

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 22 August Pentecost 13

Welcome to services of Holy Communion:

8.30am St Mary's Munro

10am Holy Trinity Stratford

**BE STRONG IN THE LORD
AND IN
THE STRENGTH OF HIS
POWER**

Ephesians 6.10

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: 'Guide me, O thou great redeemer' TiS 569

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Public Domain

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.

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

Though storms rage around us, we will clothe ourselves with the whole armour of God.

We will fasten the belt of truth about our waist.

We will place strength and determination as our shoes to aid us in our ministry and mission for God.

We will take up the shield of faith.

We will pray diligently at all times, offering prayers and supplication to God.

The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit will accompany us on our journey.

Be strong in the Lord who provides for your every need.

We place our confidence and trust in God always.

The Sentence

‘Jesus said, ‘It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.’ *(John 6. 63)*

Opening prayer

Let us pray,

**Holy One, you have called us to this place,
a place where we find your Spirit.**

**We have gathered here to pray and to be forgiven,
to love and be loved,**

**and to hear the word boldly proclaimed
as we apply it to our lives.**

Open our hearts to the mystery of your Word.

**Remind us that your Word is proclaimed
in the life of Jesus, the Christ.**

Help us believe in you and in your love for us.

In the holy name of Christ we pray. 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.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Everliving God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people,
that in the ministry to which you have called them

each may serve you in holiness and truth;
through our Lord and Saviour 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 the Book of Kings

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³ He said, ‘O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴ the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵ Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, “There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.” ²⁶ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ²⁷ ‘But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, “My name shall be there”, that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. ⁴¹ ‘Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴² <<—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, ⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

1 Kings 8.22-30, 8.41-43

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

Psalm 84 – *We will say the Psalm in alternate verses*

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling-place:
O Lord God of hosts!
- ² **My soul has a desire and longing
to enter the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**
- ³ The sparrow has found her a home,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- ⁴ **Blessed are those who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.**
- ⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you:
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;
- ⁶ **Who, going through the valley of dryness,
find there a spring from which to drink:
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.**
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength:
they appear, every one of them,
before the God of gods in Zion.
- ⁸ **O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:
give ear, O God of Jacob.**
- ⁹ Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:
and look upon the face of your anointed.
- ¹⁰ **One day in your courts is better than a thousand:
I would rather stand at the threshold
of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.**
- ¹¹ For the Lord God is a light and a shield,
the Lord gives favour and honour:
and no good thing will he withhold
from those who walk in innocence.
- ¹² **O Lord God of hosts:
blessed are those who put their trust in you.**

The Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. *Ephesians 6.10-20*

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

Early Talk

The Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The

words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' ⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' *John 6.56-69*

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Time of discussion

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith of the church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

**This is our faith, the faith of the Church:
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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.

Hymn: 'Be thou my vision' – TiS 547

1 Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me,
save that thou art
thou my best thought
by day or by night,
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word;
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father,
thy child let me be;
thou in me dwelling,
and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my armour,
my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity,
thou my delight;
thou my soul's shelter
and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward,
O Power of my power.

4 High King of heaven,
after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

Public Domain

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross**

**on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.**

**Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessing and honour and glory and power
be 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.

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive Communion and when receiving feel free to stand or kneel.

Due to COVID our communion will be served in one kind (bread only). We have gluten free wafers available. Please indicate to the minister if you would prefer either of these.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are seeking prayer for healing/anointing, please come towards the end of communion and remain kneeling.

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

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
though 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: 'Blessed be your name' – MP 1046

1 Blessed be Your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow,
blessèd be Your name.
And blessèd be Your name
when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessèd be Your name.

*Every blessing You pour out I'll
turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:*

*'Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your glorious name.'*

2 Blessed be Your name
when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's 'all as it should be',
blessèd be Your name.
And blessèd be Your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessèd be Your name.
Every blessing You pour out...

Bridge:
//You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
'Lord, blessed be Your name.'//

*'Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your glorious name.'*

© 2002 Thankyou Music

The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

We pray:

*Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of the created world; for its wonderful variety and the bounty that it brings forth. Help us all to be good stewards showing love and friendship to all peoples, enjoying the warmth and light they bring to our lives. Be close to all who govern ensuring the decisions that they make, day by day, are made for the benefit all the people entrusted to them in their leadership.

*Loving God we pray for the people of our world who are less fortunate than we are. Help us to remember, and in our way, give support to those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less so many material luxuries which we so often take for granted.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan, especially the women and children. May the Taliban insurgency and take over no longer be brutal and evil as we knew them to be in the earlier part of this century. May they respect the rights and lives of all citizens.

We pray for successful evacuation of those who assisted the allied forces during their time in Afghanistan.

*For countries whose populations are being ravaged by the Covid-19 virus, where the virus is out of control and treatments inadequate.

For our own country, may current lockdowns succeed and life return to Covid normal. For those who have lost their businesses and income, for others who are struggling to keep their business afloat. May our lives return to being 'normal' in the ways that we were privileged to enjoy. May there be relief for those whose 'normal' was poverty and homelessness.

*For our Diocese, our Parish, and the churches in our local community.

For Bishop Richard and his family and for our priest Dave and his family.

For Dave's ministry in our parish and the Diocese. For our ministries and support of Dave.

Guide us in our ministries as we live each day determined to give care and

support to those who are in need.

*We pray for your blessings upon all who are preparing for Baptism, for parents and Godparents.

*For all who support the op shop. Coordinator Bev, volunteers, and all who donate to our ministry and mission.

*For the mainly music team, and for the families who gather here on Thursday mornings. We pray for the success of our mainly music program

*For our Retiring Offertory: CMS

*Healing God friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has healed so many in body, mind, and spirit. We hold before you those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. We raise them before you: -

Julie, Paul, Kate, Ron, Cliff, Nathan, Val, Marion, Bev, Brenda, Lillas, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

Merciful God we offer our thanks for lives well lived and have now come to an end. Be close to those bereaved by their passing and console them with your unfailing love.

Holy God thank you for helping us to pray; deepen our loving so that as daily we pray through this coming week, we may do it with love and sincerity in sure and certain knowledge of your abiding presence.

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning friends,

After the 10am service in Holy Trinity today, we will gather for the second Congregational Meeting for this year.

From Monday to Thursday of this week, the clergy of the Diocese will gather at Raymond for their 'Clergy Conference'. We pray they will enjoy a time of spiritual nourishment, strengthening and collegiate fellowship.

This Tuesday Parish Council will meet in the Parish Hall.

On Saturday the Women's Craft and fellowship Group will meet from 10am to 3pm in the Parish Hall.

Next Sunday we will welcome into God's Church through Holy Baptism, Campbell Pini. We pray for Campbell's parents, Lauren and Cliff, as they prepare for his Baptism.

Also, next Sunday, being the 5th Sunday of the month, our 3 church centres will combine for worship at Holy Trinity.

Unfortunately, the Baptism of Brooke and Daniel Gold's beautiful baby daughter, Maeve Audrey Gold, has had to be postponed yet again, now till Sunday 5 September.

Dave has received a message from David Lepore of the Bible Society saying . . .

Hi David,

How are you? I hope you are well mate 😊

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the incredible generosity you and your church have already shown in Opening The Bible with new people every year. In fact, your gifts have already enabled many people who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to read God's word. It is our privilege to share in this ministry with you, as we seek to honour God together.

This document highlights some of the incredible stories and updates that have continued to emerge as a result of your support. I find them so encouraging, and I'm sure you will too! If there is anything we can do to pray or support you in any way, please let me know 😊

Thank you and God bless,

****Copies of the document referred to by David Lepore are available to parishioners of All Saints, St Mary's, and Holy Trinity as an insert in the Bulletin.**

****Paul requests of those who donate their offertory online, could you please indicate if you wish some of that donation to go towards the current 'Retiring Offertory', nominating the Mission and how much you wish to give?**

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

AUGUST

Thursdays. mainly music, 9.30am in the Parish Hall during School Term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers in Holy Trinity.

Mon 23 – 26 Clergy Conference TBC

Tues 24 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

Fri 27 ??? Family Movie Night TBC

Sat 28 Women's Fellowship and Craft Day

Sun 29 Pentecost 14. Baptism at Holy Trinity (was at St Mary's)

10am Combined Church Centres Worship at Stratford.

Day of Prayer for Refugees (General Synod 2001)

Social Justice Sunday

SEPTEMBER

Thursdays. mainly music, 9.30am in the Parish Hall during School Term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers in Holy Trinity.

Term 3 (Spring) Holidays 18 September to 3 October

Retiring Offertory: Mission to Sea Farers

Thurs 2 Holy Trinity Anniversary. Licensed 2/9/1868

Sun 5 Fifteenth Sunday in Pentecost.

All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity Father's Day.

National Child Protection Week 6-12 September

Fri 10-Sun 12 Gathering Younger Gippsland Anglicans @ Abbey. Dave attending.

Sun 12 Sixteenth Sunday in Pentecost. Locum: Rev'd Heather Toms

Healing Service

Thurs 16 11am Parish Diary Planning Meeting

Fri 17 Spring Parish Dinner, Stratford Hotel – Raffle

Sat 18 Men's Breakfast.

Sun19 Seventeenth Sunday in Pentecost. Rev'd Inni Preaching

Vocations Sunday. Child Protection Sunday

Tues 21 Parish Council Reports Due

Fri 24 Family Movie Night

Sat 25 Women's Craft and Fellowship Day

Sun 26 Eighteenth Day in Pentecost.

Tues 28 Parish Council Meeting

Sunday 29 August Pentecost 14.

Songs of Songs 2.8-13. Ps. 45.1-2,6-9 James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8,14-23

Priest: Dave, Lit Assist: Gail. 1st Read: Wendy 2nd Nola

Intercess: Gail. Org: Vic. Sides: Kerrie, David S.

Camera: David S Judy K: Judy K. Flowers: Jillian.

MT. Judy Tulloch, Kerry C. Sac: Kerrie S.

Parish of Avon: The Reverend David Perryman: 0401 035379.

Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com