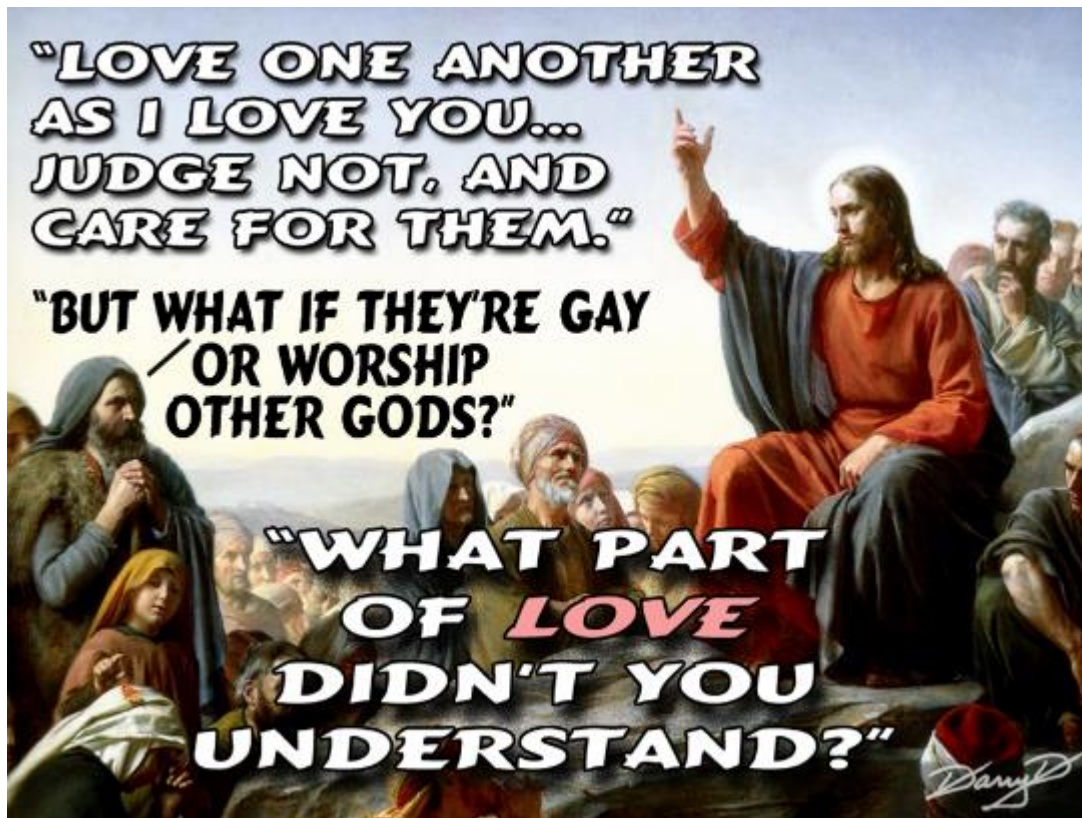


Dear Beloved,

It has been a difficult week for various reasons but here is a joke to keep us on the right track.



Blessings

Wendy

Below is the letter from the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia regarding the GAFCON matters that are in the news.

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18 August 2022

A statement from the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia on the launch of the Diocese of The Southern Cross

I note the formal launch this week of a company named the Diocese of the Southern Cross. This company, while established by some members of the Anglican Church of Australia and structured to mirror some of the characteristics of an Anglican diocese, has no formal or informal relationship or connection with the Anglican Church of Australia. As such it will operate independently from the Anglican Church as, effectively, a new denomination. It is unfortunate that confusion may well result from the establishment of this organization among existing members of the Anglican Church of Australia and among people wishing to connect with the Anglican Church of Australia.

The meeting of the General Synod held in May this year clearly affirmed the view that marriage is between a man and a woman, and declined to affirm same sex marriage. It is perplexing therefore that the leaders of this breakaway movement cite the reason for this new denomination as the failure of General Synod to explicitly express an opinion against the blessing of same sex marriages.

It is always easier to gather with those we agree with. But in a tragically divided world God's call and therefore the church's role includes showing how to live together with difference. Not merely showing tolerance but receiving the other as a gift from God.

My conviction is that the Anglican Church of Australia can find a way to stay together, graciously reflecting God's great love, with our differences held sincerely. This week's announcement makes achieving that end more difficult but not impossible.

I will continue to pray and work that God's call on the church will be realised and encourage others to do the same.

The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith
Archbishop of Adelaide and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia

We are having a Community Day on 19th November. please take a flyer for any groups you belong to and tell Wendy if you would like to help

--

Wendy is opening her garden in Canberra on 3rd September as a Refugee Fundraiser.
67 Vagabond Cres, Mckellar. Everyone is welcome

--

Sunday 11th September is Synod Sunday so Edith will lead the service and read a sermon that Wendy has prepared.

--

Wendy will be on leave Sundays 18th and 25th September. Edith will take 18th and Ian 25th

--

Bishop Carol will be with us on 9th October to tell us about the Lambeth conference.
All other services cancelled. Morning Tea afterwards

--

The Cooma Open Garden day will be 6 November. Please start thinking about what you can pot up.

--

On Tuesday 23rd August we are having a Craft and Coffee time. 11.30 to 1.00 in the rectory.
Bring whatever you're working on and any friends who like craft, coffee or chat.

--

Midweek services every Wednesday 9.30 am All welcome

--

Please volunteer for the roster, especially if you are willing to be a sides person. well in advance.

--

Prayer and Praise
Wendy and Phil Bloomfield
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 in Yallambie
Leanne Lowery --

--

Mary Mitchell .. recovering
Peter Harris & Julie Harris from Bredbo
Jenni Roberts

--

all congregations in Jerangle
Father Mick McAndrew as he ministers from Bombala through to the mountains

--

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

--

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

21 August 2022

Hymn

Greeting

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

You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust from my youth. Upon you have I leaned since my birth. Psalm 71.5–6

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, the Judge of all, through the saving blood of your Son you have brought us to the heavenly Jerusalem and given us a kingdom which cannot be shaken: fill us with reverence and awe in your presence, that in thanksgiving we and all your Church may offer you acceptable worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives to intercede for us, now and for ever. Amen.

Jeremiah 1.4-10

⁴ The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵ 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' ⁶ 'Alas, Sovereign Lord,' I said, 'I do not know how to speak; I am too young.'

⁷ But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am too young." You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,' declares the Lord. ⁹ Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, 'I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.'

Psalm 71.1-6

¹ To you, Lord, have I come for shelter: let me never be put to shame.

² In your righteousness rescue and deliver me: incline your ear to me and save me.

³ Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me: for you are my high rock, and my stronghold.

⁴ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked: from the grasp of the pitiless and unjust.

⁵ For you, Lord, are my hope: you are my confidence, O God, from my youth upward. ⁶ On you have I leaned since my birth: you are he that brought me out of my mother's womb, and my praise is of you continually.

Hebrews 12.18-29

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.' ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear.'

²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' ²⁷ The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things – so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our 'God is a consuming fire.'

Luke 13.10-17

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.' ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, 'There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.' ¹⁵ The Lord answered him, 'You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? ¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?' ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

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.

the prayers

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Introduction of Lord's 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: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11.28

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Confession

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

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.

The Peace

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

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 2

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.** It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit, you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting. At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos. You formed us, male and female, in your image, and endowed us with creative power. We turned away from you but you did not abandon us. You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song: **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.**

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever.

With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world. As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

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 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

Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.

May we who have reached out our hands to receive this sacrament be strengthened in your service;

we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom and come to worship you with all your saints for ever.

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

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; 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**



Which is more important: obeying the commandments, the rules and our traditions or looking after someone?

Synagogues in Jesus time were a little like an Anglican Church, they had their rules and traditions, and everyone knew what they were and was careful to stay within the boundaries. Nowadays, still in some very traditional churches, it is frowned upon for children to make any noise, but we are delighted to have children and don't mind their little voices in the background, but we might feel a little differently if we had some small visitors who started running up and down the aisle and pulling things off the communion table.

One of the Jewish laws which was strictly adhered to, especially in the synagogue, was that one did not work on the Sabbath. This meant no cooking (food was prepared the day before), no working in the fields, no buying and selling, limited amounts of walking, and certainly no healing. There were a few exceptions, like giving basic care to one's family and animals and doing whatever was necessary in the case of an emergency.

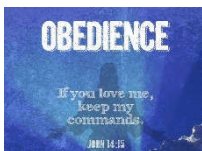


We have recorded in our gospels a number of times when Jesus didn't follow the rules of his time and it brought him into conflict with the authorities. You may remember the story of a sabbath day when his disciples picked some grain to eat as they walked past, and Pharisees objected because they were 'harvesting!' and Jesus responded: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

There are also several occasions, including today's reading, when Jesus healed on the Sabbath and the authorities objected, plus various other occasions but he also said 'If you love me, you will obey my commandments'. Where is the balance, do we obey the commandments and all the rules, or put them aside occasionally?



There is a very human tendency to try and control ourselves and our environment by making rules. Rules are good in many ways, if there were no traffic rules, driving would be so confusing and terribly risky. If there were no civil laws, we would never be safe and we would have to spend all our time protecting our loved ones and our property. If there were no rules and traditions in the church, we would have chaos and miss all the wisdom of so many generations. In every group, organisation, or society there are rules, sometimes they are written down sometimes they are not. Not all rules are good, and we need to find ways to make them better, but we need rules, and we should be very careful about ever breaking them.



When Jesus said 'obey my commandments', what commandment did he actually mean? Was he identifying himself with God and saying we should obey the ten commandments, was he characterizing himself as a Jew and saying that we should obey the over 700 rules that were prevalent at that time or was he asking us to obey his own words?

Have you ever noticed how many times Jesus commanded us to 'love'? Love one another, love your enemies, love your neighbour, in fact there are over a dozen times recorded in our gospels when Jesus commands us to love and he never commands us to do anything not loving, and of course, as you are all bursting to tell me, Jesus said that the two great commandments are 'love God' and 'love your neighbour'. (And who is our neighbour? Anyone in need)



In our reading today Jesus broke the rule about working on the sabbath. The woman's condition is attributed to a 'spirit of weakness', for eighteen years she had been bent over. The term translated 'weakness' can simply mean illness, but it is unclear whether her condition is attributed to a demon, illness, or her diminished status as a woman. Perhaps her disability had psychological causes, perhaps someone had persistently abused her verbally or physically, when she was small, until her twisted up emotions communicated themselves to her body and she found she couldn't get straight. Even after all the medical advances of the last few hundred years, we are very much aware that such things happen without other apparent cause.



There are many who have been mistreated physically and mentally as children or even as adults and suffer from a spirit of weakness, but Jesus loves us just as much as he loved the woman in our story. He longs for us to be able to stand straight and true and be the person he created us to be.

As a child I was often the butt of teasing and jokes, and my parents had no idea how to help me and expected me to grow stronger and defend myself. I became very wary in social situations and easily accepted abuse as a young adult and in my first marriage, but God continued to walk with me and gradually changed my circumstances and brought people into my life who really loved me and over a number of years that spirit of weakness left me and I am able to stand straight. That is what our Lord wants for every one of us, he made us to be his people, children of Abraham, made in his image, strong and capable and loving, like him.



There are times when Jesus heals miraculously in an instant but especially with things that have taken a long time to disable us,

he often works through the medical professions and deals gently over long periods so that we can appreciate our healing and adjust to it as it occurs. The proof of the woman's restoration is immediate. She is able to stand up straight, and she praises God - the only proper response to God's redemptive power. As we are healed, we stand straighter and straighter we continue to give the glory to God and seek his face even more.

Why did Jesus blatantly break the rules that Sabbath? Because he saw a daughter of Abraham who was struck down with the spirit of weakness and loved her so much that he could not bear for her to suffer even one more day. Jesus is in the process of releasing the captive, freeing the oppressed, and raising up children of Abraham.



The leader of the synagogue wants to make the issue violation of the Sabbath, but Jesus returns the focus to the needs and dignity of the woman. The leaders concern is for the law, and construes his role as maintaining proper observance. Jesus teaches that concern over the suffering of fellow human being takes precedence over obligations related to keeping the sabbath, or any other law or rule.

Since the woman is a daughter of Abraham should they not do more for her than they would for an animal. Should not a woman who had been bound for eighteen years by Satan be set free, even on the Sabbath. Jesus' answer to the leader of the synagogue was the greater necessity of freeing a human being from whatever crippled, bound and diminished her.



There may come times in our lives when we need to ignore a perfectly good rule or tradition because there is a person whose needs are greater and because God loves them, and we love them, we break the rule so that they can be free. It is a very slippery slope, and we need to be very careful, but rules are never more important than a human being. I can imagine speeding to get someone to hospital who otherwise might die but not because I am late for an appointment where someone will be inconvenienced. As a lay chaplain I did assure dying patients that their sins were forgiven because they knew me and expected me to speak for God even though I was not yet ordained.

This week two things have happened which are relevant to these thoughts. In Canberra at the GAFCON conference a few Anglican priests have decided to separate themselves from the rest of the Australian Anglican church. You may have read Bishop Mark's pastoral letter. The issue they have separated

themselves about is the acceptance of LGBTQ community, specifically same sex marriage.



I believe that when Jesus told us to love our neighbour he did not make an exception of LGBTQ people, (or poor or black, brown or yellow, or anyone of different faith etc) so if someone came to our church we was different in any way we would ignore any obscure rules in Deuteronomy and follow Jesus' law of love. If we have anyone in our family or know anyone who is different, we will love them, seek the best for them and ignore any rule except the law of love.

On the other hand, also, this week, as I was writing this Sermon a man came to the door and said that he was travelling through Cooma, his car had broken down and he'd been sleeping in his car, but it was cold, could he sleep in our hall until the car was fixed? I foolishly, finally agreed that he could sleep there that night, (love vs rules?) but having taken advice and thought and prayed about it overnight, in the morning I asked him to leave, he refused. Finally, I called the police, who after many attempts to persuade hm to leave, arrested him, had his mental health assessed, and when his bail was refused transferred him to Goulburn jail. I was wrong, I should not have bent the rules, but I pray that man can get the help he needs. And I ask your forgiveness for putting our hall at risk.

We obey all the human law out of love for our neighbours, we obey the road rules, so that everyone knows what will do an no one gets hurts, we obey the civil rules so that everyone is safe, we obey the ten commandments because stealing, killing disrespecting, envying etc are not loving. We obey the church regulations because many wise minds over many generation have sought the lord and made them so that everything works for our good and the glory of the Lord. Jesus had the mind of God and he never made mistakes, we are human and can easily get things wrong, so it is good to have rules. Rules keep us safe but when God speaks to us, we need to act in love even if we need to break a human rule.

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