

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

Season of Creation 3, 2023

17 September 2023



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Song: Morning has Broken (TiS 156)

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer,
and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures! **Praise be to the Holy Trinity!**

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 peace,
let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes
from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice,
and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

(A New Zealand Prayer Book, 464-5)

Exodus 14: 19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.' ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

The Psalm is said responsively. The LA reads the words in the plain text. The congregation responds with the words in bold text.

Psalm 114

- ¹ When Israel came out of Egypt:
**and the house of Jacob from among a people
of an alien tongue,**
- ² Judah became his sanctuary:
and Israel his dominion.
- ³ The sea saw that, and fled:
Jordan was driven back.
- ⁴ The mountains skipped like rams:
and the little hills like young sheep.
- ⁵ What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:
O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- ⁶ You mountains, that you skipped like rams:
and you little hills like young sheep?
- ⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- ⁸ Who turned the rock into a pool of water:
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.

Romans 14: 1-14

- ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.
- ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.
- ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.
- ⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

¹³ Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another.

¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

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

Song: Come as you are (TiS 693)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 18 beginning at verse 21.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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

We have received a high calling to be custodians of creation, tending the sacred space that God called into being as the dwelling place of peace, justice and fruitfulness. *Silence*

God who created and called us will keep calling us, however much and however often we fail. So, let's be honest with God and with each other as we call on God again to set us back on the right path.

God of compassion,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us for caring only about our own needs
While neglecting the creatures who share the earth with us
And the people who will be born after we are gone.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent,
Asking you for the will and the wisdom to truly change.
Fill us with your Spirit, that we may love as you love,
Trusting in the One
Who brought Jesus Christ from the dead,
And will bring new life to us and to our world. 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.

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things. **And also with you.**

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbour and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honouring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

Song: Make me a channel of your Peace (TiS 607)

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.

...Reflecting your justice, peace and beauty to all creation.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...guided by His compassionate wisdom.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...And from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...we rejoice and praise you, saying:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

...Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.*

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: For the Beauty of the Earth (TiS 137)

Please remain standing and turn to the back for the blessing:

Go in peace and justice to love and serve the Creator and creation: **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

11-29 Sept **Rev Margaret away** (annual leave followed by a conference)

Fri 29 – Sat 30 Sept **Bookfest** - with craft and a plant stall! This is the one "All hands on deck" event of the St Paul's year. Please add your name and area of commitment to the whiteboard at the back of the church).

Sun 1 Oct **St Francis Day with pet blessing** – in our services and outside the church immediately afterwards.

24-26 Nov **Northern Region Lay Retreat** (Silent Retreat) – Raymont Residential College, Auchenflower, Facilitator: Dr Patrick Oliver. For further details and booking contact Nerida Murray – neridamurray@me.com



The Text Message Gift Card Scam has started circulating again. Please be vigilant and check the phone number and email address of all correspondence purporting to come from St Paul's against the contact details listed below.

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.

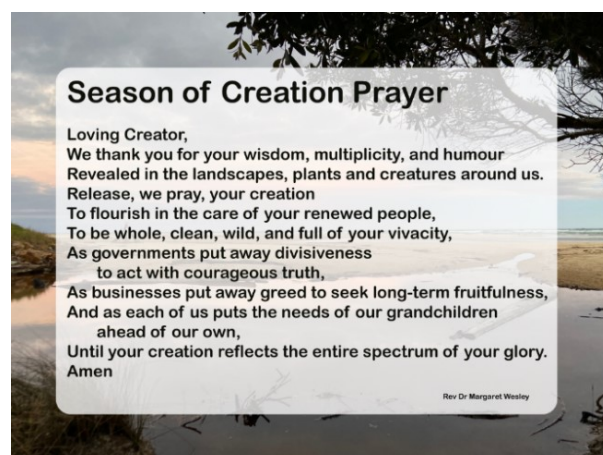
Bible Study and Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning during school terms. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

Would you like to get more involved? If you have any ideas for events or activities you would like to organise at St Paul's, please get in touch with Rev Margaret.

For your prayers

Sue, Aston, Anne, Brendon, Angela, Liam, Everton Park Congregation, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish, Elizabeth, Revd Jack and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Avril and Sam. We hold in our prayers Wayne, Noel, Joy and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.

Please let us know at the office if you would like someone added or removed from our prayer list.



It is the responsibility of each adult Australian to decide how they will vote in the upcoming referendum. As an organisation, the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland supports an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian constitution. Find out why here: <https://anglicanfocus.org.au/tag/first-nations-voice>

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