

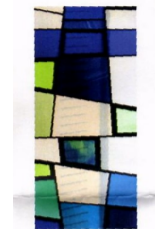
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

13 September 2020



“Holy Spirit, the life that gives life: You are the cause of all movement. You are the breath of all creatures. You are the salve that purifies our souls. You are the ointment that heals our wounds. You are the fire that warms our hearts. You are the light that guides our feet. Let all the world praise you.” – *Hildegard of Bingen*

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,
you call your Church to witness that in Christ
we are reconciled to you:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
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: Diane Gome
Processional: 'As we gather round your table' vv.1,2 & 5 *Tune TIS 520*
Sentence: If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord,
who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so
that you may be revered.
First Reading: Exodus 14.19 – 31
Gospel Acclamation:



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Gospel: Matthew 18.21 – 35
Offertory: 'Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive' *Tune TIS 10*
Choir Anthem: 'Be Gracious To All'
Book of Common Prayer Composer: John Missel
Recessional Hymn: 'Go, my children' vv. 1,3 & 4 *Tune TIS 168*

“Even in a world that’s being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong.”

– *Hildegard of Bingen*

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First Reading: Exodus 14.19-31

19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. 20 It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. 22 The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. 24 At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. 25 He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. 29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. 30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." 29 Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

From Your Assistant/Curate

Many have found this time a period of heightened emotions and you may know or have experienced yourself relationships sadly breaking down. Our theme this Sunday is 'forgiveness' so this is apt as we manage our way through the lockdown.

One of my favourite books of the Bible is Proverbs, and one particular proverb matches our theme: Proverbs 24:29 "Do not say, "I will do to others as they have done to me; I will pay them back for what they have done."

This proverb shows us the ideology behind resentment. It can feel 'natural' to want payback when we are wronged. It can be a repeated thought pattern. But here, Proverbs tells us explicitly to refuse the thought, 'do not say'. Forgiveness however, is a commitment not to pay someone back, but to bear the cost ourselves.

The desire for vengeance doesn't just harm another person, but harms us too. In our Genesis series we briefly looked at Adam and Eve's son, Cain whose sinful resentment mastered him (Genesis 4:6-7). If someone wrongs us, we may hope for that person to be unhappy. We may graduate to saying and doing things to hurt them and those around them. This is what consumes Cain – the evil done to us now begins to take hold of and starts to shape us.

We ought to beware of subtle ways we try and extract this payback. Let us not drag the past up over and over. Let us not be more demanding and controlling of the person who has wronged us, all because we feel they owe us. Let us refuse to hint or gossip to diminish them in others' eyes under the guise of 'warning' people or getting personal support. Let us not continue to replay these memories in our imagination, otherwise the sense of loss and hurt will continue to be fresh and cause us to be hostile and feel overly virtuous.

By forgiving, by bearing the cost of sin against us, we walk the path of our master (Colossians 3:13). To forgive is to refuse to hold people liable for what they do to us but instead leave it to God, for it is his job not ours (Romans 12:19). If the Lord Jesus died to forgive us of an infinite debt to him, how can we not forgive the wrongdoer their finite debt to us?

Grace and peace,
Rev'd Greg



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'As we gather round your table' vv.1,2,5 *Tune 520*

- 1.As we gather round your table,
wipe away the tears we've shed.
Share your gifts of love and laughter,
pour the wine and break the bread
Christ our Wisdom, Christ our Justice,
feast with us till all are fed.
- 2.We have heard your call to service,
seen forgiveness in your face.
In your heart you hold our future:
clothe us with your shining grace.
Christ our End and our Beginning,
make us strong to run this race.
- 3.In your Spirit's power we travel:
be our guide till journey's end.
Give us courage, joy, endurance,
feet to wash, and hearts to mend.
Christ our Teacher, Christ our Vision,
healer, helper, servant, friend.

words: Elizabeth J. Smith

OFFERTORY HYMN

'Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive' *Tune TIS 10*

- 1.'Forgive our sins as we forgive'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you.

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Rosamond Eleanor Herklots 1905-87

RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Go, my children; vv. 1,3 & 4 *Tune TIS 168*

1. Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone;
waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own;
in my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine for ever,
go, my children, with my blessing
you are my own.
2. Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here his tender comfort stilled you;
go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.
3. I the Lord will bless and keep you,
and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you,
and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father,
Saviour, Comforter and Brother;
go, my children, I will keep you,
and give you peace.

words: Jaroslaz J. Vajda 1919 - 2008

Choral Anthem:

Be Gracious To All Composer: John Missel Text: Book of Common Prayer

*O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy:
Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways,
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word,
Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.*

A CALL TO PRAYER

Bishop Paul invites you to join in prayer again in September. Anyone can join. Let us call on our gracious God for his mercy.

Tuesday, 15 September at 7.30 – 8.15pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87959326079?pwd=YkFZWjRiNDZOSctFSzUwMVhqWHppUT09> Meeting ID: 879 5932 6079

Passcode: 528540

One tap mobile: Dial by your location: [+61 3 7018 2005](tel:+61370182005)

Meeting ID: 879 5932 6079 Passcode: 528540

Thursday, 17 September at 2.00 – 2.45pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83608050468?pwd=VVpYODkwb2gxZVluTHQ2U09kVHc1UT09>

Meeting ID: 836 0805 0468

Passcode: 154520

One tap mobile: Dial by your location: [+61 3 7018 2005](tel:+61370182005)

Meeting ID: 836 0805 0468 Passcode: 154520



The September edition of TMA is now available online (see <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>)



24 print copies are available for pick-up from the Vicar's porch—first in, best dressed!

"3 THINGS" FROM THE AUGUST ZOOM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Zooming Sunday services

We welcome the assistance of Gerard Hook who is zooming our services while Andrew has a break. John Leaver and Rowena Ferguson continue to assist each Sunday.

2. Interim Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Work is being done on an Interim MAP. Some uncertainty surrounds this due to Covid-19, but we are currently focussing on digital technology capability and how this can best be used now and in the future.

3. Thank you letter received

A letter was received from Professor Rev Mark Lindsay, the Deputy Dean of Trinity College thanking the parish for the mission allocation donation for the work of the theological school. He let us know that with all teaching online, students have coped well and there is a healthy enrolment for term 2 subjects. An offer has been made for a member of the faculty to come and preach one Sunday in the future.

Roster for September

20 September – Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr

Proverbs 3: 1-6 Howard Brown
Matthew 9: 9-13

Intercessor Val Dyke

27 September – 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 17: 1-7 Irene Donohoue Clyne
Matthew 21: 23-32

Intercessor Sue Retschko

Thank you to our volunteers—if you are able to help please contact Joan West.

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 7th October.**

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 Mosley for more information. The next session will be on **Thursday 24th September** then on **Thursday 8th October.**

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
Covid19 Compliance Officer	Sugan Blanchard
Music Director	Brian Copple
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:	
<i>Aged Care Chaplaincies:</i>	
<i>Hospital Visiting:</i>	Clergy
<i>Funeral Ministry:</i>	The Vicar
<i>Contemporary Eucharist Contact:</i>	Rowena Ferguson
Spiritual Directors:	Cath Connelly Val Dyke
Prayer Chain contact	Margaret Syfret
SERVICE:	Sunday 9.45 am