

Dear Beloved,

Wishing you much joy and peace as you work out what lies ahead



Midweek Services will recommence
on Wednesday 1st February

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Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.

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Prayer and Praise

Wendy as she navigates this difficult time

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Edith and Colin Mayhew as they serve in Adaminaby
Glenn Fletcher .. for his recovery
our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.

Leanne Lowery

--

Mary Mitchell .. recovering

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

--

all congregations in Bredbo

The new Catholic Priest in our area.

--

for each other that we may become a living reflection of who Christ is within us

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People everywhere who are living through war or disasters of every kind.

The Holy Communion - FIRST ORDER

HYMN Praise and Thanksgiving

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sentence of Scripture

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1.9

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Two Great Commandments

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 49.1-7

¹ Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³ He said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour.' ⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due to me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God.' ⁵ And now the Lord says – he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength – ⁶ he says: 'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.' ⁷ This is what the Lord says – the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel – to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: 'Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Psalms 40.1-14

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord: and he inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He brought me up from the pit of roaring waters, out of the mire and clay: and set my feet upon a rock, and made firm my foothold. ³ And he has put a new song in my mouth: even a song of thanksgiving to our God. ⁴ Many shall see it and fear: and shall put their trust in the Lord. ⁵ Blessed are those who have made the Lord their hope: who have not turned to the proud, or to those who wander in deceit. ⁶ O Lord my God, great are the wonderful things which you have done, and your thoughts which are towards us: there is none to be compared with you; ⁷ Were I to declare them and speak of them: they are more than I am able to express. ⁸ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire: but my ears you have marked for obedience; ⁹ Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required: then said I, Lo, I come. ¹⁰ In the scroll of the book it is written of me, that I should do your will: O my God, I long to do it, your law delights my heart. ¹¹ I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation: I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, and that you know. ¹² I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart: I have spoken of your faithfulness and of your salvation. ¹³ I have not kept back your loving-kindness and your truth: from the great congregation. ¹⁴ O Lord do not withhold your mercy from me: let your loving-kindness and your truth ever preserve me.

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1.29-42

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, "A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me." ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³² Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.'" ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One.' ³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!' ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ 'Come,' he replied, 'and you will see.' So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter).

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for all people, and for the Church throughout the world.

Generous God, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us.

Yet also the danger is great, if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

Invitation to Confession

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.

We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings.

Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ

Jesus said: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11.28

Hymn Lord Jesus Christ

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah, the light of the nations, and revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to you, O Lord most high.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

Likewise, after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **Amen**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

AFTER COMMUNION

Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and your whole Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice, humbly beseeching you that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with your grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we are unworthy, through our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this, our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Father, world without end.

Hymn To God be the Glory

Blessing

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



Good Morning. Happy new Year. I know I've missed two Sundays with you but its still January and the year always seems to have a bit of a slow beginning, with school holidays and many businesses closing down for a week or more, the builders don't go back to work until 23rd January

So we're still thinking of new beginnings and wondering what the year will bring for us. I don't know what the year will bring for me, I hope the house will be built but I don't know how long I will stay with you or what will happen here or to me after that. The Lord knows and he will look after you and me and bring his plans for us to fruition in his good time but he hasn't told us yet. We don't



know what the future holds but we know who holds the future.

There is a theme of new beginnings in our gospel reading today as well and it is a message we can all take to heart as we contemplate the year ahead. Traditionally John the Baptist was portrayed with a lamb because his most important role in the New Testament is to point away from himself and towards Jesus. In particular, as in our passage today, he points him out as 'God's lamb'.

John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the lamb of God and two of his disciples follow Jesus as a direct result of John's witness, then John the Baptist disappears from view, because he has born to witness to Jesus and his part in the story is over. He has led others to Jesus and his witness will now be replaced by his disciples own experience of Jesus.



John's gospel is the different one, it is entirely possible that it was written by the unnamed disciple, the very young man, in our passage today who came to Jesus because of John's testimony. This would explain why he uses the original language but translated it for his Greek speaking readers. He leaves out a few things in his gospel which are basic to our understanding of Jesus life, like the actual baptism and the Last Supper itself. It would seem that these incidents were well known to his audience so he didn't feel a need to repeat them in his gospel.

John wants us to notice at the very start of his gospel how things are going to end and why. The death of Jesus takes place on the afternoon when the passover lambs are being sacrificed in the temple. Jesus is the true passover lamb. John like other New Testament writers, in his own way, wants us to understand the events concerning Jesus as a new and better Exodus story. Just as God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, so God was now bring a new people out of an even older and darker slavery. Humanity has been enslaved by sin from very early in our history and God has always been working to release us.



In the original Exodus story, Israel is rescued from the Egyptians through the sacrifice of a lamb and its blood smeared on their door posts but now God's lamb, through his own blood spattered on the earth is going to take away the sin of the whole world. This can only mean that God's rescue operation is moving out, wider than just Israel, to embrace the whole of creation.

This was hinted at in John's prologue 'Everybody who receives the Word, who believe in his name can become a newborn child of God'. Everybody, not just those who are born into God's chosen race, not just saints or particularly holy people: everybody. Throughout Jesus life on earth we see the people who thought they were acceptable missing the meaning of what Jesus is doing, while people on the edges, the outcasts, get the point and find themselves forgiven, healed, brought in by God's transforming love. That is what we are supposed to understand when John the Baptist points to Jesus as '*God's lamb, who will take away the sins of the world*'.



Throughout John's gospel there are several threads woven in and out of the story and very often when a passage appears to be just narrative John is expecting us to see the deeper meanings, woven into the actions of Jesus and those around him. What those first disciples thought they were doing was looking for the Messiah, that is why they were following John. What they didn't realise was that the Messiah was looking for them.

These young men are looking for the Messiah, their vocation, and they think they've found him. Jesus is looking for followers and when he finds them he gives them a new vocation. No coincidence, all part of God's plan. John's readers, out there is the gentile world, would sense Jesus calling them too. And we, coming to church, hoping to find out more about Jesus and his will for our lives in this new year, may discover that he is simultaneously coming to find us. And perhaps to give us new names.



Have you ever noticed that God sometimes gives people new names when they dedicate themselves to him? In this story Andrew brings his brother Simon to meet the Messiah and Jesus immediately gives him a new name. Abram was renamed Abraham, Sari became Sarah and several others plus in Isaiah (62:2) it says: *The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a **new name** that the mouth of the LORD will give.* And also in Revelation it talks about a new name on a white stone (Rev 2:17)

I once asked God what he called me, and I've never told anyone what it is but sometimes when he wants to get my attention he uses it and I take notice.



These young men left John the Baptist and followed Jesus because of John's testimony, Jesus turned around and asked them 'What do you want?' and they asked him where he was staying. The verb 'to follow' operates on two levels, it has a literal meaning in the story line but it also serves as a metaphor for discipleship which we continue to use often in exactly the same way. In asking where Jesus was staying the disciples were not looking for a recommendation of accomodation, there were no public parks and benches, no coffee shops to stop in for a quiet conversation, if you wanted to talk to someone you either talked and walked together or you went to their place of residence for an in depth conversation.

These followers wanted to know everything about Jesus, they wanted to talk until the wee small hours if necessary, they needed to go to wherever he was staying. Jesus invites them to 'come and see', he is just as interested in getting to know them. The invitation to 'come and see' is an offer to see Jesus with the eyes of faith. They come and see and never look back.



Jesus offers that same invitation to us throughout our lives, perhaps our life has become a bit mundane, perhaps we have wandered off the path just a touch, whatever, Jesus wants us to follow him and wants to fill our lives with meaning and purpose and most especially his presence and his love. It is traditional at the beginning of the new year to make resolutions: I'll go on a diet, I'll be kinder to people, I'll get up every morning and spend some time with God, etc. I'm truthfully not a great fan of new year's resolutions but the one we need to make each new week, and each new day, is to follow Jesus more closely.



Andrew's name is used because he goes and finds his brother and brings him to meet the Messiah. The chain of witnesses through the centuries begins: John the Baptist witnessed to the young men and now those same young men witness to others. For each one of us there was someone who knew Jesus and told us about him, for many of us it would have been a parent but it could also have been another loved one or a dear friend. One reason why the church has lower numbers these days is that the chain of witnesses has been broken, people have become content to sit in church and receive the benefits of faith but they are no longer willing to pass on the good news.

The lamb of God that we worship makes all things new, he became the new passover lamb, created a new people of God, created the new exodus, gives us a



new vocation and maybe a new name, and quite possibly a new direction for our lives. Let us renew our vows of faithfulness and follow him.