

Dear Beloved,,

We are back in ordinary time, the colour is green for growth. As we listen and absorb God's word we grow in our spiritual life and grow more like him and are blessed by him.

This week we are looking at some stories about Jesus calling Matthew and healing the officials' daughter and the woman who was bleeding: Jesus bringing God new world into the old world.



Blessings

Wendy

A parishioner has donated a painting to be sold by auction and the money given to the church. The painting will be on view at the concert tomorrow and at St Pauls from next Sunday.  
details below:

# FOR SALE

A work by admired local artist,

## Diana Klima,

whose art, known for versatility and skill,  
graces many homes across the Monaro.

This painting of St Paul's Rectory (built 1906)  
has special appeal for historians, architects,  
all people who value heritage  
and those who love St Paul's.

The painting was donated by a parishioner,  
to raise money for St Paul's via a private auction.

The reserve price is \$200.

To express interest please email:

[office@coomaanglican.org.au](mailto:office@coomaanglican.org.au)

by 5.00 pm Saturday 21st July 2023

Today 2pm Sam and Ruth's Piano Concert  
Tickets \$30 at door  
Help with afternoon tea appreciated see Nella

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Canberra Brass 'Classic Brass'  
Sunday 25th June 2.30 pm  
Adult \$30, Concession \$25

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Saturday 17th June working Bee  
for the Rectory Garden at Rectory 1.30  
or anytime after that.

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Sunday 18th June a very short meeting  
after the service to accept the accounts  
for 2022 and present 2023 budget

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Steve Clark will do his next session  
on Saturday 1st July at 2.30 pm  
then 5th August and 2nd September

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Sunday 9th July we will have morning tea  
to farewell Ruth and David Fletcher  
as they are moving to Canberra

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Community Day Saturday 23rd September  
Anyone who is willing to help come to rectory  
Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.30

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

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Midweek Services  
every Wednesday at 9.30  
all Welcome

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Please volunteer

for the roster,  
well in advance.

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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 Jindabyne

--

The 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.

23 April 2023 2.1

Hymn TIS 194 O love how deep, how broad, how high!

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 are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners. Matthew 9.12–13

### 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 assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Genesis 12.1-9

<sup>1</sup> The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> 'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. <sup>6</sup> Abram travelled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he went on towards the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Then Abram set out and continued towards the Negev.

### Psalms 33.1-12

<sup>1</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous: for it befits the just to praise him.  
<sup>2</sup> Give the Lord thanks upon the harp: and sing his praise to the lute of ten strings.  
<sup>3</sup> O sing him a new song: make sweetest melody, with shouts of praise.  
<sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is true: and all his works are faithful.  
<sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice: the earth is filled with the loving-kindness of the Lord.  
<sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord were the heavens made: and their numberless stars by the breath of his mouth.  
<sup>7</sup> He gathered the waters of the sea as in a water-skin: and laid up the deep in his treasuries.  
<sup>8</sup> Let the whole earth fear the Lord: and let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.  
<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it was done: he commanded, and it stood fast.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord frustrates the counsels of the nations: he brings to nothing the devices of the peoples.  
<sup>11</sup> But the counsels of the Lord shall endure for ever: the purposes of his heart from generation to generation. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord: the people he chose to be his own possession.

### Romans 4.13-25

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and

calls into being things that were not. <sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup> The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

#### Matthew 9.9-13;18-26

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' <sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.' <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.' <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed you.' And the woman was healed at that moment. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and the people playing pipes, <sup>24</sup> he said, 'Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

#### 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

God of the universe, **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

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.

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 TIS 156 Morning has broken

### 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 our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

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**

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you 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 TIS 158 God has spoken by his prophets.**

### **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**





When we first look at our gospel passage, it just seems like a collection of stories with no particular theme but in fact the theme is our sentence for today: *Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.*

Hygiene is something we tend not to think about very much. As children we were taught to wash our hands and basic cleanliness. In ancient times they did not know about germs, so God had to protect the Jews by giving them basic rules for living. Deuteronomy is full of laws about hygiene, which we no longer need to follow. When Covid came our government introduced all sorts of restrictions, to reduce the number of infections and deaths from Covid. Many of those restrictions were the same as in Deuteronomy.



This passage is full of questions, both spoken and implied, basically why did Jesus not follow those basic rules of living and the religious laws which the Pharisees thought were so important? The answer was 'because everything is new'. Jesus came to bring God's kingdom to earth, yes to save us from sin and death but while he was walking on earth, he was also bringing the kingdom through healing, teaching, and love.

Everything was fresh, renewed by his presence. He ate and mixed with sinners, unlike other religious leaders of his day who saw their role as an example of goodness and stayed away from possible sources of moral or spiritual infection. Jesus was not infected by these pollutants; he affected them and made them clean. While others were waiting for the new day, Jesus was the dawn.



In the middle of all this newness we find a surprised and grateful man.

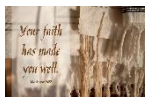
What does the calling of Matthew have to do with a long list of healings? (They continue for the next two chapters.) As far as Matthew is concerned this is a healing. In Jesus' time tax collectors were lumped with sinners because they worked for the Romans and collected extra tax for themselves. For Matthew it was a healing miracle when Jesus was come past and called Matthew to follow him, called him out of that lifestyle, that isolation. Matthew 'got up' and followed him. 'Got up' is sometimes translated 'arose' and in Greek means resurrection. Matthew was reborn that day.

While Jesus, Matthew, and his friends were celebrating this new life: God's new work and outpouring of mercy, and the Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples why he ate with tax collectors and sinners. This is when Jesus said that "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew had been sick in spirit but is now healed.



The times are changing as God had promised Abraham and the prophets, the new life is breaking in, growing from the old stump of Israel. Long before Jesus came to earth, God had chosen Abraham and promised: *"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* The Jews had failed to be a blessing to all nations but now at last all the peoples on earth will be blessed through his descendant, Jesus.

While they are still celebrating the local civil servant arrives begging Jesus to come and heal his dead daughter. This is where all those Jewish hygiene laws come into play: among the things which were strictly forbidden was touching a dead body or touching a woman with bleeding and within a very short space of time we have Jesus needing to do both. Both occasions required the polluted person to ritually wash and stay in quarantine for 24 hours. Jesus was not polluted, in each case he removed the pollution, so he didn't need to do this.



The father of the girl defied convention and rushed to Jesus, kneels at his feet, and begs. Men of status were always dignified in those days. The woman knows that she is defiling people including Jesus by touching them but in her desperation, she also disregards the rules. Her affliction is not only physical but also social, she moves through the crowd believing that she can be cured. Her uncleanness doesn't affect him, but he turns around, sees her, and tells her that what had made the difference is her own faith.

The word translated 'healed' in our reading is 'saved' or 'rescued' in Greek. So, no one hearing the original story would have missed the point. What Jesus was doing was the beginning of his whole work of rescuing the world, saving the world, from everything that polluted, spoiled, and destroyed the world.



The greatest destroyer is of course death itself, so Jesus continues on to where the officials' daughter lies dead. The people in the house have already begun the sorrowful process of weeping and wailing. Letting their grief have full vent because this lovely young life has been cut short. Jesus won't have it. They laugh at him, but he goes into her room and touches the corpse, takes her hand, and she gets up, arose (that resurrection word again).

Jesus raises the daughter from the 'sleep' of death as he will raise all believers on the last day. These stories are Matthew's statement of faith in the power of the risen Jesus, the saving of the tax collector, the woman and the father of the girl are examples of his power in those who believe.



Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness and Paul in writing to the Roman, in our reading today, picks up that theme. Again and again in *Genesis* it is declared that God pledged Abraham 'the promised Land'. For the New Testament writers including Paul the idea of a holy land, in terms of one territory over all others has vanished. In its place is the idea that the whole world or the whole of creation is God's place.

God's covenant justice was always designed to put the whole world to rights, Abraham's promise of blessing was always to all nations. The main point Paul is making is that the promises were not made on the basis of circumcision, nor on the basis of Jewish Law. Abraham was considered righteous before circumcision, and he certainly did not have the Law.



Everyone in Abraham's world knew perfectly well that if a couple were childless beyond the age of fifty that they were likely to remain that way. But the living God made the extraordinary promise that they would have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. This is the promise that Abraham believed. Faith in the God who promised apparently impossible things and then accomplished them is the faith that made Abraham righteous.

Jesus did not follow all the rules and regulations of his day because he was the Son of God, the long-promised messiah. He did not look like the Messiah that the people were expecting because they were expecting a Messiah who would save their generation with military might, but he had come to fulfil the promises God had made to Abraham, to bring in the kingdom of God and save the world for ever. He was not a military leader he was the physician, who had come to heal, save the sick of body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came, not to destroy but to fulfil. Morning has broken on a new day and the practices that were appropriate for the night are now no longer needed.



Matthew was stuck in a despised occupation and, could not change his career or his life, the woman had been bleeding for twelve years, the official's daughter was dead, what basis for faith did any of them have, but they believed, like Abraham, and Jesus saved them. God is the God of new hope, of new fruitfulness, because he is the God of new starts, of fresh creation. In our lives we can trust Jesus, to bring new creation into our lives.

The church in God's world, even this church will be recreated, resurrected. We are saved by faith, like Matthew and the girl we rise, are resurrected, through the power of the resurrected Jesus are saved to follow him. It is through that same power that we follow Jesus every day, listen to the Holy Spirit in our hearts and live for him, in this community and everywhere we go.