



Alstonville Anglicans

Pentecost 11 - 16th August 2020

You are welcome to join us this week...

- Sunday@**9am Anglican Service of Worship in the Ministry Centre.**
- Or 10am connect via webpage www.anglicans.live
- Anam Cara – a meditation group. Wednesday 9am & Thursday 6pm. St Bartholomew's.
- Friday 10am **Anglican Service of Worship in the Ministry Centre.**



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

(Based on Matthew 15:21-28)

“Hope”

In today’s Gospel reading from Matthew 15:21-28, a Canaanite woman who has given up hope for her daughter, begs Jesus to heal the girl. Though the woman and her daughter are outsiders, Jesus miraculously reaches out to them and heals the little girl. This story shows us an image of Jesus acting with grace and powerful compassion. It’s a story that encourages us to have hope.

St. Athanasius was a great theologian of the fourth-century. In a brilliant little book, *On the Incarnation of the Word*, Athanasius writes that the entire world benefits from the incarnation of the Word even before being aware of it. “You know how it is when some great king enters a large city and dwells in one of its houses; because of his dwelling in that house the whole city is honoured and enemies and robbers cease to molest it. Even so it is with the “king” of all; he has come into our country and dwelt in one body amidst the many, and in consequence the

designs of the enemy against mankind have been foiled, and the corruption of death that formerly held them in its power, has simply ceased to be. For the human race would have perished utterly had not the Lord and Saviour of all, the Son of God, come among us to put an end to death.”

This explains why our hope is valid. It gives us a foundation on which we are able to build our Christian ethics and our Christian life. Jesus is Lord! We have a reason for our hope. The kingdom of God is here! Life that is lived in the light of that saving knowledge is eternal.



Pentecost 11

9am Liturgy

16th August 2020

Welcome and acknowledgment of country

Sentence of the Day

Thus says the Lord, 'Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.'
Isaiah 56.1

Opening Song

Seek, O seek the Lord

*Seek, O seek the Lord,
while he is near;
trust him,
speak to him in prayer,
and he will hear.*

1. God be with us in our lives,
direct us in our calling;
break the snares the world
contrives,
keep us from falling.

*Seek, O seek the Lord,
while he is near;
trust him,
speak to him in prayer,
and he will hear.*

2. God, increase in us the life
that Christ by dying gave us:
though we faint in mortal strife
his blood will save us.

*Seek, O seek the Lord,
while he is near;
trust him,
speak to him in prayer,
and he will hear.*

3. Strengthen in our hearts
the love
we owe to one another;
how can we love God above
and not each other?

*Seek, O seek the Lord,
while he is near;
trust him,
speak to him in prayer,
and he will hear.*

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Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for

she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Sermon

Intercessory Prayers

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
**For our families, friends, and neighbours,
and for all those who are alone.**

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Murray Harvey our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

Final Song

By your priestly power

*By your priestly power,
O risen Lord,
all we lost and needed was restored.
God in our communion be adored.*

1. At your hands, Lord,
we are fed,
hands that guide
and do not falter,
wounded hands
that broke the bread
on this altar.

*By your priestly power,
O risen Lord,
all we lost and needed was
restored.
God in our communion be
adored.*

2. At your hands
we seek release
from the evils that assail us
for we know
the Bread of Peace
will not fail us.

*By your priestly power,
O risen Lord,
all we lost and needed was
restored.
God in our communion be
adored.*

3. In the world
that we have known
selfish, loud, vain passions riot;
Lord, with you, with you alone
is deep quiet.

*By your priestly power,
O risen Lord,
all we lost and needed was
restored.
God in our communion be
adored.*

4. To that world we must return
sharing in its hope and labour,
bringing to it Christ's concern
for our neighbour.

*By your priestly power,
O risen Lord,*

*all we lost and needed was
restored.
God in our communion be
adored.*

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Sermon Notes (for Matthew 14:22-33)

COVID has changed many things. From today we are required to wear face masks. Putting our service online isn't easy but it's worthwhile as many people are watching and discovering new faith. One of many groups that was shut down but is now meeting again is AA where lives are changed by recognizing the need to depend on a "Higher power"

People saying that they believe in a "higher power" are not often confronted and it's not too risky to say you are "spiritual" or even "religious". But some people think it's sort of dicey to tell others that you "believe in God". You could be challenged if you are game enough to say "I am a Christian and I believe that Jesus is God"

This raises a really important question; who is Jesus? How do you know what to believe when you hear some people talking of Jesus as being "just great

prophet" or perhaps saying Jesus was only a brilliant teacher? Or the Jehovah Witnesses teaching that Jesus is just one of many Gods?

There was a King of Siam who, in the 1800s, had an English teacher. They got on really well until the Englishman spoke about "water becoming so hard that an elephant could walk on it". The King became angry and ended the friendship. The King hadn't ever experienced ice and he wasn't prepared to believe something that he couldn't understand. What should this king have done?

Well, it's not easy to know what we should do about things we don't understand. I know many well educated people who are sometimes accepting of things they don't understand such as computers or wifi. However, it's not uncommon to run across someone who totally refuses to accept things they can't understand.



There are times when we miss out on knowing the truth either because we are not prepared to make an effort to investigate or, like that King, we refuse to trust in something we aren't able to see. This is the problem that Jesus' disciples had.

In today's scripture, a group of Jesus' disciples have difficulty in recognising him. They don't know that the figure they see walking along in the roaring waves is actually Jesus. The disciples are in a boat. "The wind was against them," driving them way out to sea. As dawn breaks early in the morning, they see a terrifying sight. A figure walking toward them on the sea! "It is a ghost!" they yell out in fear.

Then Jesus spoke to them; "Take heart, it is I; don't be afraid." Presumably, even when Jesus spoke to them, they still were not sure it was Jesus because it was then that Peter said something very strange; "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you."

What an odd thing for Peter to say; "Jesus, if it's really you tell me to do this amazing thing".

That's how Peter thinks he will know him. If this figure on the water is Jesus he will say "come on! Get out of the boat".

And that's how we will know Jesus. Jesus is the one who extravagantly and recklessly commands us to leave the safety of the boat; to step into the sea, and test the waters, to show what our faith is made of.

That's Jesus.

There's a song sometimes sung at funerals "Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me".

When you think about that, it's pretty tough isn't it? Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling us to risk our life; to throw caution to the wind, to step out of the boat and defy death.

Early in the Gospel story, Jesus calls a group of very ordinary people to drop their nets, leave their business and their families, and go out with him on a perilous sea called discipleship.

So maybe we shouldn't find it strange for one of those people to now say, "Lord, if it is really you, call me to get out of the boat and walk on the waves".

I studied theology at the Bible College of Queensland with some great young people who had given up successful careers with bright futures. There were teachers, occupational



therapists, classical musicians, managers, computer programmers who had given up well paid careers to serve as poor missionaries.

Who would have commanded them to do such a thing?

Could it have been Jesus?

In the hills behind Coffs Harbour, there's a very successful ministry given to sufferers of drug and alcohol addictions. It's called Sherwood Cliffs. I know that they received regular financial help from a young couple who were both on limited incomes. This couple had made a promise of regular support to Sherwood Cliffs on top of what they were already committing to their church. How could they, on their limited incomes, make such a commitment? They said, "we just thought this was the sort of thing that our Lord Jesus would expect of us. We both know how important our youth are and how tough it can be growing up these

days. So, we made this commitment.”

Is this the sort of thing our Lord would expect of us? What sort of Lord would expect such sacrifice? Could it be Jesus?

The good news is that, when Peter climbed out of the boat, even though the going was rough, even though he almost sank and perished, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, just at the right moment. He helped Peter back into the boat, he stilled the wind and the waves, and Peter was saved.

But if Peter had not moved, had not obeyed Jesus call to walk on the water, then Peter would never have had this great opportunity for recognition and rescue by Jesus.

I wonder if many of us are only splashing about in the safe inshore shallow water and consequently are missing out on opportunities to test our faith. If we want to be close to Jesus, this Gospel story today is suggesting that we need to get out of the boat. We are being encouraged to take ourselves out into the deep, dark sea. We've got to prove God's promises through trusting God's promises, through risk and adventure.

Henri Nouwen was a great Dutch

teacher, psychologist and Priest. He wrote many books, but my favourite was *The Wounded Healer*. Nouwen gave up a brilliant career of international lecturing and served in an institution named Daybreak as a carer for the severely disabled. What made him do it? What force drove him to this place of giving to others rather than taking all he could get?

Someone had called him to step out of the boat, to risk walking on water, to defy the forces of nature, to swim against the stream, to come closer to him, to venture out into the storm.

Could it have been Jesus?

So if in the dead of night, or maybe near dawn, you should hear a voice, calling your name. If there's a strange voice calling you to get going, to sail away, to risk the storm and to defy the waves; there's a good chance that voice could belong to none other than your very Lord and Saviour.

Who would dare to call an ordinary, not very spectacularly faithful person like you or me to be adventurous and to take a bit of a risk?

I think you know who.



Housekeeping

Our notices are organized under our mission goals.

Worship & Spirituality Questions

How would you answer the following?

Question: If the expression of our faith is via our actions in our everyday life. Live your faith etc. What then is the value of meeting in a church on a Sunday?

Question: Can you explain the significance of why we are taught it IS Christ's body and blood rather than in symbolic remembrance (a way of remembering) "not the real thing?"

Question: From your sermon 27th July you mentioned something about the 8th parable. Can we hear more about this?

Question: Angels: their place in scripture, their place in our lives today.

Question: "Jesus said those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things will be gathered and thrown into the fiery furnace, a punishment that is complete, consuming and unending"...Could you please

speak to this passage and in particular how this relates to the notion that God is loving, gracious and forgiving?

Questions: "This week's message is, God is in control, people who have allegiance to the landowner should be confident that there will be a harvest. We are to wait for this harvest with hopeful hearts." What happens to those people who don't have allegiance to the landowner?

Sundays @ 6

Sunday@6 is currently in abeyance with a view to relooking at the situation in the New Year.

Anam Cara Contemplative Church

This service has recommenced Thursdays 6pm in St Bartholomew's.

Friday Service

Friday 10am services have recommenced in St Bartholomew's. We look forward to seeing you there.

St Peter and St Paul's Tregeagle

St Peter and St Paul's will recommence services from 30th August at 10am.

Prayer

Monday morning prayer where we pray for our church and the community will recommence in the church 7th September at 10am. You are welcome to pray with Rev Desiree at St Bartholomew's or join in prayer from home.

Leadership

A Clergy Rendezvous will be held on Monday 31st August from 10am–2pm. We are studying 'Holy Envy' by Barbara Brown Taylor.

The next Parish Council Meeting is 19th August 6pm.

Communication & Community Engagement

AREA

Thank you to all those who have continued to financially help AREA support Bruce Fleming in recent months. Thanks especially to those who have now chosen to make Direct Credit to our bank. We chose not to purchase new 2020-21 envelopes so if you still wish to use envelopes until June 2021, please contact John Noble 0414285132

Good Governance

Masks

It had to happen, and it has. We have to wear masks in church.

After new research showing that COVID-19 stays in the air for a long time after it is breathed out, masks have really come to the fore as COVID-19 transmission prevention.

The Chief Health Officer of NSW and now our own Bishop have requested all people in worship services wear masks.

So, if you have your own mask, bring it with you to church. If you haven't one, we will provide you with a disposable one. Keep us all safe!

Below is the link to Spotlight's website - how to make a face mask. They provide down-loadable instructions and patterns and even an instruction video.

<https://www.spotlightstores.com/projects/how-to-make-a-face-mask>



Pastoral Care

If you are aware of anyone who needs or would appreciate Pastoral Care of ANY type (home communion, visits, meals, contact) please contact Lynne Watt on 66286751 or the office. Our Pastoral Care Team is here to care for you, but can only do so when we know.

Celia Hillier



The lady pictured is long-time parishioner of St Bart's Mrs Celia Hillier, now resident in "Kalina" Caroon Care at Goonellabah. Celia served as president in the

now defunct but was, hard-working Guild back in the 1990's. She continues to this day loving her Lord as one of St Bart's longer-term faithful.

While her eyesight has diminished, her wry sense of humour hasn't! Celia is approaching ninety-seven years come Tuesday 22nd September. We could remember her by sending a card and "hint" she has a sweet tooth! If anyone would like to do so, contact Judy Thompson on 66283972 and she could deliver same to reception at "Kalina".

Lyn Watt and Barbara Fewtrell were able to serve communion to Celia but we are in uncertain times and the above could be a simple yet lovely thing to do in remembering a remarkable woman.



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman 04 02 764 969 priest@anglicans.live	
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	0411 394 213
	The Reverend Geoff Vidal	0447 645 456
	Life Groups Chaplain	
	The Reverend Greg Ezzy	0412 660 742
Parish Office:	The Ministry Centre, 8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
Postal:	PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477	
e-mail:	office@anglicans.live	
website:	anglicans.live	

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

Sharing the Good Life

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people,
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Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+
welcome here.
Streaming license
CCLI #690910

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

Or

Cheques can be posted to the
address above or placed in our
locked letterbox. Before 12pm
Fridays.