

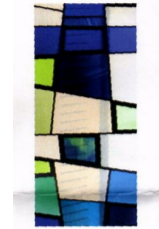
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

27 September 2020



*Gracious God, trusting in your providence and presence,
we bring our prayer for an end to this pandemic.*

*We pray for your strengthening of those offering costly
leadership during this crisis.*

We pray for all who are ill.

We pray for those anxious about getting ill.

We pray for those full of grief.

We remember those who have died.

*We pray for your grace to sustain us as we do what we can
in our context.*

We ask these things, as you encourage us to do.

'Ask and it will be given you.' (Matthew 7.7)

*In resurrection faith, we offer our heartfelt prayer through
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

- Bishop Philip Huggins, NCCA President

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:

**Grant, O merciful God,
that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,
who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.
For you have highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
Jesus Christ, the Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in everlasting glory. Amen.**

9.45 am (Sung Eucharist)

Preaching & Presiding: The Venerable Dianne
Liturgy Setting: Dudman
Processional: TIS 626 'Lord of Creation, To You be all Praise!'
vv.1,3 & 5
Sentence: Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before
him.
First Reading: Exodus 17.1-7
Gospel Acclamation:



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Gospel: Matthew 21.23-32
Offertory: TIS 259 'Among Us and Before Us, Lord, You Stand'
vv. 1,4 & 5
Choir Anthem: 'Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy'
- Composer: Ronald Turner Text: Joseph Hart
Recessional Hymn: TIS 531 'Sent Forth By God's Blessing'

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First Reading: Exodus 17.1-7

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' 5 The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21.23-32

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' 24 Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" 26 But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' 27 So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 28 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." 29 He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'



From Your Assistant/Curate

What is authority? Who is deserving of it? When should authority be given, if at all? These questions have come into sharper focus as national governments make decisions on behalf of their nations in response to the pandemic.

The Lord Jesus says that all authority is given to him (Matthew 28:18). In this sense, if we set ourselves against God to defy his will, we end up accomplishing his will at our expense (as did Pharaoh in Exodus 7:22, 8:15). At another level, without faith in God, even the most sophisticated and diligent thinker is going to leave out too much of reality to be genuinely wise about life. No one would trust a surgeon with no medical training or a cook who could not tell salt from sugar! How then can we trust our own thoughts and intuitions if they omit the one who creates the fabric of the universe and holds it all together?

Proverbs 14:26 says, "In the fear (reverence) of the LORD one has strong confidence, and one's children will have a refuge." So trusting in God means accepting what he allows to come into our lives, whether we understand it or not. "We know all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28), even if we can't see the whole picture.

This kind of dependent trust in God is like a secure fortress. Others may look to their own reason or talent to handle life. They may look to some great leader or loved one for their source of comfort and authority. But these fortresses are not secure, so trusting in them will leave us defenceless. When our greatest fear and reverence, and ultimate hope is God and his loving, wise plan, then there is nothing that can overthrow us. God is the ultimate authority.

St Augustine said our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. So if we begin to experience worry and anxiety, consider God's bigger picture. Remember that God doesn't make mistakes. Recall that God's plans are wiser than our own. Recount God's love for you that has already been fully shown in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. So may we continue to place all our trust and dependence in him. For all authority has been given to Christ through all eternity by the only one who is worthy of granting it.

Grace and peace,
Rev'd Greg



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 636 vv.1,3,5

'Lord of Creation, To You be all Praise!'

1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.
2. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind:
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.
3. Lord of all being, I give you my all;
If ever I leave you I stumble and fall;
But, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Jack Copley Winslow 1882-1974 alt.

OFFERTORY HYMN

TIS 259 vv. 1,4 & 5

'Among Us and Before Us, Lord, You Stand'

1. Among us and before us, Lord, you stand
with arms outstretched and bread and wine at hand.
Confronting those unworthy of a crumb,
you ask that to your table we should come.
2. Who dare say No, when such is your request
that each around your table should be guest.
that here the ancient word should live as new,
'Take, eat and drink – all this is meant for you.'?
3. No more we hesitate and wonder why;
no more we stand indifferent, scared or shy.
Your invitation leads us to say Yes,
to meet you where you nourish, heal and bless.

John L. Bell 1949-

RECESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 531 'Sent Forth By God's Blessing'

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith
confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.
The supper is ended: may now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls
reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.
His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-
living
the tasks of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours all those of each
race.
One feast that has fed us, one light that has
led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.
Then may all the living, with praise and
thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we
bear.

Omer Westendorf
1916 - 1997



Roster for October

Sunday 4 October – Feast of St Francis

Exodus 20: 1 – 4, 7 – 9, 12 – 20 Joanne Burns

Matthew 21: 33 – 46

Intercessor Jenny Bowers

Sunday 11 October – Pentecost 19

Exodus 32: 1 – 14 Ron Ritchie

Matthew 22: 1 – 14

Intercessor Judith Gibson

Sunday 18 October – Pentecost 20

Exodus 33: 12 – 23 Jenny Brown

Matthew 22: 15 – 33

Intercessor Christine Mallouhi

Sunday 25 October – Pentecost 21

Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12 Sue Retschko

Matthew 22: 34 – 46

Intercessor Michael Mosely

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

SEPTEMBER SSTAMP

The latest Parish Paper has hit the streets.

Hard copies available.

Contact Graeme Dellora



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

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



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 8th October** then on **Thursday 22nd 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:

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