

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 15 August Pentecost 12

Welcome to services of Holy Communion:

8.30am All Saints Briagolong

10am Holy Trinity Stratford



**JESUS
THE
BREAD
OF LIFE**

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: 'Here in this place' - TiS 474

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreaming, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth;
here you shall call your sons and your daughters; call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

3 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away –
here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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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.

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

As we gather in this sacred moment for a sacred purpose,
let us make the most of our time together.

We have come to worship the Lord our God.

As we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
let us make the most of our time together.

We have come to worship the Lord our God.

As we respond to the melody in our hearts,
let us make the most of our time together.

We have come to worship the Lord our God.

The Sentence

‘Jesus said, ‘Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.’ *(John 6. 56)*

Opening prayer

Let us pray,

**Lord of life and hope,
we gather this day seeking nourishment
for our souls and healing for our spirits.
Give to us your living bread,
that having been nourished in soul and spirit,
we may be witnesses to your transforming love.
Through the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ,
the Bread of Life, we offer this prayer. 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.

**O Lord our God,
you know us better than we know ourselves.
As we come before you now,
believers and doubters alike,
we all share a deep need,
for we are all lost without your grace.
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,
test us and know our troubled thoughts.
Give us true repentance.
Forgive us all our wrongs.
Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,
to learn to serve each other
and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,
to come at last to heaven. Amen.**

The Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleans us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Everliving God,
your Son, Jesus Christ,
gave himself as living bread for the life of the world:
give us such a knowledge of his presence
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
to serve you continually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Kings

¹⁰ Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹ The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. ³ Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶ And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴ If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life'.

1 Kings 2. 10-12, 3. 3-14

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

Psalm 111 – *We will say the Psalm in alternate verses*

1 O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord
with my whole heart:
in the company of the upright
and among the congregation.

**2 The works of the Lord are great:
and studied by all who take delight in them.**

3 His deeds are majestic and glorious:
and his righteousness stands for ever.

**4 His marvellous acts have won him a name
to be remembered:
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

5 He gives food to those that fear him:
he remembers his covenant for ever.

**6 He showed his people the power of his acts:
in giving them the heritage of the heathen.**

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just:
and all his commandments are sure;

**8 They stand firm for ever and ever:
they are done in faithfulness and in truth.**

9 He sent redemption to his people,
he ordained his covenant for ever:
holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

**10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and of good understanding are those
that keep his commandments:
his praise shall endure for ever.**

The Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;

¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,

²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. *Ephesians 5.11-21*

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

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’ ⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 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.' *John 6.51-58*

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: 'Oh how good it is'

1 Oh how good it is,
When the family of God,
Dwells together in spirit,
In faith and unity,
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love,
Are the fruit of His presence,
Here among us.

Chorus:
*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
and with one heart we'll live out His word,
till the whole earth sees,
the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.*

2 Oh how good it is,

on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy,
and weep with those who mourn,
for the weak find strength,
the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing,
of belonging.

So with one voice...

3 Oh how good it is,
to embrace His command,
to prefer one another,
forgive as He forgives,
when we live as one,
we all share in the love,
of the Son with the Father,
and the Spirit.

So with one voice...

© Townend Songs

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.

It is right indeed, everliving God,
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning.
When we sinned and turned away
you called us back to yourself
and gave your Son to share our human nature.

He made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world.

Therefore we proclaim your great and glorious name, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died, he took bread;
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;
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 loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.

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.**

**Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive**

**may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.**

**United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in 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.

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 of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of 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: 'You shall go out with joy' – MP 796

*///You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills
shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy
and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field
shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field
shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field
shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.///*

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The Blessing

Go forth and allow God's wisdom and understanding to guide your steps.

Go forth and let God's mercy and grace lead your way, 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.

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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 and the 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 of 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.

*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 who's '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, especially for parents Brooke Lee Gold and Daniel Robert Gold as they prepare for the Baptism of their beautiful daughter **Maeve Audrey Gold** and for God Parents Nadene Maree Rathjen and Eliza Anne Gold

*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 each 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, Liliias, 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.

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning friends,

How wonderful it is to be gathered in worship again this morning. The things we took so much for granted are now very special.

We pray for our brothers and sisters in Melbourne, Sydney and the ACT who, at this time, are unable to avail of such privileges.

Unfortunately, the Baptism of Brooke and Daniel Gold's beautiful baby daughter, Maeve Audrey Gold, has had to be postponed to either next Sunday 22 August or Sunday 5 September, due to the Melbourne lockdown being

extended. We pray for Brooke and Daniel, God parents, Nadene and Eliza, as they continue to prepare for Maeve's Baptism.

Following worship in Holy Trinity this morning we will convene for the Mission Planning Meeting.

Again, this is when we discern what causes/missions we can support this coming year 2021/2022. Unfortunately, we are unable to support all missions. We are, however, very fortunate in this parish and to be able to share that fortune is a privilege.

At this stage it appears our activities scheduled to take place in the Parish Hall can go ahead. Generally, we need to follow the 1person per 4sqm rule i.e. a limit of 16 people in the hall and only 2 in the kitchen.

- The Men's Breakfast will take place this coming Saturday.
- The Women's Fellowship and Craft Group the following Saturday, 28 August.
- The Congregational Meeting may be postponed depending on when the Baptism takes place.
- The Fashion Show can hopefully be held in the Spring.

The Parish Budget Planning Meeting convened on Thursday last. Whilst Covid lockdowns and restrictions have left some marks and probably will again this year, generally we are in a good position. Led by Treasurer Paul, we have negotiated the ups and downs. We are thankful to all parishioners and to those who enable the conduct of the op shop, including all volunteers.

****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?**

At the Abbey: The Diocesan Retreat, with Bishop Richard, on Friday 27, Saturday 28 August 2021.

Youth Weekend 10/12 September, details from Alisha Moyle – contact Alisha.. email:alishaj8@outlook.com

Island Pilgrimage 13-17th September 2021, with Cath Connelly and Russell Smith. ** For all enquiries, please contact Anna at The Abbey on 03 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au**

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.

Retiring Offertory: CMS

Tues 17 Parish Council Reports Due

Sat 21 Men's Breakfast

Sun 22 Thirteenth Sunday in Pentecost.

Congregational Meeting at Holy Trinity (3)

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

Sunday 22 August Pentecost 13.

1 Kings 8. (1,6,10-11)22-30,41-43. Ps. 84 Eph 6.10-20 John 6. 56-69

Priest: Dave, Lit Assist: Denise. 1st Read: May 2nd Julie Ferg.

Intercess: Denise. Org: Vic. Sides: Bev T. Judy T.

Camera: Bev H. PPT: Judy K. Flowers: Wendy.

MT. Nola, Judy K. Sac: Denise

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