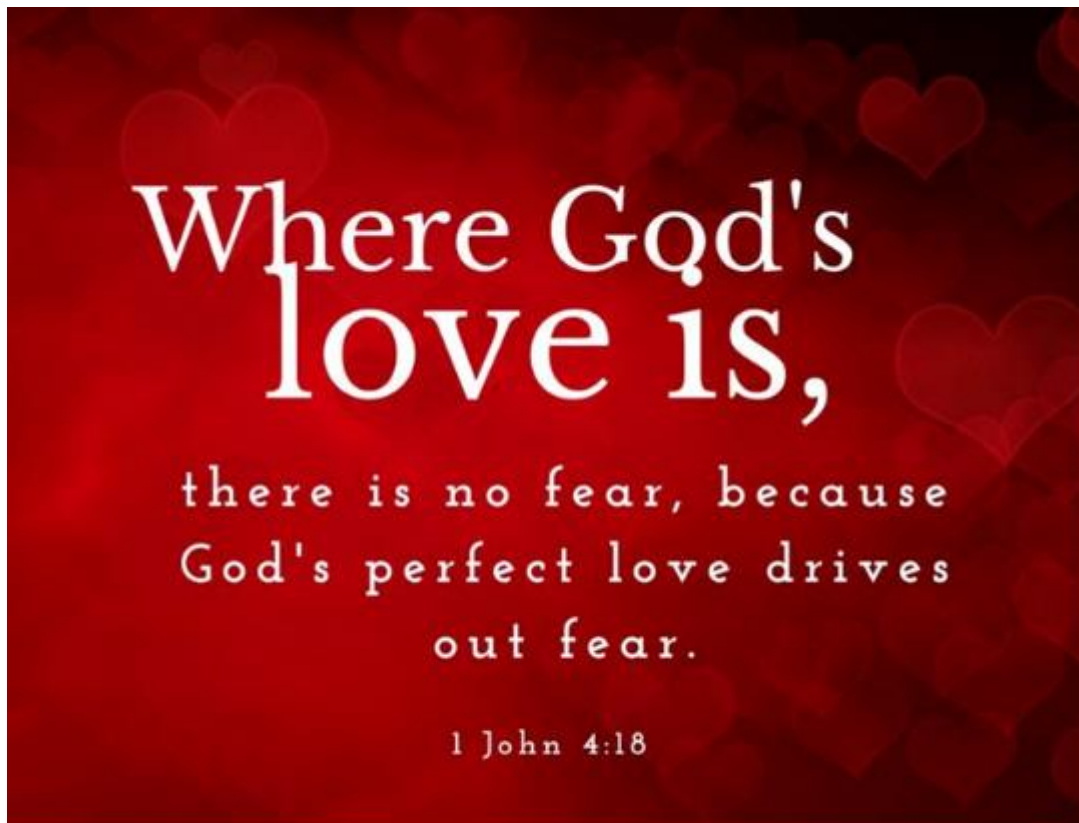


Dear Beloved,

I have been to Clergy Conference this week at beautiful Narooma. The topic for the conference was joy and renewal which was very appropriate for me. Joy is one of the fruit of the spirit, and it is tied in very much with love which is the topic for our gospel reading this week.

I have come through a time of mourning and I'm sure I will miss Phil for the rest of my life but it is time to move on and ask God what he wants me to do with the rest of my life. I know that in the short term that means being with you and blessing you in whatever ways I can, so if I can help, bless or listen to you at any time please let me know.



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Looking forward to all God has in store for us.

Blessings

Wendy

Snowy Monaro Arts Council Inc. presents Pianist, Alexander Yau  
Sunday 4 June 2:30pm Anglican Parish Hall, Tickets at The Fabric Salon,  
Adult \$30 Concession \$25 SMAC Member \$20 Under 18 Free Includes Afternoon Tea

--

June 11 2pm in the Hall Sam and Ruth's Piano Concert  
Tickets \$30 from Fabric Salon or at the door

--

Morning Tea after the Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday  
please volunteer for the roster.

--

Midweek Services every Wednesday at 9.30 all Welcome

--

Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.

Prayer and Praise

Wendy

Edith and Colin Mayhew

--

Glenn Fletcher

Alan Hood

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Bernie and Gayle

--

Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.

--

Liz Pirie

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Numerella

--

The New Catholic priest Father Mark Croker  
as he ministers from Bombala through to the mountains

--

for each other that we may be salt and light in this community

--

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

14 May 2023 2.4

## Hymn TIS 121 God Himself is Present

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.**

And also with you.

### Sentence

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.' John 14.23

### 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.**

### Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding: pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Acts 17.22–31

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god . So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> "For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring." <sup>29</sup> 'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

### Psalms 66.7-19

<sup>7</sup> O bless our God, you peoples: and cause his praises to resound,  
<sup>8</sup> Who has held our souls in life: who has not suffered our feet to slip.  
<sup>9</sup> For you have proved us, O God: you have tried us as silver is tried.  
<sup>10</sup> You brought us into the net: you laid sharp torment on our loins.  
<sup>11</sup> You let our enemies ride over our heads, we went through fire and water:  
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.  
<sup>12</sup> I will come into your house with burnt-offerings: and I will pay you my vows,  
<sup>13</sup> The vows that opened my lips: that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.  
<sup>14</sup> I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts, with the sweet smoke of rams:  
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.  
<sup>15</sup> Come then and hear, all you that fear God: and I will tell what he has done for me.  
<sup>16</sup> I called to him with my mouth: and his praise was on my tongue.  
<sup>17</sup> If I had cherished wickedness in my heart: the Lord would not have heard me.  
<sup>18</sup> But God has heard me: he has heeded the voice of my prayer.  
<sup>19</sup> Praise be to God: who has not turned back my prayer, or his steadfast love from me.

## 1 Peter 3.8–22

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For, 'Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. <sup>11</sup> They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.' <sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – <sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

## John 14.15–21

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

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

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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 for ever. Amen.**

Jesus said, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and who ever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6.35

### Prayer of Approach

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.

## Confession

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn TIS 445 Jesus, Where'er your people meet

## OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

## Thanksgiving 4

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

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 thanks and praise, glory and honour,  
be yours at all times, in every place,  
holy and loving Father, true and living God.**

**We praise you that through your eternal Word  
you brought the universe into being  
and made us in your own image.**

**You have given us this earth to care for and delight in,  
and with its bounty you preserve our life.**

**We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race  
with the promises of a gracious covenant  
and called us to serve you in love and peace.**

**Above all, we give you thanks for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

**born as one of us, he lived our common life  
and offered his life to you in perfect obedience and trust.**

**By his death he delivered us from sin, brought us new life,  
and reconciled us to you and to one another.**

**Therefore with angels and archangels,  
with apostles, and prophets,  
with holy men and women of every age,**

**we proclaim your great and glorious name: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in obedience to our Saviour Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may be partakers of his body and blood, and be made one with him and with each other in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus 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 given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament, renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

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**

Eternal God, giver of life,

in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.

May we who celebrate this holy feast

walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Hymn TIS 631 (153) Father, Lord of all Creation**

### **Blessing**

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**



The background is a solid dark red color, overlaid with a pattern of semi-transparent, lighter red hearts of various sizes. The hearts are scattered across the entire frame, creating a romantic and affectionate atmosphere.

Where God's  
love is,

there is no fear, because  
God's perfect love drives  
out fear.

1 John 4:18



Love is an amazing thing. It is love that causes people to give up their dreams and work in boring jobs to support their families. It is love that keeps parents going and caring for a little baby even though they are so sleep deprived that they can barely think. It is love that accepts an errant offspring home yet again. It is love that causes a spouse to continue to care for their husband or wife even when that person can no longer recognise them. It is love that causes a friend to bring a meal when someone is sick. It is love that causes us to join clubs and make friends with people.

Real love is not about romance and sweet nothings and roses every day, it is not feeling goopy and silly much as those things are fun if they happen. Real love is in the daily actions of loving, the constant decision to seek the best for our beloved, now, this week, next week and all the weeks after that. On Mother's Day we might even say that real love is like a mother's love.



Abiding by your promises and commitments even when it would be so much easier to walk away. Making the decision to stay and love each other day after day. In marriage one of the marvellous things is that if you stick it out the good times come again and it is even possible to fall in love again. No wonder Jesus sometimes uses Marriage as a metaphor for our relationship with God.



Jesus loves us. Real love the kind that suffers and dies for his beloved. There have been so many times throughout history when the Jews and later the Christians have done amazingly stupid, selfish things. Times when the Lord must have buried his head in his hands in despair. Then when we have finally stopped and listened, we realise our mistakes and come asking to be accepted back again. Every single time, like the most loving father you have ever heard of our lord accepts us back. He accepts our promises and loves us.

Then he asks us 'do you love me?' Just like Peter stammered we say, 'Yes Lord you know that I love you'. And he says, 'feed my sheep'. 'Keep my commandments'. Same thing. Do we show our love for God by doing what he wants us to do every day, by loving our neighbour, reaching out to our community, and offering acceptance, inclusion, and friendship? Making commitments and sticking to them. It is so much easier to stay home and do the things we like to do but sometimes loving God means stepping out of our comfort zone.





It is no good having nice warm feelings for God if this doesn't translate into real actions, it's very nice sitting here and singing about how much we love Jesus but if we go out that door and are callous about our neighbour, act selfishly or ignore someone in need then this was just a sham. If our love for Jesus, for God, is real then it has to translate into real actions.

As Paul said in our reading today *'be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.'* Sometimes this is hard, sometimes other people are so unlovely, so despicable, so greedy that they are really hard to love but that is why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us.

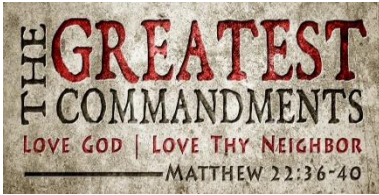


It is the Holy Spirit who actually walks and talks with us every day. It is the Holy Spirit who implants those ideas and inspirations into your mind. The Holy Spirit who makes you notice when someone is hurting, or rejoicing and whispers ways to rejoice or cry with them. It is the Holy Spirit who comforts our heart when we are grieving and points out the beauty of creation when we need uplifting. Did you notice that Jesus said I will send you another. . . Who is the first? Jesus of course. Jesus is the embodiment of love, everything he does is for our good, out of his great love for us. Even when we are selfish or stupid, he loves us and keep on acting for our good. He never leaves us or forsakes us.



I will send you Another what? Various translations use different words - helper, counsellor, advocate, even exhorter could be used because this Greek word means all of these. There is no English word which expresses the breadth of meaning expressed here. The Holy Spirit exhorts and encourages, comforts and consoles, helps and advocates for us, just like Jesus.

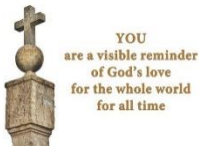
What the Holy Spirit does is not new but is a continuation of the work that Jesus did. And because the Holy Spirit is with us, he whispers into our hearts and minds ways to truly love our neighbours just like Jesus does. He gives us ideas and then helps us to put them into effect. We might not start off with gooey feelings for our neighbour but through our choice we choose to be loving towards them and eventually our hearts catch up and we even feel loving towards them.



God wants us to show our love for him by being his love for the world, for our community. That is what his commandments are all about. His commandments were never a list of rules to force his people into being joyless, holier than thou type people it was always about expressing our love for him and our neighbour. Does that sound familiar?

It should, Every Sunday we hear the two great commandments which are actually just a summary of all the others. Love God and Love your neighbour. The two are bound together: you cannot love God and hate your brother or your sister. And that includes our Muslim sister, our homeless brother, our refugee sister and our imprisoned brother and all the rest of our human family.

*Jesus Said: 'Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'*



If you long to be closer to our Lord, if you long to really know Jesus, If you want to be a good Christian or if you just want to be sure that you will be spending eternity with God and not separated from Him, then the answer to all your questions is love Jesus and obey his commandments by loving the people that he brings into your life.