



Alstonville Anglicans

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday 23rd January 2022



Image by rony michaud from Pixabay

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

Liturgy for 23rd January

Sentence of the Day

Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah: 'The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.' Luke 4.18

Collect

Life-giving God,
who sent your Son Jesus to proclaim your kingdom
and to teach with authority:
anoint us with your Spirit,
that we too may bring good news to the poor,
bind up the broken-hearted,
and proclaim liberty to the captive;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Messages

Pastoral Care



To make you smile...

How do you make a waterbed more bouncy?

You use spring water!!

Worship & Spirituality

Baptism



Today we warmly welcome Elyse Christina Orchard who comes with her family and friends to be baptised among us.



Waterslide Afternoon

Bring swimmers
& or old clothes &
sunscreen
BYO nibbles

Sunday 30th January
2pm-4pm

Paul & Lesley Earner's home
20 Lismore Rd, Alstonville

Opposite Mitre 10

Ph: 0416 280 140

Cursillo Ultreya



The Diocesan Ultreya will now be held via Zoom on Saturday 12th February. For more details, please contact Mark on 0428 404 783.

Community Engagement

Community-On-the-Verge



Help yourself to what is ripe and ready for picking. If you are keen to be involved as the garden evolves, please contact Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713.

AREA Donations

Thanks, as always for your generous donations to AREA. In recent weeks several envelopes were placed into the collection plate without names on them. Could you please contact John Noble if you have made a donation so that receipts can be issued.

Play Place



Cleaning of Play Place toys and equipment. Thursday 3rd Feb, from 8am. Volunteers welcome.

Good Governance

COVID Update

"The rules are constantly changing as you know. This is a summary as at present.

- Density limit 2/sq m.
- Masks required indoors.
- Effective 8 January, singing and dancing at hospitality venues is no longer permitted other than for wedding services and receptions.

- QR code check in is compulsory.
- Ventilation is important, so doors and windows open, and morning tea outside but remembering social distancing.

Thank you for your understanding. Covid Committee.”

Finance: Supporting Alstonville Parish

Parish Provider is now Planned Giving

If you’ve put aside the letter about changing to the new Planned Giving system, please make it a priority in the coming week. For help, please call the parish office.

Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you."

Annual Report & AGM



All reports for the Annual Report are now due **URGENTLY**. Please forward them to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

AGM February 20th 2022.

Nominations for Wardens and Parish Council must be submitted to the Parish Office

or the Rector’s Warden no later than Friday 11th February 2022.

Please note that nomination forms are available at the Parish Office and in the Church Foyer. All nomination forms submitted must bear the written consent (signature) of the nominated person before they can be accepted.

Church Cleaning Roster



We are looking for volunteers able to assist with basic Church Cleaning on a roster basis please. Many hands make light work etc. If you are able to assist, please call Bruce on 0412 783 921.

Sermon Notes 16th January 2022

Marriage: The first of seven signs

John's Gospel uses seven signs as a literary structure to shape the first half of his Gospel. The first of the signs that Jesus offers is at a wedding. The literary message is about the marriage of heaven and earth, the marriage of divine and human so that all may be Christ and Christ may be in all. As St Paul put it in Ephesians 1, God's plan from the beginning was to unite, in Christ, all things, things in heaven and things on earth.

The wedding at Cana is dramatization if you like, a parable drama, describing God's ultimate plan of marrying humanity. Jesus is God's design for the whole world. Jesus the Christ is a person from the future not the past. Jesus the Christ is the ultimate vision of our future reality, of who we are already becoming – a unity of Divine and Human.

A wedding invitation



Usually if there is a wedding there is also a wedding invitation. The wedding invitation for the marriage of heaven and earth dramatized at the wedding in Cana John 2.1-11 appears in John 1.14-17. Hidden in the glorious cosmic hymn of our Christmas reading is the heart centre:

And the Word became flesh and **lived among us**, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, **full of grace and truth**. ... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace...The law indeed was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**.

The wedding invitation is John 1.14-17, the Word that lived among us. The English translation "lived among us" fails to capture the power of the original Greek that describes the Word that became flesh and "**pitched his tent among us**" or "**tabernacled**" among us. The significance of "tabernacled among us" is two-fold and relies on the fact it vivifies two memories: the Genesis-Exodus epoch and the Exile-Restoration era.

John's Gospel and the Genesis-Exodus memory

While some are reluctant to engage the Scriptures of the Old Testament, without the background of the Hebrew Scriptures we cannot discern the meaning of the Gospels that introduce us to Jesus. John's Gospel is a New Genesis and a New Exodus.

If John's Gospel is a New Exodus a short summation of the Exodus account is necessary to appreciate its relevance to John's Gospel. The plot of the Exodus story is the group of refugees who escape oppression in Pharaoh's Egypt through a wilderness into a Promised Land flowing with Milk and Honey. The climax of the Exodus saga is pre-empted by the introduction to the story. Moses and Aaron, who with Miriam are the leaders of the refugees, pronounce to pharaoh: "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Let my people go, so that they **may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.**"

(Exodus 5.1). The Exodus story races fast to the climax where it plateaus and overstates in detail the construction of a tabernacle. The tabernacle, a symbol of God's presence among the people, is at the centre of the group of refugees who



traverse a wilderness in search of a Promised Land. Herewith the point of the story, that the refugees are freed from slavery in order **to celebrate a festival to God in the wilderness**, with the Tabernacle the heart centre of how God comes close to them and how they come close to God. Now it is evident what Exodus means for John's Gospel; Jesus the Christ is the New Tabernacle who "pitches his tent among us." Jesus' incarnation, the Word made flesh among us, is the way in which we now see God with us and among us. What is the significance of God in Christ tabernacling among us (John 1.14)? The significance of Jesus pitching his tent among is that the destiny of cosmos and human beings as kings and queens of the New Creation is made clear; the unity of the Divine and Human, the enspiriting of flesh or the enfleshing of spirit. As Teilhard puts it, God is always in the business of enfleshing spirit or enspiriting flesh. This marriage of heaven and earth or spirit and flesh dramatized in Cana in John 2.1-11 is already hinted at in John 1.14-17: "..., and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, **full of grace and truth...** The law indeed was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

John's Gospel and the Exile-Restoration memory

"Full of grace and truth" evokes the recitation of Psalm 85:

Grace and truth have met together;
justice and peace have kissed each other.
Truth springs up from the earth,
and justice looks down from heaven.
Adonai will also grant prosperity;
our land will yield its harvest.
Justice will walk before him
and make his footsteps a path.

(From the complete Jewish Bible translation. Copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern.
All rights reserved).

Psalm 85 is a restoration psalm. A restoration psalm sings of the Hebrew's best hope after being in exile, in Babylon, away from their temple and home. The restoration hoped for in exile

now takes place in the person of Jesus. In Jesus Grace and truth meet, justice and peace kiss, and the human and divine marry, to offer a new and bright future. Grace represents the refreshing love of God that comes from beyond our world, a compassion that is transcendent. Truth is the love of God from within our world, the holiness of our humanity now embraces the holiness of God's divinity.

Join the wedding

What does all this mean for us? As for Jesus, so too for us. Through the gift of the Spirit of Love, like Jesus, we too are the place where the unity of heaven and earth takes place. We no longer need look for God in the wrong places: out there, up there. God is within, as the truest part of ourselves. The feast and celebration dramatized at the wedding in Cana is that the marriage of grace and truth, begun in John 1.14-17, brought to fruition in John 2.1-11 will go on and on and on in us and through us until it is complete. Welcome to the wedding.



Parish Regular Items

Mothers Union: third Monday of each month.
Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690 874 joyce@stephanies.com.au .

Play Place



Play Place is in recess until 10 February 2022.

Sew Helpful



Sew Helpful is in recess over the holiday period.

Plastic lids and Bread tags



If you have any plastic lids / bread tags, PLEASE bring them to the church or to the Op Shop and place them in the white garbage collection boxes. The plastic will be recycled and used to assist children with disabilities. This is a

small step we can take together to help look after our beautiful world.

Pastoral visits Remember!

If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office or Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? wattlg@bigpond.com.

Anam Cara



Anam Cara Praying for you on Monday mornings will be in recess until February

Anam Cara Wenesdays will be in recess in January and recommence 2nd February 2022

Anam Cara Thursdays will continue through January.

Messy Church



Recommencing 27th February 2022

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers all the baptised!

Rector The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman
0402 764 969 priest@anglicans.live

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|------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Associates | 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: 8 The Avenue, Alstonville
Telephone: 6628 0231
Postal: PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477
e-mail: office@anglicans.live
website: anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop

1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

Dates 23rd December to 30th January

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| 23 rd Jan | Sunday 9am Holy Communion Baptism of Elyse Christina Orchard |
| 24 th Jan | Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm |
| 25 th Jan | Tuesday Parish Office Closed |
| 26 th Jan | Parish Office Closed (Australia Day) Op Shop Closed (Australia Day) |
| 27 th Jan | Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm Thursday Anam Cara 6pm |
| 28 th Jan | Parish Office 9am – 12pm Friday 10am Holy Communion |
| 30 th Jan | Sunday 9am Holy Communion |

Values

What follows are the best words that we are able to offer, to describe what we love best about Alstonville Anglicans. When you come to us and when we go to you, this is what we are thinking and feeling.

Beloved:

each person comes into the world as an original blessing from God. Thus, each person is a beloved person: significant, wanted and loved.

Belonging:

anyone who wants to belong already belongs. We want to welcome each other as a gift, saying, "my greatest difference from you is my greatest gift to you". Community matters and is protected. We want to consciously enjoy each other hearing "the Christ in me sees the Christ in you."

Being:

we are human beings not human doings. Our being present is important. The Spirit of God vibrates within us "like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven."

Believing:

we are partners with God in living heaven on earth now. We want to be one call among many, offering a provocative but compassionate voice calling for a whole new way of thinking and believing that is loving, liberating and lifegiving.

Blessing:

as beloved original blessings, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. God is always on God's way through us to creation, of which humans are a part. We believe everyone is called, that everyone has something beautiful to do for God. We want to be the sort of beloved community that creates space for people to express their calling.