

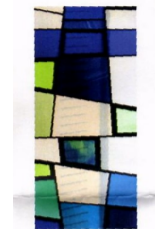
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11 October 2020



THE TREE STUMP

*God of our grieving,
Help us to find inspiration in nature.
In the weeds that spring up from cracks in concrete,
from grass that sprouts in the highest gutters,
from vegetables that grow from compost.
Remind us that the end is never the end for you,
Meaning that there is always another chapter
With a twist we may not have expected.
Loving God, we can count the rings in a stump
And realise how long a tree has stood before it was felled.
May we value the rings in our own timber,
The experiences you have led us through,
The losses that have helped us grow, however painful
Thank you for second chances, third chances
And peace at the last.
Amen.*

Michael McGirr

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:

**Saving and healing God,
you have promised that those who have died with
Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful
for all you have done for us,
and in that thankfulness to be eager
to serve and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice
in your salvation;
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:

TIS 474 'Here In This Place New Light Is Streaming'

Sentence:

This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be
glad and rejoice in his salvation.

First Reading:

Exodus 32.1-14

Gospel Acclamation:



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Gospel:

Matthew 22.1-14

Offertory:

TIS 693 'Come As You Are'

Communion Song:

At the Still Point of the Universe

- Composer/Lyricist Alfred Fedak

Recessional Hymn:

'God Has Chosen Me'



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First Reading: Exodus 32.1-14

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 2 Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' 3 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.' 6 They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. 7 The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"' 9 The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10 Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.' 11 But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember

Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." ' 14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22.1-14

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.'

From Your Assistant Curate

The controversy between the Lord Jesus and the Jewish leaders is described in chapters 21-23 of Matthew's Gospel. Christ arrives in Jerusalem, at the doorstep of 'the establishment' of his day. He is met with provocation and perceived by the religious leaders as a disturber of the peace. Hence these chapters describe the beginning of our Lord's journey to the cross.

It's within these chapters that our Lord recounts three parables which are distinct from one another, yet help interpret one another. All are clearly directed at the religious leaders and concerned with who is really acceptable to God. The Lord Jesus suggests that the true Israel is now to be found in himself and in those who follow him.

What issue did Christ have with the religious leaders? He explains in his Sermon on the Mount earlier in Matthew's Gospel. Here, Christ reissues the book of Proverbs, taking the Ten Commandments and applies them to the practical matters of daily life - right living brings blessedness, flourishing, shalom. In particular, Christ identifies that the meek, the humble, the lowly will inherit the earth.

While none of us are perfectly like this, we can still be blessed and inherit the earth through Christ. For he becomes 'gentle' riding on a colt than a warhorse (Matthew 21:5). He is like a lamb being led to the slaughter but did not open his mouth (Isaiah 53:7). But he rescues us through his perfect meekness. If we believe in him, we receive justification by faith (Romans 3:23-24) and we inherit a new heaven and new earth (Romans 8:18-21).

So Christ consistently pushes against the proud and powerful of his day. He teaches that the way up is down, to be glorified is to be humble. This seems foolish to the world but is wise to God for this is how God comes to be with us, Immanuel. Let us remember that in God's big picture it is the meek who in the end will be exalted. Let us learn the lesson from Christ's parables not to regress into high-brow comfort like the religious leaders. Instead let us humbly serve others as he did. In so doing we properly represent Christ as we shine the hope of the gospel into a world that so desperately needs it.

Shalom,
Rev'd Greg



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 474 'Here in this place'

Marty Haugen 1850-

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.*
3. Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your
daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
*Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
*Gather us in, and hold us forever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

'TIS 693 'Come As You Are'

Deidre Browne 1936-

1. 'Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?
2. 'No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.
3. 'I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?
4. 'Come as you are: that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.'

COMMUNION SONG

'At the Still Point of the Universe'

Composer/Lyricist Alfred Fedak

At the still point of the universe,
all that is not silence is song,
and all creation, hearing it, dances for joy.
The song of the universe is the song of life,
its rhythms defined by the cadence of time,
its beauty in its holy harmony.
The song is sung best when sung by the
heart.

God Has Chosen Me

Bernadette Farrell

VERSES

1. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to bring good news,
 2. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to set a - light,
 3. God is call-ing me, God is call-ing me in all whose cry

1. to the poor. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to
 2. a new fire. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to
 3. is un - heard. God is call-ing me, God is call-ing me to

1. bring new sight to those search-ing for light: God has
 2. bring to birth a new king - dom on earth: God has
 3. raise up the voice with no pow - er or choice: God is

REFRAIN

1. cho - sen me, cho - sen me: And to tell the world
 2. cho - sen me, cho - sen me:
 3. call - ing me, call - ing me:

— that God's king-dom is near, to re - move op - pres - sion and
 break down fear, yes God's time is near, God's time is near,
 — God's time is near, God's time is near.

A message from Margaret Noblett

My family and I wish to express our deep gratitude for the love, support and prayers extended to us by the church family during these past difficult months. Dianne's words of comfort were also most appreciated. In the same way, Greg's compassion in arranging and conducting the celebration of Bill's life and the honouring of his memory was solace to us all.

The empty church was quite confronting as I walked up the aisle towards Bill's coffin but I was comforted in knowing that many of you were with the family and I in spirit, via the internet, throughout the service.

God's blessings be with you all.

Margaret Noblett and family

Roster for October

Sunday 25 October – Pentecost 21

Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12 Sue Retschko
Matthew 22: 34 – 46

Intercessor Michael Mosely

Sunday 18 October – Pentecost 20

Exodus 33: 12 – 23 Jenny Brown
Matthew 22: 15 – 33

Intercessor Christine Mallouhi

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 4th November.**

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 22nd October** then on **Thursday 12th November.**

NOTICE OF PARISH GENERAL MEETING 2020

Our Parish General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 29 at 11.15am (after our service)** - at this stage via Zoom

Group Reports

Although Parish groups have been unable to meet for the majority of 2020, it is requested that groups prepare a report for the Parish Annual Report covering the period October 2019 until the end of March 2020. Reports are due to the Parish Office no later than **Friday October 30**.

Please send your reports to parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au

Electoral Roll

If you are unsure if you are on the electoral roll, please email Katherine in the Parish Office to check. If you are not on the roll and would like to be, please check that you fulfill the criteria (below) and ask Katherine for an enrolment form to be emailed to you.

Nominations

Further details about nominations for Wardens, Parish Council and Incumbency Committee will be included in the pew sheet in the coming weeks. Please start to think and pray about these nominations.

ROWENA FERGUSON

Secretary, Parish Council

CRITERIA FOR BEING ADDED TO PARISH ELECTORAL

- I am 18 years of age or older
- I have been baptised
- I am a member of the Anglican Church of Australia by attending regularly (at least 12 times in preceding 12 months, and at least 3 times in the 3 months prior to the Annual Meeting)
- I do not belong to any religious body which is not in communion with the Anglican Church of Australia
- I seek to be entered on the parish roll of this parish, and wish to be removed from the roll of the parish in which I am currently enrolled (if you are, we can organise a letter requesting you be removed from that roll - please ask Katherine for this)
- I do/do not (delete as applicable) consent to details of my postal address and my email address being on the parish roll exhibited prior to statutory parish meetings and available for inspection

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