

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

PENTECOST 8, 2023

Song: Let All Creation Dance (TiS 187)

The Lord be with you, **and also with you**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

**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.**

Divine gardener,
who alone can judge
without vengeance or fear:
free us from our desire to repay evil with evil;
root us in creation's longing for freedom from oppression;
shape us by hope unseen for the victory of love;
through Jesus Christ, with whom we suffer and are
glorified. **Amen.**

Labour Pains

Genesis 28.10–19a;
Psalm 139.1–11; 139.23–24;
Romans 8.12–25;
Matthew 13.24–30, 36–43

St Paul's, Ashgrove

Rev Dr Margaret Wesley



Genesis 28: 10–19a

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' ¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

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

Psalm 139: 1–11; 139: 23–24

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
**you know when I sit or when I stand,
you comprehend my thoughts long before.**

² You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.

³ For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.

⁴ You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.

⁶ Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁷ If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.

⁸ If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

⁹ Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.

¹⁰ If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the night will enclose me',

¹¹ The darkness is no darkness with you,
but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and the light are both alike.

²³ Search me out, O God, and know my heart:
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.

²⁴ Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Romans 8: 12–25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a

spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Song: All Creatures of Our God and King (TiS 100)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 13, beginning at verse 24
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13: 24–30, 36–43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸ He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹ But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' ³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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.

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**

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

God has called us to be a people through whom the whole world is blessed.

Let us attend to the ways we have settled for less and commit ourselves once again to follow God's call.

**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 return 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: Touch the Earth Lightly (TiS 668)

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

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept all we have, all we give, and all we are,
As we dedicate all to your glory
and 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.

...and singing together the eternal song:

**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 in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

**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 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.

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).

You are welcome to kneel at the communion rail. If you prefer to stand, please stand in the middle section.

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.*

Silence for communion

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

**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

Song: God of the Poor (TiS 690)

Please stand and turn to face the back for the blessing

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

Upcoming events

Call for blanket and or doonas - If anyone has any spare or unused blankets or doonas hidden away in linen cupboards we would appreciate them as donations to the Thrift Shop. This cold winter is prompting lots of requests. Many thanks, The Thrift Shop Team.

Parish Council Update - Bishop Jeremy attended meeting. He updated us on current issues within the Diocese and the Anglican Church. The current schism is causing great pain and concern. He urged us to continue to pray for the Archbishop selection Committee. Thank you all for your response to the call to review or amend your online giving. The response was very positive and greatly appreciated, as was the response of donations to the Goodna pantry. Thanks to Doug Hawtin for delivering them last week. Thank you to Mark - the retaining wall in the back car park is finished. If you don't normally park down there, walk down and check it out. **Westside Orchestra Fathers' Day Concert** is being co-sponsored by us, with a sausage sizzle afterwards. The family friendly program will include "Peter and the Wolf" to be narrated by Ed Le Brocq from ABC Classic FM radio. All this and lunch for \$10 (or \$25 for a family ticket). Put it into your diaries now, **Sunday, 3 September at 11am**.

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| Thurs 27 July | Seminar – 'Women in the Church' with Rev Dr Margaret Wesley, Ms Tanja Hagedorn, The Ven. Dr Lucy Morris and Rev Dr Anita Munro, 9.30am-3pm at St Francis College – register with this link https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/breaking-through-the-stained-glass-ceiling-tickets-651569872027 |
| Fri 4 Aug | Taize (6pm in the church) followed by Fish & Chips - please contact Pam or John Hynd if you are interested in joining us 0431 424 737 or pamhynd@hotmail.com |
| Mon 21 Aug, 7.30pm | Book Club in the Crypt. Everyone welcome. Currently reading <i>The Rose Code</i> by Kate Quinn |
| Sun 27 Aug | Women's and Girl's High Tea , 2.30-4.30pm, \$10 single or \$15/family |
| Sat 2 Sept | Patrick Oliver speaking at Practically Spiritual , 8.30-10.30am |
| Sun 3 Sept | Westside Orchestra Concert including Father's Day BBQ, 11am–1pm |
| Fri 29 – Sat 30 Sept | Bookfest - with craft and plant stall! |

Jubilee Terrace Playgroup - weekly on a Friday from 9.30-11.30am during school terms. \$4 per week to cover cost. Registered Playgroup with Play Matters.

Bible Study and Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning during school terms. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

Would you like to get more involved? In addition to our regular activities, we would love to start organising BBQs, trivia nights, a craft group, a writer's group, a social justice group, etc. If you would like to be involved with any of these, or if you have other ideas for things we might begin, please get in touch with Rev Margaret.

For your prayers

The Archbishop Election Committee as they discern who will be our next Archbishop.

Anne, Genevieve, Brendon, Angela, Liam, Marian, Everton Park Congregation, Avril, Gemma and Yen, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish, Elizabeth, Revd Jack and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Sam. And for Joy and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.

Parish contact details - Rev Dr Margaret Wesley – priest@stpaulsashgrove.org.au, 0424 214 924
Parish Office – parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au, 07 3366 2320