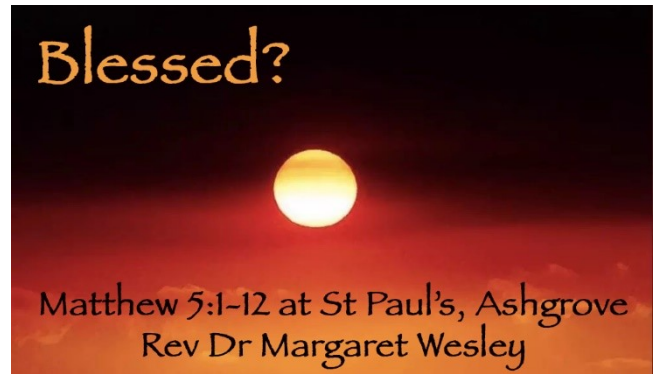


Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Epiphany 4, 2023



Song: Make Me a Chanel of Your Peace (TiS 607)

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

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.

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
From the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and dense forest, and in cities at the water's edge, Creation sings your praise.
Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.
When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your
wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.
The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious hope.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen

(A Thanksgiving for Australia, APBA p218)

**God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**God who made our home,
And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection,
A future and a hope,
To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Micah 6: 1-8

- ¹ Hear what the Lord says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- ² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord ,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
- ³ 'O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
- ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord .'
- ⁶ 'With what shall I come before the Lord ,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
- ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15

- ¹ Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle:
or who may dwell upon your holy hill?
² Whoever leads an uncorrupt life
and does the thing which is right:
**who speaks the truth from the heart,
and has not slandered with the tongue;**
³ Who has done no evil to a friend:
nor vented abuse against a neighbour;
⁴ In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:
but who makes much of those that fear the Lord;
⁵ Whoever has sworn to a neighbour:
and will not go back on that oath;
⁶ Who has not put money to usury:
nor taken a bribe against the innocent.
⁷ Whoever does these things:
shall never be overthrown.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

- ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
¹⁹ For it is written,
‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’
²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.
²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.
²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.
²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,
²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.
³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and

righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
³¹ in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Song: Let There Be Love (SPHB 21)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 5 beginning at verse 1.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5: 1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon - www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/

Silence

Nicene Creed

Let us together 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 of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

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.**

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.
Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

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.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

All may exchange a sign of peace, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.

Song: O Love that Will not Let Me Go (TiS 602)

While we will now be passing around the collection bowls again you may like to also consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever

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.

...for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...in songs of never-ending praise:

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

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.

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.

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

Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask). If you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing (keep your hands behind your back).

With the high incidence of Covid and influenza in the community we ask you to:

- *Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m as you move forward*
- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

Song (not announced): You are my hiding place (TiS 754)

God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

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

Announcements

Please stand for the blessing

Priest says the blessing

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

Song: Will You Come and Follow Me (SPHB 29)

ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

Upcoming events

- Sun 29 Jan **Preparing and Presenting Intercessions.** Workshop in the Hall after the service
- Fri 3 Feb, 9.30-11.30am **Playgroup** recommences – weekly during school terms. To learn more contact Rev Margaret or the office.
- February 1, 9:05am Bible Study and Morning Prayer resumes with an **Introduction to Matthew's Gospel**. Matthew will be the focus of our preaching through 2023 and this overview will help you see how it all fits together. Everyone welcome! Morning Prayer and Bible Study will continue as usual from Feb 8.
- Sat 11 Feb, 7-9pm **Cryptic Conversations -**
'Reappreciating God as the years go by' (Inspiration and Conversation in the Crypt) with **Patrick Oliver**, \$15/person.
- Mon 13 Feb, 7.30pm **Book Club** in the Crypt. If you would like to join you are very welcome. Just speak to one of the Bookclubbers. The chosen book is **The Whalebone Theatre** by **Joanna Quinn**
- Sat 18 Feb, 7.30am **Men's Breakfast** – join us for a hot breakfast and speaker **Rev Dr Peter Catt**, in St Paul's Crypt, message Mark to rsvp 0414 647 077 or you can put your name on the white board at church
- Sun 19 Feb **AGM** – nomination forms are at the back of the church. Can you please have your reports to Rachel in the office by Friday 10 February.



If you would still like to make a donation towards the **Archbishop's farewell gift** please contact the office or our treasurer.

For your prayers

The Archbishop Election Committee as they prepare for their task of looking for and discerning who will be our next Archbishop.

Gemma and Yen, David, Stafford Parish with Revd Kathy and Revd Jack as Locums, Revd Sue, The Ward Family, Barb, Maureen, Elizabeth, Melvie Rose, Sam, Kate, Liam, John, Anni, Revd Jack, Daphne, Genevieve, Revd Margaret's niece, Annie, Nick, The Paul Family and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. We give thanks for the continued recovery of Nick and Jack and Anni. And for Joy, Margaret S and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.