

Anglican Parish of Avon

19th Sunday of Pentecost, 20 October, 2019.

**Priest in Charge,
The Reverend
Dave Perryman.**

**Welcome –
Wunan Njinda to:
A Service of Holy
Communion -
8.30am at
All Saints
Briagolong,
10am Holy Trinity
Stratford.**



Will not God bring about justice for his
chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?
Will he keep putting them off? I tell you,
he will see that they get justice, and quickly.
However, when the Son of Man comes,
will he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:7-8

All are Welcome to Worship in our Parish Today!

You are invited to light a 'Prayer Candle' and enjoy morning tea after the Services. Toilets are located at the rear of the Hall. Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop. Please note that the Holy Trinity Chancel floor slopes up from the front pews to the Lectern; please use the handrail as needed and take care, thank you.

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

Gathering Hymn: MP 590 'Seek ye first . . .'

Welcome and Introduction.

Greeting and Sentence.

Will not God grant justice to those who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? *Luke 18.7-8*

The Prayer of Preparation.

Confession and Absolution

Prayer of the Day

O Lord,
tireless guardian of your people,
teach us to rely, day and night, on your care.
Drive us to seek your justice and your help,
and support our prayer lest we grow weary,
for in you alone is our strength.

We make our prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FAITH PERSISTS

We continue in this season of movement and growth, moving into and growing toward God's promises of justice and peace, which will be proclaimed and realized with the coming of the Messiah during Advent and Christmas. The peaceful and just way of Christ is already here, and yet it is coming, too. We might wrestle with what is commonly called "the already and the not-yet." How then do we proclaim and live this way in a world that seems to encourage injustice, recklessness toward others, and self-service? The readings this week reveal the call of faith to persist in the ways of peace and justice even in the face of the world's ambivalence and division.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁷So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁸Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. *Genesis 32.22-31*

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I find help?
- ² **My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**
- ³ He will not suffer your foot to stumble:
and he who watches over you will not sleep.
- ⁴ **Be sure he who has charge of Israel:
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- ⁵ The Lord himself is your keeper:
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;
- ⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day:
nor shall the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The Lord will defend you from all evil:
it is he who will guard your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.**

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

3 ¹⁰ Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. **4** ¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. *2 Timothy 3.10 - 4.5*

Hear the word of the Lord

thanks be to God.

‘Early Talk’

Gradual Hymn: TiS 463 ‘May the mind . . .’ (V1,3,5)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.” ’ ⁶ And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell

you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰ ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector.’¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector.’¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’¹³ But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’ *Luke 18.1-14*

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon

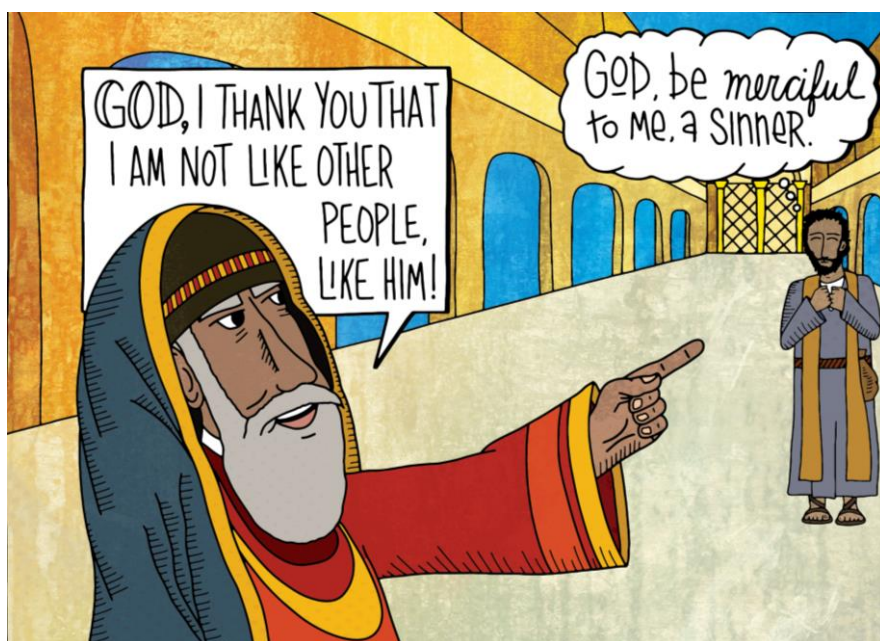
Discussion

Luke 19:1–8, finds the reader immersed in a parable about persistence. Jesus tells the story of a powerful judge who has no interest in serving justice for the oppressed. This judge only cares

for his own best interests. A widow comes before him to plead for a ruling in her favour against those who oppose her (we are given no reasons as to why she has “adversaries”). As a widow, this woman has lost any access she had to justice, other than her persistent belief that it is possible.

Still, perhaps aware of the judge’s responsibility to be fair in cases of widows and other oppressed members of the community (Deuteronomy 24:17–22), the widow comes to the judge repeatedly. The judge continually refuses her requests. Eventually, the woman’s persistence breaks through the judge’s callous nature and he rules in her favour.

This story of a persistent woman helps us to see divisions in our world between justice and injustice, the ways of God and the ways of the world, and the power of God to overcome. We are reminded that justice is eternal and that God empowers



us to speak the words of God's heart: words of compassion, words of faithfulness, and words of persistence.

Affirmation of Faith.

Intercessions and Lord's Prayer.

We pray:-

- For the leaders of the countries of the world. For wisdom, peacemaking, fairness and compassion towards the people under their leadership.
- For an end to violence against people on the grounds of 'difference' and especially an end to domestic and family violence.
- For the suffering people of Syria especially those subjected to the violence of their country being taken over by another power and the harshness of the Syrian regime.
- For wise and compassionate counsel and some direction and hope for the future of refugees and asylum seekers across the globe.
- For the people of Hong Kong demonstrating for the right to a democratic government.
- For the people suffering in the wake of the typhoon in Japan.
- For Bishop Richard's spiritual leadership of the Diocese.
- For the Parish of Warragul: Tracy Lauersen, Sven. Province of Papua New Guinea: Archbishop Allan Migi and all other Bishops
- Growth of evangelism in our diocese.
- For our parish, David, Emma and boys. For Dave's leadership of our ministry. For good preparation and decisions for the AGM.
- We give great thanks for the gift of a Shire grant towards the ministry of our Avon Parish Fun Fair.
- For your wisdom and guidance of those planning the Community Carols event, may it be a great evening of witness to the coming of Jesus.
- For those who coordinate and work to sustain our op shop and mainly music programs. For the continued growth and success of these special ministries and for all who support them in so many ways.

**For this month's Retiring Offertory in support of Act for Peace.*

Healing God, we pray for all those who are suffering adversity, help your people sense the love that you give to each and every one of us,

We pray especially at this time for *Peter T., Jillian, Alice, Kerrie, Ron, Scarlet, Boyd, Brian, Jacob, Emma, Crystal, Pete, Prec, Bruce, Geoff, Isobel, Daryl, Jan, Bob, Craig, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.*

Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: MP 1167 ‘Even though I walk . . .’ Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion.

Prayers after Communion.

Announcements.

Final Hymn: MP 1036 ‘Blessed be your name. . .’

Blessing / Dismissal.

Recessional Music.

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NEWS AND NOTES

We have received a lovely photo and thank you message from Mr and Mrs Alex Griffiths which will be passed around at Holy Trinity morning tea time.

A positive and progressive forward planning meeting of The Avon Parish Family Fun Fair Planning Group took place on Thursday last.

To add to the positivity, we shared the news that the parish has been successful in gaining a Wellington Shire Community Assistance Grant of funding towards the conduct of the Family Fun Fair in May 2020.

Not only was this good news in terms of financial assistance, it endorses the direction of the parish in its endeavours to reach out and embrace the community, particularly families, and to relieve the burden of cost to families for a time of fun. It particularly endorses the direction in which Dave is leading our ministry and mission into the community. We give thanks to our God for so many blessings.

This Thursday at 11am The Safe Church Ministry Meeting will convene and Parish Council will meet at 7.30pm

Please note the insert in the Bulletin today advising of the Lay Readers Conference this Saturday 16 October from 10am to 3.30pm. The conference has been opened to include clergy and other interested lay people. Book on line or if unable to, you may register and pay on the day. To assist with catering, please let Jenny Ramage know if you are paying on the day.

Anyone wishing to communicate news in the Bulletin, please speak to Denise.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS MONTH

OCTOBER

- Sun 20th Pentecost 19.
Wed 23rd 12md. Combined Churches of Sale lunch at Delbridge Hall,
Thurs 24th 11am Safe Ministry Meeting. 7.30pm Parish Council
Fri 25th Anniversary of All Saints Church. Licensed 25/10/1908
Sat 26th Lay Readers Conference, Sale. Open to any interested folk.
Sun 27th Pentecost 20.
7.30pm Ecumenical World Community Day. Holy Trinity.

NOVEMBER

- Parish Raffle commences. **Retiring Offertory: Gippsland
Farmers Relief**
- Thursdays* *mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall*
Fridays *9am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity*
Fri 1st All Saints Day Sale Show weekend
Sat 2nd 2pm. All Souls Service at the Cathedral.
Sun 3rd Pentecost 21. All Saints Patronal Festival. **Australian
Anglicans & Roman Catholics pray for each other (General
Synod 2001)**
Tues 5th Melbourne Cup Day.
Sun 10th Pentecost 22. **Prayer for the Defences Forces of Australia
AGM. 4pm Healing Service at Holy Trinity**
Mon 11th **Remembrance Day.**
Wed 13th Parish Council Reports to Secretary
Sat 16th Men's Breakfast Group
Sun 17th Pentecost 23. Commissioning of the New Parish Council.
Thurs 21st First Meeting of the new Parish Council
Sun 24th Last Sunday of Pentecost: "Christ The King"

Holy Trinity Roster – 27 October, 20th Sunday in Pentecost.

Joel 2.23-32. Ps 65. 2Timothy 4.6-8,16-18. Luke 18.15-30.
Priest: Dave. Lit Assist. May, Kerry C. Read: Sandra, Nola.
Intercess: May. Org: Vic. Sides: Bev H, Jillian PPT: Denise
Flowers: Judy T. MT: Judy K, Kerry C. Sacristan: Denise.
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