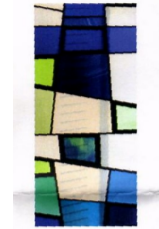


THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME



Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

8 November 2020

THE CONIFER IN THE MORNING RAIN

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

Be with us at every hour of this day.

Help us to hold on to you,

When it is easy to let go into cynicism, negativity, and endless criticism.

Every drop of water is teeming with life and so is every moment.

May we remember the words of Psalm 63:

God, you are my God, I am seeking you,

My soul is thirsting for you,

My flesh is longing for you,

A land parched weary and waterless.

Let us pray

Your love is better than life itself.

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:

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

9.45 am (Sung Eucharist)

Preaching & Presiding: Ven Dianne
Liturgy Setting: Diane Gome
Processional: TIS 280 'When He Comes Back'
Sentence: Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day
your Lord is coming.
First Reading: Joshua 24: 1 - 3a, 14 - 25
Gospel Acclamation:



Music: Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1 - 13
Offertory: TIS 657 'God of Freedom'
Tune TIS 497
Lord's Prayer: Routledge version
Choir Anthem: 'My Lord, What A Mornin' African American Spiritual
Arr. by Mark Schweitzer SJMP 20247
Recessional Hymn: TIS 181 'Come, O God Of All The Earth' vv. 1,3,5

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First Reading: Joshua 24: 1 - 3a, 14 – 25

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord , the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; 14 'Now therefore revere the Lord , and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord . 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord , choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord .' 16 Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord , for he is our God.' 19 But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord , for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' 21 And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord !' 22 Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord , to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' 23 He said, 'Then put away

the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord , the God of Israel.' 24 The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 1 – 13

1 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



The November edition of *The Melbourne Anglican* is available online via the following link:

<http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>

From Your Vicar

What if Jesus didn't recognize us? There's nothing quite like the feeling of greeting someone you know well, and realizing, as they wave vaguely back, that they have no idea who you are. It is not usually a very comfortable moment. The Gospel reading paints a disturbing picture of another moment of nonrecognition. Some people who are invited to a wedding make the long journey there, then realize that they have left something behind, and run back to get it. When they return, the door to the party is shut. They knock, and the person who invited them in the first place opens the door, looks at them blankly, and say, "Who are you?"

So, the horrifying idea of the gospel is that when we arrive at the party of our life in the kingdom of God, that we are looked and Jesus says to us, "Who are you and what are you doing here?" Are there things that might make Jesus look at us and say, "Who are you? You are not at all like the person you were when God created you! What happened to you?" Perhaps people can fall away from the created image and the God that formed us, by not caring about others, but only for the financial gain we can get from someone; people are killed in mass shootings around the world; left to go hungry and starve to death while lobsters rot on the run-way because of political power; cheat on others or their income taxes; additions that harm oneself and others; or those who feel or made to feel that they are unworthy of love and compassion. These sorts of things prevent us from looking like the person we were created to be.

I think we fall into sin, or find ourselves overwhelmed with sin, because we get distracted and stop paying attention to the gifts God has bestowed upon us, the life God has called us to, or the people God has given us to love. We are caught in the lies of easy money, quick fixes or the words of abusers. And if there were anything that would make it difficult for Jesus to recognize us, it would be the sin that overruns our lives and pulls us away from being the people of God created us to be. That is the bad news. The Good News is that there is not any sin that God cannot forgive. There is not any sin that cannot be put aside. There is not any sin that is stronger than God's love. Yet Jesus promises us that when we confess our sins, we are forgiven, and the slate is swept clean. Jesus does not define us by our sins, and he sets us free from feeling stuck forever in a life of sin. So when the time comes, when we knock on that door of that great party in the kingdom, Jesus will open the door, take one look at us and say, "I know you, come in – and welcome home!"

God created us to be loving, free individuals giving of ourselves, our time and our resources to be in intimate relationships with others, to care for the earth and those who depend on us, to work with integrity and to begin each day with joy knowing that we are loved and loveable.

Pax (peace)

Dianne

Roster

Sunday 15th November:

Pentecost 24

Judges 4: 1 – 10 John Foster

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Intercessor Christine Mallouhi

Sunday 22nd November: Christ the King

Ezekiel 34: 11 - 16, 20 – 24 Irene

Donohoue

Clyne

Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Intercessor Graeme Dellora

Sunday 29th November: First

Sunday of Advent (Annual Meeting Day)

1 Corinthians 1: 1 -9 Elaine

Fasken

Mark 13: 24 – 37

Intercessor Michael Mosely

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 280 'When He Comes Back'

Refrain:

*When he comes back, when he comes back,
our lamps will be burning to welcome him
when he comes back.*

1. The master has promised that he will return
on a night when there's no one expecting to see
him at
all:
keep oil in the lamps so they're ready to burn
on the night of the secret, when those who are
waiting
he'll call.

Refrain

2. Look not for his presence in heaven's dark
space:
by the light of our living on earth we'll discover
his
face.
The face of the master is always at hand
in the faces of people – the hungry, the
stranger, the
sad.

Refrain

3. This stranger will search for his home in the
night,
and then how will he find it, unless all the win-
dows are
bright?
But if we are waiting, why then, he'll come in -
and there'll be a homecoming, with dancing and
singing
within.

Refrain

William Walsham How
1823-97 alt.



OFFERTORY HYMN

TIS 657 'God of Freedom' Tune TIS 497

1. God of freedom, God of justice,
God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison,
God who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.
2. Rid the earth of torture's terror
God whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
God who shed the tears and blood;
move in us the power of pity,
restless for the common good.
3. Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Shirley Erena Murray 1931-*alt.*

COMMUNION SONG

"My Lord, What a Mornin'" SATB Chorus and
Baritone solo. A beautiful arrangement of the
spiritual by Mark Schweitzer. SJMP 20247

*My Lord, what a morning!
My Lord, what a morning!
O my Lord, what a morning!
When the stars begin to fall.*

You'll hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.

Gonna quit all my worldly ways,
join that heavenly band.

Refrain

RECESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 181 'Come, O God Of All The Earth'

vv. 1,3 & 5

1. Come, O God of all the earth:
come to us, O Righteous One;
come, and bring our love to birth:
in the glory of your Son.

(Refrain)

*Sing out, earth and skies!
sing of the God who loves you;
raise your joyful cries;
dance to the life around you.*

2. Come, O God of flashing light:
twinkling star and burning sun;
God of day and God of night:
in your light we all are one.

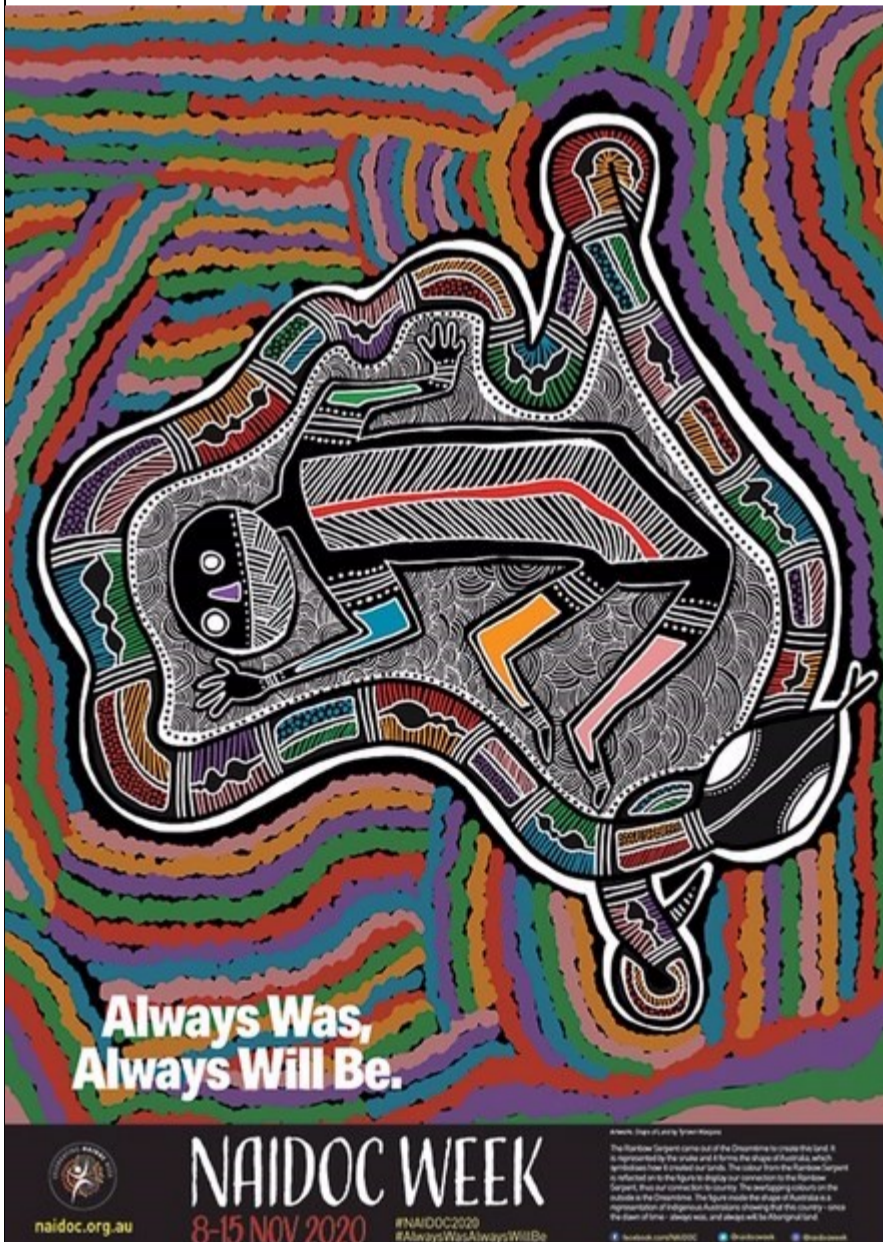
Refrain

3. Come, O Justice, come, O Peace:
come and shape our hearts anew;
come and make oppression cease:
bring us all to life in you.

Refrain

Marty Haugen 1950-

NAIDOC WEEK



The acronym NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee.

This special week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The week is traditionally celebrated in July but because of COVID - 19 it is being celebrated [from 8 November until 15 November](#) this year.

This year's theme is 'Always Was, Always Will Be'. This is the winning entry in the NAIDOC Week poster competition painted by Tyrnawn Waigana, a 23 year old artist and designer from Perth.

For further information
www.naidoc.org.au

ANNUAL MEETING



***Sunday November 29 via Zoom at approx. 11.15am
after the service***

ANNUAL REPORT

By now if you are on email, you will have received a copy of the Annual Report. For those who don't have email access, hard copies will be available from Sunday and can be collected from the foyer in the Vicarage. If you don't have email, or are unable to get to the Vicarage to pick your copy up, please let us know.

APOLOGIES FOR ANNUAL MEETING

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, please email your apology to the parish office.

ROWENA FERGUSON

Secretary, Parish Council

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

Monday 9 November to Sunday 15 November

This year's theme is 'Recovery - A future beyond the bin'. We invite you to value your resources, giving them a second life by reducing virgin resource use, reusing and recycling. Reducing our waste not only keeps valuable materials out of landfill it also benefits the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and our need for new materials. Reducing and reusing can also save you money at home and in the workplace.

To help you the Social Justice and Mission Group has created a list **What, Where to Recycle** which has been sent via email.



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