

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 15 Nov, 24th Sunday of Pentecost.

**Today we will Celebrate NAIDOC Day
& Commission the New Parish Council.**

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.



**Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -
8.30am at All Saints Briagolong and
10am Worship at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford,
ALSO Via Zoom, Facebook or 'Phone-in'.**

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: 'When will it be?' – Tune of MP 51

1 When will it be that the sorrow will end?
When will the stranger be found as a friend?
When will the stories of grief be embraced,
told by the stolen, the lost, the displaced?

2 When will the languages flourish again,
cultures be treasured and pride shine through pain?
When will new hearts know that love has drawn near,
banishing deafness and blindness and fear?

3 When will it be that the wounds will be healed,
new ways of walking together revealed?
When will the land and its peoples be one,
truth fully told and deep justice be done?

4 Now, as the First Peoples' voices are heard,
now, as each listener's conscience is stirred,
Christ in our midst, keep us turning to you
and to each other, this long journey through.

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Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship

Our land is alive with the glory of God;
desert sands hum and gum trees dance.

Brown grasses sing
and mountains breathe their stillness.

All created things add their rhythms of delight
and even stones rap out their praise.

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;
may our hearts join the beat of her joy,

for our triune God is with us:
the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.
Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.
The Spirit moves within and between us.
Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

The Sentence

“God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.”

(1 Thessalonians 5.9, 11)

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence for self-reflection

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness,

**Gracious God, hear our acknowledgements –
we have not loved you
with our whole heart,
nor have we loved each other
and other neighbours as ourselves.
God of mercy,
forgive us for our failures,
past and present and
give us the grace today to make a fresh start. Amen.**

Absolution

This is the best of all:
When we are empty, God Fills us:
When we are disheartened, God is compassionate;
when we are wounded, God brings healing
when we confess our sin, God forgives.
In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,
Our Elder and Redeemer
our sins are forgiven.
**Thanks be to God.
You refill the cup of life, O God.
In Christ, we find refuge, strength and hope.
Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
you blessed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
with wisdom to live in this land and care for it:
bless Australia's First Peoples again today

with pride in their languages, stories and songs;
and give grace to all of us
to share culture, faith and hope together
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

⁵Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,* you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved,* are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. *1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11*

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**1 To you I lift up my eyes:
you who are enthroned in the heavens.**

**2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master:
or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,**

**3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God:
until he show us his mercy.**

**4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have had our fill of derision.**

**5 Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease:
and with the contempt of the proud.**

Early Talk

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents,* to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to

the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”.

Matthew 25. 14-30

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

A prayer for ‘closing the gap’ with Indigenous Australians – Elizabeth Smith

Let us pray:

**God of justice,
you sent Jesus to close the gap between heaven and earth.
No task is too big for your love.
Send your Holy Spirit today
to close the gap
between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
Teach us how to share fairly the best of Australia,
in education and health care,
jobs and homes,
law, land, culture,
languages and spiritual traditions.
Instead of disadvantage and distress,
let our diversity become our delight and our dignity.
Give us the love and courage we need
to do this work together, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Generous God of Holy Dreaming.
Through your goodness we have these gifts of bread and wine to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your benefit
and for the fulfilment of your purposes.
Wonderful be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise,
be yours now and always,
Lord of every time and place,
God beyond our dreaming.
We give you thanks that from the beginning of time,
your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land.
In the fullness of time you revealed your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.
By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
We give you thanks that in him
you have revealed to us your presence
in the vastness of this land,
your love in its fruitfulness, and
your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life.

Therefore, with people of every nation, tribe and language,
with the whole Church on earth and in heaven,
joyfully we give you thanks and say:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,

'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

**You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:**

**Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

For those unable to receive Holy Communion this Sunday, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:

O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch

your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out of God's People

Heavenly Father, you have created all humanity
in your image and likeness,
and have revealed your plan and purpose
in calling us your friends and family.
As we have shared this holy meal,
inspire our hearts to see
every man, woman and child
given the dignity and value
which is your purpose and your gift;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Announcements

Final Hymn: 'In Christ alone' MP 1072

1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied,
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain,
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.

So be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of the one who made us and loves us and goes before us be upon you and all those whom you love, this day and always, in the name of the God of Holy Dreaming, and of Jesus Christ our elder and of the Creator Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

We pray:-

- *For our greater care and preservation of our environment.
- *For peace in places of conflict and violence. Provision of safe-haven for refugees. Inspiration of world leaders with creativity and wisdom.
- For an end to the racial and social injustices in our own country.

For those living through ill health, social unrest and economic hardship viewed through the lens of a world-wide pandemic. We pray for the work of world medical scientists as they trial vaccines and other treatments.

- *For all front-line health carers, for their energy and safety.
- *For safe management of infection control in our own community, our op shop, all businesses and in our churches.
- *Give thanks for the long awaited success in achieving many days of no new cases of the virus or death in Victoria.

*For the worldwide church, our Diocese, and the churches in our local community. For guidance and inspiring energy for Dave as he leads the parish through continued lockdown and into an intergenerational post pandemic parish. For Emma and their 4 children.

- *Help us in discipleship, to take your message of love and concern for everyone into our community.
- * Give thanks for the dedication of parishioners and the positivity of the AGM last Sunday.
- *For our mainly music families, that we can continue to connect with them.
- *For our Retiring Offertory – The Diocese of Gahini, Rwanda
- *For the Parish of Korumburra: Fran Grimes, parishioners and friends.

*Healing God, we lift to you those who are suffering in our parish. Those with physical, mental or emotional illness, those who are losing life and those who are mourning.

We pray especially for Marion, Aubrey, Julie, Brenda, Lillas, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

God of Comfort, enfold Claureen, her family and friends in your loving comfort and peace following the death of David.

NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings friends,

Today we commemorate the last day of NAIDOC Week. This commemoration usually takes place in July, however due to Covid-Safe shutdowns it was postponed till this past week.

The theme for 2020 is:- Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

As we are all aware, NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is an opportunity for us to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and society. The **week** is celebrated not just in our Indigenous communities but also in increasing number of government agencies, community organisations, local councils, workplaces, schools and sporting groups.

Founder, William Cooper was an amazing Aboriginal Christian leader from the early twentieth century who fought tirelessly for the rights of his people. One of his lasting legacies is what we celebrate as NAIDOC Week.

Lord we ask that you will increase our capacity this NAIDOC Day to humble ourselves and listen afresh to truly hear the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples . . . So, we pray that this NAIDOC Day, love will increase and the call for Voice, Treaty, and Truth will be heard. We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our grateful thanks to Judy T for the NAIDOC display in Holy Trinity.

The AGM of the parish and Holy Trinity was a good and positive experience. Our thanks to all who participated. We ask that if you did not have time to read all the reports in the AGM document, to please sit with a ‘cuppa’ and read through. People have invested a lot of time in writing these reports. For those who haven’t yet seen the pages 17 to 22 of the AGM document, Dave’s report details the reasons for changing the very old church pews in Holy Trinity to beautiful church chairs. Dave has since sent for some samples.

The meeting of the now ‘previous’ Parish Council accepted without exception, the proposed replacement of the pews with church chairs and recommended the proposal be presented to the AGM of the parish. Constructive and positive

discussion at the AGM will be followed by the proposal going to the first meeting of the new Parish Council for further discussion and adoption on Tuesday 24 November.

As mentioned last week by email and at the AGM we are planning a high tea 'Farewell' to commence at 2pm next Sunday 22 November, for a dear friend and fellow parishioner . . . Brenda.

We ask that ALL parishioners please come, if at all possible. This is Brenda's wish. We are delighted that Brenda's daughter, Christine, will be joining us. It is also an opportunity to join together in fellowship after so many months of 'shutdown'.

Bev Thatcher and Wendy Philbey are coordinating our contributions of food. All food must be prepared at home and brought to the hall to be taken as 'finger food'. If anyone wants to use a nice cup and saucer, please bring and take home your own. Otherwise all will be disposable. As you will understand, we are still under Covid precautions.

We will join together on Zoom for a time of social fellowship at 11.30am today, after the service at Holy Trinity.

The Parish Christmas Raffle stationed at the op shop needs to be built up ASAP. We are asking for donations of Christmassy fare to be left in the basket at the back of Holy Trinity or at the op shop please – thank you.

The Second Session of the Thirty-Ninth Synod, 2020 completed at 12.30pm yesterday. Avon Parish Reps were Jan, Gail and Denise. Dave was fully involved in his role as Bishop's Chaplain and member of the Registry staff. With the AGM and Synod now behind us perhaps he and we may return to more normal parish and Registry life.

Please remember that when intending to come to church, contact Dave early in the week. If for some reason you have a change of plans, please then cancel your booking ASAP so that Dave knows exactly how many folks to expect.

The Bishop's request

Following the experience of the recent months of 'shutdowns' and eventual return to gathered worship etc. Think about:-

What is something we want to START?

What is something we may need to STOP?

What is something we need to KEEP? (keep doing)

We look forward to your thoughts!!

WHATS ON IN THE PARISH

NOVEMBER

OP Shop / Parish Raffle.

Retiring Offertory: Rwanda

- Tues 17 Parish Council Reports Due
Sat 21 Men's Breakfast
Sun 22 Christ the King. Twenty-fifth, LAST Sunday in Pentecost
Thurs 26 First Meeting of the New Parish Council
Fri 27 Kid's Movie Night.
Sun 29 First Sunday of Advent
10am Combined Church Centres Worship at All Saints.
Mon 30 ?? Christmas Afternoon Tea for volunteers.

DECEMBER

School Holidays: Saturday 19 December to Wednesday 27 January 2020.

Retiring Offertory: Christmas Bowl

- Tues 1 Alfresco Morning Tea for the Community
Fri 4 Parish Council Meeting - Parish Christmas Party.
Sun 6 Advent 2
10am All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity
Sun 13 Advent 3
Healing Service
Sat 19 Men's Breakfast Group.
Sun 20 Advent 4. ??? **Ecumenical Carolling Street Walk.**
Thurs 24 6pm Family Christmas Service at Holy Trinity
Thurs 24 8pm Christmas Eve, Holy Communion at **St Mary's
Thurs 24 11pm Candle-lite Holy Communion at Holy Trinity
Fri 25 8.30am & 10am Christmas Day HC at **All Saints & Holy Trinity.
Sun 27 First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday 22 November. Christ the King / The Reign of Christ

Holy Trinity Ministry Roster

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24. Ps 100 or 95.1-7. Eph. 1.15-23
Matthew. 25.31-46

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Denise. 1st Reading Liliias.

Intercess: Denise. Org: Vic. Camera: Bev H.

Flowers: Nola. Sac: Kerrie / Dave

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