

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 25 October, 21st Sunday of Pentecost.

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.



**Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -
10am Worship at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford,
Via Zoom, Online, 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: 'The Servant Song' – TiS 650

1 Brother, let me be your servant.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you;
Speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

5 Brother, let me be your servant.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

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Welcome

Greeting & Call to worship

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.

We do not gather in vain,
for God is working in our hearts.

The love of Jesus Christ calls us together.

Our worship strengthens and empowers us
to share the gospel.

The love of Jesus Christ shines in our lives.

Proclaim the good news with boldness.

The love of Jesus Christ is at work in the world!

The Sentence

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22. 37-40

The Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans 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

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

(Colossians 3. 13)

Silence for self-reflection

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

**Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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

2 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters,^{*} that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle^{*} among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

9 You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters;^{*} we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. ¹¹As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹²urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

13 We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

1 Thessalonians 2.1-13

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

Psalm 90 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**1 Lord, you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.**

**2 Before the mountains were born
or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.**

3 You turn us back into dust:

saying ‘Return to dust, O children of Adam.’

**4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday passing:
or like one watch of the night.**

**5 You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;**

**6 In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.**

**13 Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?:
take pity on your servants.**

**14 O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.**

**15 Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.**

**16 Show your servants your work:
and let their children see your glory.**

**17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!**

Early Talk

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ ³⁷He said to him, ‘ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first ₆

commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²‘What do you think of the Messiah?— Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ ⁴³He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit* calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ “The Lord said to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”?

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’ ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. *Matthew 22.34-46*

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

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.

Offertory Prayer

As you have poured your healing love into our lives, O God, we now offer these gifts to you. Let them be used in ministries of peace and justice through the work of this church in your world. **Amen.**

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.

Honour and worship are indeed your due,
our Lord and our God, through Jesus Christ,
for you created all things;
by your will they were created,
and for your glory they have their being.

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.

All glory and honour to you, God of grace,
for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ
once for all on the cross
to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

The night before he died,
he took bread,
and when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup,
and when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it,
to remember me.

Therefore heavenly Father,
in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son,
we now celebrate the wonder of your grace.

With thanksgiving and hope we say:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

**Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness,
we were far off until you brought us near
and our hands are empty until you fill them.
As we eat this bread and drink this wine,
through the power of your Holy Spirit
feed us with your heavenly food,
renew us in your service,
unite us in Christ,
as we offer you our songs of everlasting praise.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. 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

Almighty God,
in whose service lies perfect freedom:
teach us to obey you
with loving hearts and steadfast wills;
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: 'Love the Lord'

1 Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul with all your mind,
And with all your strength.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul with all your mind,
And with all your strength.

Chorus:
With all your heart with all your soul,
With all your mind with all your strength,
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul with all your mind,

And with all your strength.

2 I will serve the Lord,
With all my heart with all my soul,
With all my mind and with all my strength.
I will serve the Lord,
With all my heart with all my soul,
With all my mind and with all my strength.

Chorus:
With all my heart with all my soul,
With all my mind with all my strength,
I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
With all my soul with all my mind,
And with all my strength.

Bridge:
I will love You (I will love You)
I will praise You (I will praise You)
I will serve You (I will serve You)
I will trust You Lord (I will trust You)

Chorus:
With all my heart with all my soul,
With all my mind with all my strength,
With all my heart with all my soul,
With all my mind with all my strength,

//I will love You Lord with all my heart
With all my soul with all my mind
And with all my strength.///

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The Blessing

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Go forth into this aching, hurting world with God's love, offering
healing, hope, and peace to all,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

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BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS.

Loving God, we hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dearly as our own needs. Help us to love you with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. With these commandments before us we offer our thanksgivings and prayers.

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 an end to Covid-19 virus transmission, inspiration for all people to manage infection prevention and control, and a safe end to the tiresome long lock down in Melbourne.
- For safe management of infection control in our own community, our op shop, all businesses and in our churches.

*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.

* Bless and guide us through our preparation and conduct of the parish AGM – that we will be wise, considerate, discerning and committed to fulfilling your will in the parish.

*For our mainly music families, that we can continue to connect with them.

*For our Retiring Offertory – Act for Peace

*For the Parish of Heyfield: Judith Lake, 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, David, Julie, Brenda, Lillas, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

Gracious God, at the start of this new week, recognising your trust in us to live and preach the Gospel, make us always more ready to please you rather than to seek the praise of the secular world.

The church and world has never needed our faithful witness more!

NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings friends,

A project for us all!

Tuesday last at 7.30pm, the Eastern Region of Clergy and Lay Synod members joined on Zoom for 'Pre-Synod Briefings' led by Bishop Richard and Registrar Richard.

As many would know, the second session of the Thirty-Ninth Synod (the parliament of our church) was postponed in May as a result of the Covid-19 shutdowns. An abbreviated session of Synod will now be conducted via Zoom (on-line) on Friday evening 13 November and Saturday morning 14 November. The Synod Act requires a session of Synod to be held within 18 months since the previous session (May 2019).

You may recall that the current Diocesan Strategic Direction Brochure (blue) 14

'JESUS CHRIST, HERE AND NOW FOR GIPPSLAND' was/is current from 2017 to 2020. There is much work to be done in preparation for the release of the third, renewed strategic direction, in readiness for release around May 2021.

The above-mentioned Pre-Synod Briefings led by Bishop Richard, among other topics, introduced the 'ground-work' that has already been done by various diocesan focus groups towards renewing the Strategic Direction.

However, the consultative process is to involve all parishioners and clergy, and as an initial action at the parish level, Synod Reps were asked to do some homework before Synod sits.

The questions Bishop Richard asks you/us to seriously think about and then discuss as a group (at an appointed time) are:-

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

- 1. What is something we want to START?**
- 2. What is something we may need to STOP?**
- 3. What is something we need to KEEP? (keep doing)**

We look forward to your thoughts!!

We will join for a 'Happy Chat' time at 11.30am after the service again today. Make a 'cuppa' and just relax, feeling spiritually refreshed after worship.

Parish Council will meet this Tuesday 27 October.

The AGM of the parish will convene on Sunday 8 November. This year we will hear about the performance of our parish, accept reports, elect offices **and discuss the future of our parish**, all on Zoom. It is as our hope and prayer that as many parishioners as possible will join in this important meeting.

For parishioners who wish to nominate someone or accept nomination for Parish Council, please find the Nomination Forms inserted in the Bulletin

Please contact Denise: 0417100047 with any questions.

With our humble thanks and blessings . . . Denise

WHATS ON IN THE PARISH

OCTOBER

Retiring Offertory: Act for Peace

- Sun 25 21st Sunday in Pentecost
Tues 27 Monthly Parish Council
Sat 31 12md. Abbey Virtual Feast.
1.30pm 'Breaking New Ground: Growing the Church',
Trinity College.

NOVEMBER

OP Shop / Parish Raffle. Retiring Offertory: Rwanda

- Sun 1 Twenty-second Sunday in Pentecost. All Saints Day.
10am All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity
Australian Anglicans & Roman Catholics pray for each other
(General Synod 2001)
2-4pm, A quiet afternoon of prayer for All Saints'
Day via Zoom. Dean Susanna
- Tues 3 Melbourne Cup Day.
- Sun 8 Twenty-third Sunday in Pentecost Prayer for the
Defences Forces Aust.
- AGM** ??4pm Healing Service at Holy Trinity
- Wed 11 Remembrance Day.
- Fri 13 Synod.
- Sat 14 Synod: full day of business.
- Sun 15 Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost.
Commissioning of the New Parish Council.

Holy Trinity Roster Sunday 1 Nov. 22 Sunday in Pentecost

All Saints Day

Rev. 7.9-17. Ps 34.1-10,22. 1 John 3.1-3. Matthew. 5.1-12
Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Denise. Intercess: Denise. Org: Vic.
Camera: Bev. Flowers: Nola. Sac: Denise
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