



Newsletter & Worship Sheet

24 January 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Because we cannot yet have congregation singing in church, the music group at stjohns@6 sing for us, and we follow along the lyrics on our phones. Last Sunday we were blessed with keyboard, violin and voice.

Our vision is to be a vibrant Christ-centred community that engages and transforms the heart and soul of Canberra.

FROM THE LOCUM RECTOR



An update for January

Well, the month is creeping by and we are all getting used to writing 2021 instead of 2020. We are probably pleased to not have to refer to 2020 again!

More people are returning from holidays. The wheels of the parish are speeding up, and Kimberley is back from leave this week. I'd like to thank Helen Wilson who filled her shoes so capably in the parish office during the end of December and the first weeks of January. It is very generous to give so much time to the parish.

Kids' activities start again on Sunday 14 February, and 17 February is Ash Wednesday. More information will appear in coming weeks.

One of the things that happens during Lent is our study program ramps up. This year the Diocese and Anglicare have produced an excellent study program (from the Public Affairs Commission) called *God of Compassion*. I believe all the parish bible study groups will be doing it, and I will also host an online group.

Now that Paul is on long service leave prior to finishing at St Johns, the next step

is for the Bishop to formally appoint the Clergy Appointment Board (CAB) for St John's. We voted for our three parish members last year – Ian Dalziell, John Hawkins and Helen Wilson. Our Archdeacon, the Venerable Paul Cohen, will be the chairperson and there will also be three Diocesan members who come from a pool voted by synod. We will learn more in coming months.

Please keep the CAB in your prayers.

Margaret

FRIENDS SERVICE

The first service of the Friends of St Johns will be Sunday 31 January at 11.15am. This will be BCP Mattins with the choir. The speaker is Dr Winifred Lamb, an 8am parishioner, speaking on *Faithfulness in a post truth age*.

Following the service there is an invitation to bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy in the grounds, before the AGM at 1.00 pm in the Robertson Room.

I am looking to hear Winifred and it will also be lovely to hear our choir again following their January break.

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CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Wednesday 5 pm – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in the Robertson Room (with Zoom), and Zoom online on alternate Wednesdays. Email Joan at jarmitage@grapevine.com.au to request the Zoom link

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES & PARISH NOTICES

Sunday 24 January - The Third Sunday after Epiphany

- 7 am** Traditional 1662 BCP service in the church
- 8 am** Eucharist/Holy Communion in the church
- 9.30 am** Eucharist/Holy Communion for families and people of all ages in the hall - kids@church and Youth Group are in recess over the holiday period.
- 6 pm** stjohns@6 in the church. While open to all, it is aimed at students and young professionals. Explore what being a disciple of Jesus is all about in the ocean of postmodern life.

Wednesday 27 January

- 10 am** 1662 Prayer Book Holy Communion and KJV Bible in the church

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PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday 25 January** and for the Australia Day public holiday on **Tuesday 26 January**.

ADVENT CRAFT AND JAM STALL

The Advent Craft and Jam Stalls were very well supported - Thankyou to all our customers. A total of \$900 was banked. Added to this was the income from all those who used the \$10 Tap machine. Once it was known that there would be no Parish Fair in 2020, the Jams and Chutneys were sold privately and money raised was part of the \$900. Donations of fruit and clean jars without labels will assist in making the next Jam Stall successful. Joan Nichols 0412 967 842

Hope for the future

Last week I met T.H (her initials) out the front of St John's Care. T.H appeared thin and pale in the face and her voice was trembling as she gave me her name. I made her a coffee, and we took a seat in the shade next to the church to have a chat. Her nerves and her reluctance to discuss the issues at hand with me were obvious from the beginning, however as we began to chat, I was able to get an insight into her story.

She suffers from a mental disability which affects her speech and memory, causes nervous breakdowns and triggers panic attacks in social settings. Due to her disability, T.H had been confined to her home, and unable to work prior to COVID. Over the Christmas period she had run out of food and was eating the bare minimum.

T.H was receiving the disability support pension and was only just managing to get by, but the financial effects of COVID were becoming evident. She had begun to lose the regular social connection that she received weekly when the few friends and family she had went into isolation. Through her extended stays in her house, she had begun to accrue some significant utility bills.

To further the feeling of isolation, her old mobile device began to stop working, and she simply could not afford to replace it. With tears in her eyes, she asked if there was any way we could help her get back on her feet.

We put together a food pack for T.H, providing her enough food for a few weeks, and were also able to purchase a phone so that she was able to connect with friends and family once again. We provided her with some bus tickets so that she had the means to travel on her own.

St John's was also able to assist T.H with her utility bills, as well as referring her to a financial counsellor who would work closely with her to devise a financial strategy.

Over the coming months we will continue to support T.H with food and groceries, and the emotional support she requires to get back on her feet.

Kind regards,

Robbie Speldewinde, Programs Coordinator

Items required: sultanas (small boxes for lunches), juice poppers, savoury biscuits, Weet Bix



THE THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY
24 JANUARY 2021

9.30am & 6 pm

Welcome to St John's. Our service today is contained in this booklet.
Our worship today includes responses, which are **in bold print**.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Call to Worship and Greeting

From God alone comes my salvation.

For God alone my soul waits in silence.

God alone is my rock and my salvation.

God is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.

Ps. 62.1-2

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, God of all creation,
you call us to be your people,
to carry your vision in this time and place,
to go where you send us
to help welcome your amazing good news.
As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ
to spread the news that your realm is near,
fill us with your Holy Spirit
O God of all creation.
that we may share your good news
with a world in need. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Jonah, chapter 3, beginning at verse 1 (1-10)

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

[The King proclaimed] ‘all shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.’

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 1, beginning at verse 14 (14-20)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Canon Margaret Emil

Creed

**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 and 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.**

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

Trusting in the promise of grace,
let us pour out our hearts before God.

**Forgiving God,
we repent of all the ways we turn from you.
You call, but we do not listen;
you show us your path, but we prefer our own way.
Forgive us, heal us, and lead us back to you,
that we might show mercy to others.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

God who has called you is faithful and will not remember your sin.
Your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Live by the Spirit's transforming power,
And forgive as you have been forgiven. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord of justice, we pray for our world.

We pray for the leaders of nations. Give them eyes to see their peoples, hearts to share their resources and empathy to include all who are in need, both within their borders and beyond.

We bring before you our neighbours in the Pacific and Asia. Guide all leaders to live peaceably with each other, respecting our differences and valuing our diversity.

We give you thanks for this country of Australia and ask your blessings on all who live here. Give us the generosity of heart to both recognise our First Nation peoples and to offer hospitality to all who seek a safe place to call home.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord of life, we pray for your church around the world.
We pray for all church leaders, teachers, preachers and all who seek to extend our lives and our vision. We pray for church schools and colleges as they start up again for this school year, may they always reflect your life and love.
We pray for our diocese, our clergy and people, and especially those who minister at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and all our hospitals.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord of peace, we pray for all those suffering from war, from hatred and from exclusion.
We pray for all divided peoples, separated from their families and friends. We pray for just policies for refugees and displaced peoples. We pray for compassion and hope for those living on the streets, for people living in places that are not life giving and safe. Surround them by people who care and can give them hope and a future.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord of abundance, we pray for those in need.
Give us the desire to share our wealth and bless the efforts of St John's Care. Thank you for those who donate, and who help in practical ways, like Oz Harvest and the Orange Sky Laundry.
We remember those living with a disability, those on limited incomes, especially those trying to survive on reduced government payments.
We remember those who are living with domestic violence. Give them strength to seek help, and willing hands to care for them.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord of love, we pray for those who need your healing.
We give thanks for all who work in caring professions, in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and ambulances services.
We pray for the millions of people affected by covid19, and for all who will die this week. We pray for success with the distribution of vaccines.
Give strength to those caring for those who are sick. Bless their efforts and give them peace.
Comfort all whose loved ones are dying, or who have died this week.
Open their hearts to know your compassion.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are confident 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 Grace

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(*Phil 4.7*)

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all evermore. 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.

**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.

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE 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 your hearts with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
you have created all humanity
in your image and likeness,
and have revealed your plan and purpose
in calling us your friends and family.
Most loving God,

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your Name.**

Notices

Blessing

May the God of second chances renew your sense of call and inspire you to go out and share the good news of forgiveness and hope, and go with the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that remains with you for evermore. **Amen.**

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

Service acknowledgements

A *Prayer Book for Australia*, 1995, Broughton Publishing. Bible Readings from NRSV of the Bible.
Prayer of the Day, Confession *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, Year B, WJK, 2014