



Alstonville  
Anglicans

Sunday 1st November 2020

## Welcome back

- Sunday@9am Anglican Service in the Ministry Centre
- Sunday@10am online via webpage [www.anglicans.live](http://www.anglicans.live)
- Wednesday 9am & Thursday 6pm at St Bartholomew's
- Friday 10am Anglican Service in the Ministry Centre

## All Saints Day



### Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,  
Traditional custodians of the Land.  
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.  
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# Thought for the week

## Sharing the Good Life

I have 'gleaned' much from the many ideas penned with reference to 'The Sermon on the Mount'. I pondered, prayed, prepared and preached my path to the present. I admire Mahatma Ghandi's declaration that the Sermon contains the unadulterated message of Jesus.

I am also convinced that the *whole gospel* story is much larger. Jesus' message is that the Kingdom *has* come to humanity and been fulfilled in his words and actions. This sermon is for those who have received the word of the kingdom and know its benefit of salvation.

To understand pairs of 'oxymoronic' phrases we need to recognise Jesus' very deliberate action. Separating himself from the crowds he sits, taking the rabbinic position of teacher. His disciples gather around, he teaches *them* saying ... (Mt5.1 ff) The sermon is a real example of 'preaching to the converted'. For the most part, each beatitude seems to build on its predecessor assuming that the listeners are firstly described, then encouraged. So: congratulations: to you, poor in spirit ones, yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Then: congratulations, you mourners, you will be comforted. And: congratulations, to you who are meek, you shall inherit the earth.

The pattern, thus begun (vs 3-5) where the poor in spirit, mourn, are meek, and subsequently promised, the kingdom, comfort and the earth as an inheritance, continues through to Jesus' guarantee and call (vs 13ff) We are salt and light. We share the Good Life!

John Kidson October 2020.

# Liturgy for 1<sup>st</sup> November

## Sentence of the Day

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5.10

## Opening Song

- 1. Not the powerful,  
not the privileged,**  
not the famous in the land,  
but the no-ones and the needy  
were the first to hold God's hand.
2. Not a well established family,  
with an heirloom christening shawl,  
but a homeless, wandering couple  
parented the Lord of All.
3. Not, at first,, to little children,  
nor to those whose faith burned bright,  
but to adults, stalled in darkness,  
angels brought God's love and light.
4. God, determined to be different  
from the standards we think best,  
in his choice of friends and family  
lets forgotten folk be blest.
5. Not obsessed by our achievements,  
worldly wealth or family tree,  
may we, in and with God's chosen,  
find our fondest pedigree.

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## Readings

### Matthew 5:1-12

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

## Closing Song

1. **O for a heart to praise my God,**

a heart from sin set free,

a heart that always feels your blood

so freely shed for me:

2. a heart resigned, submissive, meek,

my great Redeemer's throne,

where only Christ is heard to speak,

where Jesus reigns alone:

3. a humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
believing, true, and clean,  
which neither life nor death can part  
from Christ who dwells within:

4. a heart in every thought renewed,  
and full of love divine,  
perfect, and right, and pure, and good —  
your life revealed in mine.

5. Your nature, gracious Lord, impart:  
come quickly from above;  
write your new name upon my heart,  
your new, best name of love.

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## Reflection

A reflection on

### Memorial Sunday

Today is Memorial Sunday. It is influenced by an ancient Catholic tradition which I imagine many of us may not agree with. In the Roman Catholic Church, All Souls on 2 November follows the feast day of All Saints 31 October where the faithful pray for the souls in purgatory. Anglicans are a reformed faith tradition, so praying for souls in purgatory does not sit well with us we do not believe in purgatory.

I offer this service for two reasons, the first is that grief never goes away. The human spirit finds ways to live alongside bereavement, our lives enlarge so that there is space to hold the love for life we have with the bereavement that we carry. The memorial service then is pastoral care, a moment to gain strength and peace in our journey with the various griefs we carry. The second reason is because of our firm belief in God who is love. Scripture says God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them. We know that love is stronger than death, so death does not separate us from God's love or from the love of those who have died who continue to live in love in a deeper and different way. As Paul says: I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8.38–39

Simply put, the truth we celebrate is this: If I am united to God and you are united to God, we are united to each other. Since this Bond of Love surpasses all division, not even death can separate us. Thus, as John O' Donohue puts it, the dead are our closest neighbours. This Memorial Sunday as we bless God for the loved ones we remember let us in turn receive their blessing to us.

May your dreams bring you peace in the darkness

May you always rise over the rain

May the light from above always lead you to love

May you stay in the arms of the angels

May you always be brave in the shadows

'Till the sun shines upon you again

Hear this prayer in my heart, and we'll ne'er be apart

May you stay in the arms of the angels  
May you hear every song in the forest  
And if ever you lose your own way  
Hear my voice like a breeze, whisper soft through the trees  
May you stay in the arms of the angels  
May you grow up to stand as a man, Love  
with the pride of your family and name  
when you lay down your head, or to rest in your bed  
May you stay in the arms of the angels

**Song**

[Lullaby For a Soldier \(Arms of the Angels\)](#)

**Artist**

Maggie Siff

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The song is from the series 'Sons of Anarchy'. While I do not endorse the violence of the TV series, it nevertheless has stunning and meaningful music. In this song, lullaby for a soldier, Maggie Siff, wife to the biker gang's leader and mother to a young child, has a premonition about her own death. In this scene there is this stark contrast between the child she holds in one hand, the gun she holds in the other and the beautiful heart wrenching lullaby she blesses her son with. Like the majority of mothers the world over, Maggie has given her all to her child and now empties all her love into the child she holds in the words of this blessing lullaby:

"May your dreams bring you peace in the darkness.

May the light always lead you to love.

May you stay in the arms of the angels."

I offer this blessing lullaby as our meditation for Memorial Sunday (All Souls), a moment in the calendar where we honour the dead we are here to remember and respect.

Grief and bereavement are a minefield of emotion. Yet in the chaos and storm that grief brings, we must still hear the blessing the dead gift us and our responsive blessing.

## Worship & Spirituality

### Messy Church

Messy Church families made animal sculptures out of recycled materials.. They are on display outside the church. Congratulations everyone on your creativity!



**The next Messy Church planning meeting is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm.**

### St Peter & St Paul's

The next service will be Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020.



We are praying for you.

**Every Monday 10am**

Join us in St Bartholomew's or submit your prayer requests online



## Anam Cara

Anam Cara means soul friend. Guided Meditation is offered Wednesdays 9am and non-guided silence on

**Thursdays at 6pm**, following an abbreviated compline (prayer at the end of the day).



## What's your favourite Hymn or Song? Juke Box Sunday 15th November

At 9am we will have a service of hymns and songs. What's your favourite hymn or song and why? Let us know via the website or here in the church.

## New Parishioners

We have a new family who will be attending the 9am Service. The liturgy will include a children's ministry and the Godly Play toys will be available

# Community Engagement



## Play Place

Has resumed meeting on Thursdays at 9.30am and runs each week during School Terms. A fun time of friendship, stories, music, craft and playing, with a break for morning tea and a cuppa for parents and carers.



## Sew helpful

Come along on Mondays from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Not everyone brings a craft project! You can learn a new skill, work on a project, or just enjoy the company. All welcome!



## **Live Streaming Technician**

We are seeking people who would like to be technicians to assist this ministry. Please talk to Rev Desiree or Robyn Hannah.

## **Finance**

**We give thanks to God for all people making offertories to the vision of God's Kingdom here on earth.**

Parish Provider these are the details:

**BSB: 705 077 /Acc: 00032931**

Cheques can be posted to PO Box 451 Alstonville 2477.

## **Good Governance**



### **Church Mowing Roster**

We are now in process of preparing the roster for the next year. This year we have "lost" two members of our team, so we are looking for two (or maybe more) new volunteers to maintain our seven teams. Typically, each team has three turns at mowing and edging each year.

Please give your names to Barry on 6628 3089 as soon as possible to enable the preparation of the next roster.

## We need more chairs with arms...



Do you have any wooden or metal chairs with arms, in good condition, that you no longer need or use, or would be willing to “long term loan” to us while we continue to meet in the Ministry Centre?

We have noticed some of our older parishioners are struggling now that they don't have a pew in front of them to assist them when standing up. If you can help, please contact Carol Vidal on 0427 326 832.

### ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman	0402 764 969
	priest@anglicans.live	
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	0411 394 213
	The Reverend Geoff Vidal	0447 645 456
	The Reverend Doug Bannerman	0418 182 450
	The Reverend Greg Ezzy	0412 660 742
Parish Office:	The Ministry Centre, 8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
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e-mail:	<a href="mailto:office@anglicans.live">office@anglicans.live</a>	website: anglicans.live

**The Anglican Op Shop** 1 The Avenue, Alstonville Tel: 6628 8777



Alstonville  
Anglicans

## *Twilight Christmas Fair*

**BE PART OF  
SOMETHING  
SPECTACULAR!**

Friday 4th December  
3.30pm – 7.00pm  
6 The Avenue Alstonville

Immerse yourself  
in an enchanting world of  
craft, cakes, gifts & entertainment.

