Water'

1. Holy Spirit, living water,
flow in us and set us free.
Cleanse our unbelief and sorrow,
wash our eyes and make us see.
2. Holy Spirit, come as wind and
blow the dust of death away.
Breathe the gift of life into us,
lighten hearts to laugh and play.
3. Holy Spirit, rushing fire,
burn with truth and justice here.
Catch our minds alight with passion,
perfect love that casts out fear.
4. Holy Spirit, come in silence,
wordlessly to heal and bless.
Be the heart that prays within us,
fill the void with tenderness.
5. *Holy Spirit, blessèd Wisdom,
teach us all of God's delight.
Offer us the wine of grace and
make us children of the Light.*

words: Elizabeth J. Smith

“3 THINGS” FROM THE JULY ZOOM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Electronic sign

The sign has unfortunately stopped working due to some major “internal” issues. Parish Council has confirmed the great value of this sign and approved the repair of it.

2. Survey regarding “reopening”

Thank you to all those who completed this survey. Your answers and comments were very helpful for Parish Council when the time comes to reopen.

3. Mission Giving / Donation to Anglican Overseas Aid

Remaining Mission Allocation payments to be made (\$4,000). An extra payment of \$1000 was approved for St Peter’s Anglican Church Eastern Hill Foundation who provides meals to those in need 7 days a week. This donation is as a “thank you” for the government’s funding we are receiving during the pandemic. Council also approved a \$1000 donation to Anglican Overseas Aid in recognition of Refugee and Migrant Sunday which is at the end of August. As we did last year, we will request that this money go towards the Al Ahli Hospital Gaza project which aims to improve the lives of women with breast cancer in Gaza.

<https://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/womens-health-womens-rights-project-gaza/>

Congregational Giving Report

1st APRIL through until the 30th of JUNE 2020

Giving Category	Amount Given	Budget Amount	Variation from Budget
Open	0	4,119	- 4,119
Envelopes	11,695	23,500	- 11,805
Direct to bank Account	31,251	6,348	+ 24,903
ADF Planned Giving	22,737	24,900	- 2,163
TOTALS	65,683	58,867	+ 6,816

The Wardens thank you for your wonderful generosity in these difficult times.

'Hope' workshop

There is a second opportunity to attend Cath Connelly's workshop 'Emerging Stories Beyond a Disintegrating World'

The presentation will be via zoom on Thursday 30th July at 2.30 p.m. Zoom information has been sent via email.

Anglicare Christmas Cards

Due to the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic Anglicare have let us know that they will not be offering Christmas cards for sale this year.

Thank you for your support over many years.

Roster for August

2 August – Patronal Festival – St Stephen

Acts 6: 8 - 10, 7: 54 - 60 Peter Northwood

Matthew 10: 17 – 22

Intercessor Judith Gibson

9 August – 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 50: 15 – 26 Val Dyke

Matthew 14: 22 – 36

Intercessor Michael Mosely

15 August – Mary, the Mother of Our Lord

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3 John Leaver

Luke 2: 1 – 7

Intercessor Joan West

23 August – Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr

Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 18 Ron Ritchie

John 1: 45 – 51

Intercessor Sue Retschko

30 August – Refugee and Migrant Sunday

Exodus 3: 1 – 15 Jenny Bowers

Matthew 16: 21 – 28

Intercessor Christine Mallouhi

Afternoon Meditation Gathering

On the 1st Wednesday of each month is still being offered during the Coronavirus in our own homes. We keep the same time in our own homes from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

If you are interested in joining with other parishioners please contact Val and the meditation we will reflect on together will be sent to you. **Our next gathering is Wednesday 5th August.**

Evening Meditation Gatherings

On the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month meditation sessions are offered, via Zoom, in the Contemplative Traditions of Christian Meditation. The sessions start at 7.30pm but you can enter into the gathering after 7.15pm. Interested parishioners can contact Michael for more information. The next session will be on **Thursday 30th July** then on **Thursday 13th August.**

The Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mount Waverley

383-385 High Street Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. Phone: 9807 3168

Office hours: Currently Closed

Email: parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au Website: www.stephenandmary.org.au

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

Priest

(Day off - Monday)

The Venerable Dianne Sharrock

Assistant Curate

(Tues, Wed & Thurs mornings, Fri, Sun)

The Revd Greg Wong

Children's and Families' Minister

(Tues 10.00 am - 3.00 pm, Wed 9.30 am - 2.30 pm, Sun 10.30 am - 12.30 pm)

Lisa Eames

Child Safety Compliance Officer

Elaine Fasken

Music Director

Brian Cople

CE Music Coordinator

Greg Ellsmore

Treasurer

Helen Warren

Office Manager

Katherine Rushby

Churchwardens:

Graeme Dellora

John Foster

Judith Gibson

Parish Council:

Sugan Blanchard, David Bruce, Margaret Crawford, Rowena Ferguson, Jennifer Gracie, Nathan Kelly, Frances Ludgate, Sherredan Maher, Helen Warren.

Pastoral Care Ministry:

Aged Care Chaplaincies:

Hospital Visiting:

Clergy

Funeral Ministry:

The Vicar

Contemporary Eucharist Contact:

Rowena Ferguson

Spiritual Directors:

Cath Connelly

Val Dyke

Prayer Chain contact

Margaret Syfret

SERVICE: Sunday 9.45 am

The Church Office is now **closed**. If you wish to continue to bring food items for the Asylum Seekers or MWCIS and/or your offertory, they can be left in Dianne's front porch.