



Alstonville Anglicans

Pentecost 14

Sunday 11th September 2022

Welcome, to the Season of Creation



During the Season of Creation, Christians worldwide are *listening* to the voice of creation. We invite you to *tune in to your senses* and really listen. Why the voice of creation? These voices have been muted for far too long.

- The voices of *Indigenous Peoples*.
- The voices of our *suffering sisters and brothers*.
- The voices of *all members of God's creation*.
- The voice of *the Earth*.

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
...their voice is not heard; yet their voice
goes out through all the earth, and their
words to the end of the world. Psalm
19:1-4*

Creation never stops proclaiming...
But are we listening?

Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of the Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.

Streaming licence: CCLI 102220

Alstonville Anglicans are committed to ensuring that all people who participate in our worship, programs and ministries have a safe and rewarding experience.

Tel: 66280231 www.anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

Dates 11th September to 18th September

11 th Sep		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
	5pm	Messy Life Church
12 th Sep		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
13 th Sep		Tuesday
		Parish Office Closed (No office access)
	4pm	Singalong group (contact Susan)
14 th Sep		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
15 th Sep		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	6pm	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
16 th Sep		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
18 th Sep		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion

This bulletin contains current announcements and the weeks calendar and the sermon notes from the previous Sunday. Use our welcome booklet for info and contact details for regular activities. Keep it as a reference tool. We welcome any feedback on the booklet.

https://anglicans.live/s/welcomeBooklet_v2.pdf

Good Governance



Have you downloaded our App?
'Alstonville Anglicans'

1. Download the app from the app store or google play.
2. Sign-up to create an account.
3. Update your profile.
4. Access the member directory.



Mask wearing is not mandatory but is highly recommended

Community engagemnet



If you see a crime at
an Apple Store....

Does that make
you an iwitness??



You are invited to a free Community Band Concert

The Lismore City and Ballina Shire Concert Bands are holding a free community concert at McCarthy Hall, 11 Perry Street Alstonville Saturday 10th September starting at 2,30pm for approximately 1 hour. A variety of music will be performed and we would like to invite the Alstonville/Wollongbar community to come along and enjoy our music – we are all so happy to be back doing what we love - playing together and performing.



Worship & Spirituality



The Burning Bush
— Ex 3, 1-12 —

**Listen to the
Voice of Creation**
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you.

Ex 3: 1-12

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022.

Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires is a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet.

Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

In this Season of Creation, the symbol of the burning bush is a sign of God's Spirit who calls us to listen to the voice of creation.
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Reflecting on the state of our planet can feel overwhelming, but we can all do something. What is burning in your heart? What are you drawn to? What inspires or moves you to take action?

**Messy life church Sunday 11 September 5pm
(Games from 4pm)**



Messy Life Church

W orship



T eaching



F riendship



2nd Sundays@5pm

Come as you

Shoes optional

(no previous experience required)

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue Alstonville
anglicans.live

Sermon Notes
Preached on 4th September

"Immovable Commitments" Luke 14.25-33

What are your immovable commitments?

Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

On a dark, foggy night, a ship came upon the light of another vessel. The captain radioed his counterpart: **"Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision."**

Through the crackly radio came the reply:

"Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision"

The captain stood his ground. He radioed: **"This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course."**

And again, came the reply: "No, I say again, you divert YOUR course."

Outraged, the captain spoke loudly into the radio:

"THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. THAT'S ONE-FIVE DEGREES NORTH."



And came the reply: "This is a lighthouse. Your call." (From Stephen Covey)

The lesson I wish to draw from this modern-day parable is to ask: **What are the lighthouse principles in our lives? In other words what are the things that cannot be moved? *'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.***

Jesus' challenge to the crowds is harsh and his questions may not be watered down. For Jesus, the kingdom of God, consenting to God's presence within, is the unmoveable lighthouse principle in our lives. Either discipleship in the kingdom of God comes first or not at all. The word hate is deliberate: radical discipleship requires that nothing distracts us from the central goal of God: not ego, not pride, not family and not possessions.

To suggest that Jesus is asking for a literal hatred of one's family is to blindly miss the point and mishear his use of speech. Hatred for one's family is exaggerated speech; its

purpose is to shock us out of domesticating the journey of discipleship. Domestication confines religion to the home and family, how ironic it is that fundamentalist Christianity often associates Christianity with family values. In contrast, the journey with Jesus often requires giving up so called family values. The shock that Jesus delivers reminds followers that families can often restrict our full growth to become who we are in Christ. For some, families can bring death rather than life. Some families are like oppressive demons that suck the life out of its members. Mark's Gospel shows how Jesus' own family thought he was insane and wanted to rescue him by force. (3:20-21, 31-35). Ultimately the call to let go of one's loyalty to family is how our journey with Jesus frees us from cultural conditioning insofar as it hinders us from responding to the gospel and the invitation into perfect freedom. Perhaps the best example for us is that we have inherited a culture that institutionalises racism and patriarchy; a culture that we reject because in Christ all are equal, all are created in the image of God and all our temples of the holy spirit.

"So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Jesus regularly associates family power with possession power because both belonged together. It is as much about letting go of possessions as letting go of being possessed by them. One of the reasons for family power was protection of possessions. Letting go of being possessed does often mean letting go of





possessing others. The best example of this is St Francis. In order to say yes to Jesus and surrender to radical discipleship, St Francis had to let go of his family power and their wealth. St Francis' family were wealthy cloth merchants and Francis was expected to follow in his father's footsteps. Instead, Francis opted

for radical discipleship and stripped himself of all his family's wealth.

We soften the call to follow Jesus because we do not like where Jesus is going. Radical discipleship is a path of subversive politics, of revolution, of denouncing the economic powers through nonparticipation, of embracing the poor, not because Jesus himself was poor, but because he embraced the poor. Few people have followed this call to radical discipleship. Yet at some point we must feel bored of deadly mediocrity and conformity. And there is no greater response to the corruption of our age than radical discipleship. There is no greater response to the materialism of this age than radical discipleship.

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Hating" family and "denying" self by "carrying the cross" are closely related. The kingdom of God is about living in Oneness with God. Loving God with heart, mind, body and soul requires giving up the self even to death. Anything held back is self and anything given is God's. God increases in us as our ego decreases.

Let's be utterly pragmatic about how we answer the call to radical discipleship, how we give ourselves to God: if spiritual



teachers are to be believed we are to be in silence for **20 minutes twice a day**. Why silence? As soon as we give ourselves to silence, a crack occurs in our consciousness. The purpose of silence is to allow the

longing for God to break through the layers of our false selves, our defence mechanisms, and our false pursuits for happiness. From the perspective of silence, negotiating the spiritual journey is easy; all we do is accept the kingdom of God as already given to us, it is already put into our hands, it is already poured into our hearts – it already is.

Desiree Snyman

Sentence of the Day

I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15.10

Collect

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God,
exultant you bring home the found:
touch our hearts with grateful wonder
at the tenderness of your forbearing love;
grant us delight in the mercy that has found us;
and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiven sinners.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15.1-10



¹ Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. ⁸ 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

2022 SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER

Creator of All,

From your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. You called human beings to till and keep your garden. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures.

We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth. We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures.

Creation cries out as forests crackle, and animals alike flee the fires of injustice that we have lit by our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that you would call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Turn us from our inward gaze. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory.

Give us hearts to listen, enlighten us with your grace, and fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.