

"Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope"

Welcome to Church

Sentence for Today

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.10–11



For those who have children with them, there is a children's corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend 'Godzone' - Special Children's Activities - shortly after we begin the 9.30am service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Before each service we enter a time of silence as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Entrance hymn: TiS 246 "Christ is the world's Light"

Christ is the world's Light, Christ and none other; born in our darkness, he became our Brother. If we have seen him, we have seen the Father: Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other; no one can serve him and despise another. Who else unites us, one in God the Father? Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other; sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother-he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father: Glory to God on high.

Give God the glory, God and none other; give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father; give God the glory, God with us, my brother: Glory to God on high.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The Easter acclamation:

Christ is risen, Alleluia!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Welcome

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 Two Great Commandments:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.' **Kyries:** Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**, Lord have mercy.

The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ. with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day:

O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer in a time of pandemic disease:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and dis-ease. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Godzone blessing

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Acts 8.26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)

So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'
So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'

He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?'

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22.26-32

From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him—may their hearts rejoice for ever!

Let all the ends of the earth remember

and turn to the Lord:

and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's:

and he shall be ruler over the nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

But he has saved my life for himself:

and my posterity shall serve him.

This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

The second reading: 1 John 4.7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God: if we love one another. God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn: TiS 201 "King of glory, King of peace"

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and, that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee, and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee. Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me; and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, chapter 15, beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee; in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee: ev'n eternity's too short to extol thee.

George Herbert 1593-1633

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us stand together and affirm the faith of the church:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge

the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son

is worshipped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the

forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life for the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

At the conclusion

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,

Grant that what we have asked in faith

we may by your grace receive,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preparation

Jesus said: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.

Prayer of Approach:

We do not presume

to come to your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness,

but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy

so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord,

whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,

so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,

and to drink his blood,

that we may evermore dwell in him,

and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Confession:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the feast.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

Confession:

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.

Absolution:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace:

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory hymn: TiS 217 "Love divine, all loves excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown: Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave: thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be, let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.

Prayer over the gifts:

Creator God, give us a heart for simple things, created through your goodness: love and laughter, bread and wine, tales and dreams. Fill our lives with green and growing hope, ready to share your gifts. Make us a people of justice, whose song is Allelujah and whose name breathes love. **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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for 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, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we say:

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 breaking of the bread:

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.

Agnus Dei:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion:

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Post communion hymn: TiS 607 "Make me a channel of Your peace"

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love; where there is injury, your pardon, Lord; and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Oh Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light:
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace. It is pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving to all men that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple (Johann Sebastian von Tempelhoff, 1928–1997)

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal God, giver of life, in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord. May we who celebrate this holy feast walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

Most loving God, you send us into the world you love.

Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

Notices

Blessing:

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: TiS 431 "Thanks to God whose word was spoken"

Thanks to God whose Word was spoken In the deed that made the earth. His the voice that called a nation; His the fires that tried her worth. God has spoken; God has spoken; Praise him for his open Word.

Thanks to God whose Word incarnate human flesh was glorified, who by life and death and rising grace abundant has supplied. God has spoken; God has spoken; Praise him for his open Word.

Thanks to God whose Word was written in the Bible's sacred page, record of the revelation showing God to every age. God has spoken; God has spoken; Praise him for his open Word.

Thanks to God whose Word is answered by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured, life redeemed from death and sin.
God is speaking; God is speaking; Praise him for his open Word.

Reginald Thomas Brooks 1918-85 alt.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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WELCOME TO CHURCH... We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today, please take Communion, whatever your denomination and come and worship with us again. If you are visiting, please make yourself known to Fr. Anthony or to one of our welcomers following the service and do stay for a cuppa and chat!

NOTICES

Flowers: The flowers today are donated by Jo Condie in loving memory of her husband Ron who passed into eternal life 2^{nd} May 2012.

Mother's Day raffle: Mothers' Day is next Sunday!!, and I would be very thankful to receive any donation (big or small) to be included in the hampers. I would also appreciate any baskets or beautiful boxes to hold the goodies. Thank you all for all your support. Chellam.

Ascension Day, 16th May: This year we will have a 9:30am combined service to celebrate Ascension Day followed by a brunch in the hall. Samuel Waite and Ava McKenzie will receive their first communion on this day. Please bring a plate with your favourite food to share.

Parish film night at the Pinewood Cinema on Friday, May 21 at 6pm (approx.) to see the new Australian drama/comedy movie *June Again*, featuring Noni Hazlehurst. The cost is \$10 pp. Due to the pandemic, supper will not be served. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. For further information phone Peter Wharton on 0409 192 532.

Pastoral visit: Archbishop Philip Freier will be presiding and preaching with us on Trinity Sunday, 30th May. Put the date in your diary now!

Footy Tipping 2021. Just three tipsters (Louise Godden, Norma Leseberg and Christine Youings) managed 7 correct tips in Round 6 in a stirring Anzac Day round that didn't always follow form. This allowed the mother-daughter combination of Norma and Christine to rule the rest on 39 tips each (both reveling in the Dee's scintillating form), just ahead of Ron McKenzie, who in turn is holding off four challengers on 37 (Jo Condie, Russell Mills, Peter Wharton and Jon Youings). We are just over halfway through the first half of the season and it is still anyone's first half claim!

Parish fundraising opportunity: Anyone who may be interested in attending an opening day to look around the Village where Joy Ritchie lives and its lovely garden setting, listening to a sales promotion talk, looking at some of the units available and having afternoon tea on **Thursday 27**th **May at 2:00-3:30pm** is welcome; groups of 15 or more will result in the church receiving a \$500 voucher. Please see Keith Hall if you are interested in going along.

News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*. The NewsStand is now live on *TMA*'s website, using the link http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand

In this week's TMA Newsstand:

- Time for tolerance on Morrison's faith, but transparency too
- CoE commitment to racial justice after 'sobering' week
- 'Our Jesus is bigger than yours!' Rival replicas in Brazil
- Rabbi accused of being undercover Christian missionary
- Engaging the post-pandemic world with love and truth
- and more...

SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday Julian of Norwich, holy woman and mystic (d.1417)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday: Next Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15.1-6 Acts 10.44-48
Psalm 122 Psalm 98
John 15.1-8 1 John 5.1-12
John 15.9-17

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR THE CHURCH

Sun 2: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East; The Diocese of Ballarat (Bp Garry Weatherill, Clergy & People); University of Divinity (Peter Sherlock, Vice-Chancellor); The Anglican Parish of Pascoe Vale/Oak Park (vacant incumbency); Church of the New Guinea Martyrs Anglican Church, Croydon South - Pastoral Service (Bp Paul Barker); St Augustine's Moreland – Confirmation Service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); St Paul's Cathedral – Tintern Grammar (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Christ Church Melton – Pastoral Service (Bp Kate Prowd).

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

All who have lost their livelihood due to the Coronavirus and those affected by rain and recent floods. Families, healthcare workers, emergency workers in these uncertain times.

THE WORLD

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff. A compassionate outcome for Asylum Seekers on Manus & Christmas Islands, and Nauru. Peace, justice, and healing for the people of Myanmar and the Philippines.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Each other and God's presence in the events of the week

Those in special need of prayer: Helen Daniels, Peggy Horman, Estelle Carman (and daughter Sue), Jean (& Alan) Close, Carole, Pauline Le Riche (Kym's sister), Glenys and Brian Howell, Ethel Lloyd, Barbara Stark, Cath Ortlieb, Lyle Mansfield, Julie Munday, Rose Joseph, Marie Cleaver (Judithe's friend), Gerry Wheeler (and Jan), Geoffrey (Josh's father), Nelson, Dwight (& Alice) King (Aaron's father), Michael & Shanta and Shireen & Fabin (Jo Waite's relatives in India), and others known to us.

Those at the Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge Those working in Health and Aged Care settings

Ourselves - as we stay connected through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer

Before there can be meaningful conversation with God, we must take time to wait on the Lord in silent expectation.

from "The Struggle of Prayer" by Donalld G Bloesch

ROSTERS:

KOSTEKS.		
	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>9:30am</u>
Welcomers	Sue Tregear	Ros Smith & Elizabeth Waite
Reader	Sue Tregear	Bruce Tudball
Servers	Sue Tregear	Christine Youings & Ron McKenzie
Intercessions	Fr Anthony	Russell Mills
Morning Tea		Jenny & Russell Mills
Music		Peter Bedlow
Godzone	Joanne & Elizabeth Wait	e
Sacristan	Judithe Atkinson	
Flowers	Robin Jellis	
Printing	Barrie Harding	
Cleaning	Ron McKenzie	



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

PRIEST in CHARGE: Fr. Anthony Frost **Phone:** 0409 012 543

OFFICE MANAGER: Ron McKenzie Phone: 0418 320 301

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

FACEBOOK Please visit and www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheet to Ron McKenzie by

5:00p.m. Thursday evening (r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Weekly services

Sunday 8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Eucharist

'Godzone' children's program during 9.30 am service (during school term)

Tuesday Fr Anthony's day of rest!

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist

Friday 10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for coffee and chat.

<u>Commitment to Child Safety:</u> At the Church of the Ascension we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive.

We have a zero tolerance approach to Child abuse or abuse of vulnerable people.

This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.

Read the full Commitment to Child Safety document on our website: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

