

Dear Beloved,

Here is the service and sermon for those who like it.

Blessings

Wendy

AGMS

Bredbo 5th February

Numerella 12th February

Nimitabel 19th February

Adaminaby 19th February

Cooma 26th February

Jerangle TBA

Parish 2nd April

--

August Open Garden Day

16th April

Please pot plants up now

--

Midweek Services

will recommence

on Wednesday

1st February

--

Please volunteer

for the roster,

well in advance.

--

Prayer and Praise

Wendy as she navigates this difficult time

--

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 Numeralla

The New Catholic priest
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.

14 August 2022

Hymn TIS 143 Immortal invisible God only Wise

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

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. Matthew 4.23

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

Loving God,
the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
and the strength of the hearts that serve you:
help us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 9.1-4

¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan – ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Psalms 27.1-10

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?:
the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
² When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to devour me:
they shall stumble and fall.
³ If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.
⁴ One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord: and to seek his will in his temple.
⁶ For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent, and set me high upon a rock.
⁷ And now he will lift up my head:
above my enemies round about me.
⁸ And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.
⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry: have mercy upon me and answer me.
¹⁰ My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':
your face, Lord, I will seek.

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: one of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.' ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptised in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.)

¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 4.12-25

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – ¹⁴ to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – ¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.'

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

¹⁹ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed; and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

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 all people and for the Church throughout the world.

Response

Lord, 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: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. John
13.34

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

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.**

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 256 From Heaven you came

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 1

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 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 power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

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.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, 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 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

God of the nations, we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.

Guide us by your presence, that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness, and establish your justice in the earth.

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 153 God is love

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.

Dismissal

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



Our gospel reading is back in Matthew today and there are some themes running through a few of our readings: both grief and light which are rather interesting.

John the Baptist is put in prison and Jesus withdraws to Galilee. It is not out of cowardice, self-preservation or strategy that he withdraws, but a representation of Jesus' alternate vision of kingship, which is nonviolent and non-retaliatory, it also reflects the post Easter experience of the disciples and our own experience of grief. Jesus knew that John's ministry had come to an end, that he had lost a close colleague and friend and he was grieving. He withdrew.

When Jesus was crucified his disciples had lost their leader, their mentor, their friend, they were grieving, not just frightened, they withdrew. When Phil died I could not cope with talking to anyone except my very close family, my daughter put my phone on 'do not disturb' so that I could respond to people in my own time, the day of the funeral my brother in law wanted to take me and all the family out to dinner but I couldn't cope, I withdrew. For many people their first response to grief is to withdraw, for some of us that response lasts a short time and for others it remains for a long time, until we need to try to return and interact with people again.



In the Psalm the writer is reflecting that though there are wicked people and enemies threatening him, though he is going through hard times The Lord is his light and salvation. I truthfully don't know how someone without faith can cope with life, the hard times which come to everyone, what do you hang onto if you do not know that God is in control and the light will come again?

I am a long way from finished grieving there are days when I just don't know whether there will ever be joy again, and days when I cry because I miss Phil so much, but I know the light shines even in the darkness and I cling to that. Even on the worst days I know better days will come.



Jesus moved to Capernaum in Galilee, and it became his home city, and the place where his ministry is based. We often read our passage from Isaiah at Christmas, but as Matthew realised it is actually totally fulfilled when Jesus settles in Galilee and begins to call his disciples. It is because of Galilee's association with Gentiles that Matthew emphasises it as the area of Jesus ministry, this is not just narrative it is theology because Jesus conducts his ministry in a less acceptable part of Israel a place where darkness is expected to dwell.



Isaiah speaks of the grand reversal that will occur when the Messiah comes, when the spiritual darkness of galilee will be dispelled by the dawn of the new age when the ideal king comes.

Matthew uses this passage for its Son of David connections and also because it reflects the reality of the history of the church in its turn towards gentiles.

Jesus declares that God's kingdom, the sovereign rule of heaven was coming. God's kingdom means danger as well as hope. If justice and peace are on the way, those who have twisted justice or disturbed peace may be in trouble. They need to get their act together while there is time. And the good old word for that is 'repent!'



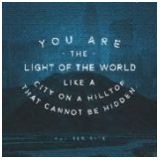
Repent does not mean 'feeling bad about oneself', it means 'change direction'. How you feel is not the important thing, its what you *do* that matters. Sometimes God wants us to do a new thing, learn to witness, love our neighbours, talk to strangers, control our temper, give something up, spend more time with Him or make a new habit. Sometimes when we start doing a new thing it feels strange, or 'not me' but like any skill it takes practice, and we get better at it.

Jesus knew his contemporaries were going in the wrong direction. They wanted a revolution of the military kind, leading to a takeover of power, but that is fighting darkness with darkness and Israel was called and Jesus was called to bring God's light into the world. A military kind of revolution, fighting and killing to put an end to fighting and killing was nonsense and doing it in God's name was blasphemous nonsense.

His message of repentance was not therefore that they should feel sorry for their personal sins (though he would of course want that as well) but that as nation they would stop rushing towards the cliff edge of violent revolution but instead go the other way towards god's kingdom of light and peace and healing and love and healing and forgiveness for themselves and the world.



That is why Matthew quotes this prophecy about people in the dark being dazzled by a sudden light: that prophecy went on to speak about the coming messiah, through whom God would truly liberate Israel at last. People need to repent because if the light bearers insist on darkness, darkness they shall have. If the people called to bring love and forgiveness into the world insist on hating everyone else, hatred and all the things it brings will come crashing around their ears. This will be no arbitrary punishment it will be the consequences of their own actions. This is why they and we must repent while there is still time.



Jesus called the first disciples in Matthew's gospel with a different story to what we read last week in John. Perhaps they were John's followers who followed Jesus but went back to the family business before Jesus ultimately called them. Truthfully, I don't care, what matters is that they came to Jesus and followed him and because of them we too can follow Jesus. And there is wisdom to be gained from both stories.

They and we follow Jesus because of Jesus himself. Jesus draws us to himself because he is the true light of the world and nothing else compares. Sometimes his call comes slowly, starting like a slow murmur and growing until we can no longer ignore it. Sometimes Jesus calls people as suddenly and dramatically, and he called those first disciples. When that happens, you know, Jesus has a way of getting through and whatever we are engaged with, whatever nets we are mending, or fish we are catching, or light we are seeking, somehow, we will be aware of his presence and call to know what it is we are being asked to do.



Just as Jesus came to be the light of the world, we are each called to be a light in the world showing the way to the one true light. A call to be clergy, or a missionary are not the only things that Jesus calls us to do, he calls us to many professions where we can serve him and fulfil our dreams and hopes perfectly but he also calls us to befriend particular people, to live in particular ways, to be his light in our neighbourhood, our family, our club and not to bible bash people but to love them into his kingdom.

Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God and the church also functions to proclaim the kingdom of God. We live our lives just as Jesus did, living for God. As the church, that is each one of us, proclaims the act of God in Jesus, it also thereby continues Jesus own preaching of the kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not an ideal, a principle or an abstraction, or pie in the sky when we die, but was definitely revealed and embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus and in us as we follow the light.



Jesus call to discipleship was spoken not only to a few disciples in first century Galilee but to the church throughout history. Discipleship is not an offer that we make to Christ. It is Jesus' call that bring us to him. Jesus is the one who sows the seed that produces good fruit, he is the one who builds the church and illuminates it. The light of the World continues to speak and to generate faith in and through the words and deed of preachers, missionaries, teachers, family, friends, and the nameless doers of Christian Service.