



# Alstonville Anglicans

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022



Image by Chanwit Whanset from Pixabay

## Liturgy for 6<sup>th</sup> February

### Sentence of the Day

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and was buried, and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and appeared to many. 1 Corinthians 15.3-4

### 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.

## Collect

Most holy God,  
in whose presence angels serve in awe,  
and whose glory fills all heaven and earth:  
cleanse our unclean lips  
and transform us by your grace  
so that your word spoken through us  
may bring many to your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Readings Luke 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

# Messages

**To make you smile...**

How long is a piece of string?

**Cut the ends off and it is endless!!**

## Worship & Spirituality

### Water slide Afternoon



Thank you to Paul and Lesley Earner for hosting this event. It was a fun filled afternoon.

### Shrove Tuesday



1st March 2022 5.30pm in the Ministry Centre \$10 includes Savoury Crepe & Sweet Pancake and a quiz. RSVP by 20th February to Jenny Noble

### Life Groups Lent 2022



**COMING THIS LENT –  
WATCH THIS SPACE**

### Family Service



Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February: games from 4pm, service begins at 5pm. All welcome.

## Pastoral Care

### Family Cross



Today the Family Cross is being given to Gail Burley.

### Cursillo Ultreya



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

## Community Engagement

### Action for Afghanistan!

#### **Alstonville Social Justice Group Meeting, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 10am at St Bartholomew's Church.**

- What is happening right now in Afghanistan?
- What has our government been doing thus far?
- What can we do locally to assist Afghans who are in grave danger?

Stanley Yeo, the vice-president of Ballina Region for Refugees, will answer these and other questions. All welcome!

### 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.

## 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.”

### Sign Up for Planned Giving

Forms for signing up for Planned Giving are now available from the website and in the church foyer.

### Annual Report & AGM



The Annual Report will be available by 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**AGM February 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 11am.**

**Nominations for Wardens and Parish Council must be submitted to the Parish Office or the Rector's Warden no later than Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website.

## 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 or sign up via the website.

## Sermon Notes 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Read Luke 4:14-21:** The text demands the unachievable for me as the preacher. A preacher is supposed to announce Good News with such clarity that we see the truth of ourselves so clearly that you the congregation will want to kill me for it. I am not entirely convinced I can do this. In Luke 4.21, this is who Christ is for us; the one who tears away the comforts of our illusions and lies we tell ourselves, so that the truth will cut through like a surgeon's knife. Good News is a double-edged sword, it comforts and confronts.



Who has been Christ to you? Who has told you the truth about your life so clearly that you would do the unspeakable to silence them? This question is inspired by Barbara Brown Taylor. She once led a retreat asking retreatants who has been Christ to you. While many had the usual complements for those special persons who had "been there" during the "hard times," one woman hesitated before answering. When she finally spoke, she said, "I had to think hard about that question. I kept thinking, 'Who is it who told me the truth about myself so clearly that I wanted to kill them for it?'" (*Christian Century*, March 18-25, 1998). Barbara Brown Taylor

says further: "She burst our bubble, but she was onto something vitally important that most of us would be glad to forget: namely, that the Christ is not only the one who comforts and rescues us. The Christ is also the one who challenges and upsets us, telling us the truth so clearly that we will do appalling things to make him shut up" (BBT, 1999,)

I wanted some contemporary examples of who had been Christ for others, someone who had held up a mirror so that we could see the blind spots in ourselves and in our society. We may suggest Desmond Tutu, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, and other recent prophets. In the spirit of Luke 4 let us move outside our tradition. What are other contemporary examples of Christ figures? One example is a mild mannered and seemingly harmless writer. In February 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa – a death sentence – on the writer, his publishers, and his translators. The author went into hiding with round-the-clock police protection. Hitoshi Igarashi, his Japanese translator, was stabbed to death on 11 July 1991. His Italian, Norwegian and Turkish translators were seriously injured in separate attacks. Who is this Christ figure? Salman Rushdie.

Another example is an Adelaide academic who was murdered in 1972 for his difference from others. The murder sparked a necessary reform; homosexuality was decriminalised in 1975 in South Australia, in 1976 in the Capital territory and Victoria in 1980. Who is this Christ figure? George Duncan.



Closer to home is Adam Goodes, a Christ figure who retained dignity and honour in the midst of racial abuse. By being himself, Adam Goodes brought to light the unacknowledged racism endemic in

Australian institutions, culture, and subconscious.

Let us take a closer look at what is going on here in Luke 4.21. Jesus is in the synagogue and has delivered an impressive sermon. He has borrowed a mission statement from Isaiah 61. Some strands of Christianity say that the point of Jesus is that he was sent to save us from our sins. Here in Luke 4.21 the Bible speaks directly as to the purpose of Jesus; that energised by the Spirit of Love he would set free the captives, bring sight to the blind and announce the year of Jubilee, a time of economic restoration where debts are cancelled, and society is levelled out. This is in direct contrast to the "God sent Jesus to die for our sins" story. So far so good. Why does the crowd then turn against Jesus? Jesus goes outside their comfort zones and points out how previous prophets did their best work among foreigners, even the conquering army ruling over them. There were many widows in need in Israel, but Elijah was sent to the widow in Zarephath in Sidon, foreign territory, and similarly Elisha brought a cure to none of the lepers except Naaman, the Syrian army general.

There is a deeper purpose at play in Luke 4.21. Luke is diagnosing the human condition. We often try to "control" people by labelling and boxing them and putting them in categories. When the new and different comes, it threatens our knowledge control. People are sometimes possessive about "their" truth and become aggressive if this is challenged, vilifying the other and making an enemy out of those who are different. In contrast, a life in the Spirit means compassion and inclusion. A compassionate and inclusive approach that refuses exclusion on the basis of culture, race or other ethnic diversity may invite criticism and reaction. If one starts to hate





or label the sources of danger or reaction, then one becomes part of the problem.

The antidote to excluding and judging others twofold. One strategy is to receive each person that comes to you with non-labelling curiosity. My sons insist on "labelled" clothing. Two black shirts that are mostly similar are valued differently because one is labelled "Rip Curl". Without the label, the two black shirts would simply be that – two black shirts. Similarly, receiving all people with non-labelled curiosity brings about the compassion and inclusivity valued by Luke's Gospel.

The second antidote is love but is more than love; it is about embodying the characteristics of love described in St Paul's poem in 1 Corinthians 13. We want people to describe our community of Alstonville Anglicans as follows:



~~Love is~~ Alstonville Anglicans are patient, ~~love is~~ Alstonville Anglicans are kind. ~~It does~~ Alstonville Anglicans do not envy, ~~it does~~ Alstonville Anglicans do not boast, ~~it is~~ Alstonville Anglicans are not proud. <sup>5</sup> ~~It does~~ Alstonville Anglicans do not dishonour others, ~~it is~~ Alstonville Anglicans are not self-seeking, ~~it is~~ Alstonville Anglicans are not easily angered, ~~it~~ Alstonville Anglicans keep no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> ~~Love does~~ Alstonville Anglicans do not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> ~~It~~ Alstonville Anglicans always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

## Regular Reminders

## Worship & Spirituality

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

## Messy Church

Recommencing 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Anam Cara



#### **Anam Cara Praying for you**

Monday mornings 10am

**Anam Cara Wenesdays** 9am  
& **Thursdays** 6pm

## Community Engagement

### Play Place



Play Place 9.30-11.30am

### Sew Helpful



Sew Helpful 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 1pm

### 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 Care

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](mailto:wattlg@bigpond.com).

## ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers all the baptised!

Rector The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman  
0402 764 969 [priest@anglicans.live](mailto:priest@anglicans.live)

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

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website: [anglicans.live](http://anglicans.live)

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

### The Anglican Op Shop

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

### Dates 6<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> February

6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday Parish Office Closed (Please refrain from accessing the office at this time)
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Anam Cara 9am Op Shop 9am – 3pm
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm Play Place 9.30am Anam Cara 6pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Friday 10am Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Sunday 4pm Family Service

# 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.