

Dear Beloved,

This week's gospel is about the disciples being sent out to spread the good news of love to the nearby towns and villages. That is the same as we are expected to do. So the illustrations today are some little ways we can do that.

If you will not be in church this week please read the sermon sometime soon, it is important.



Blessings

Wendy

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

--

Today a very short meeting after the service to accept the accounts for 2022 and present 2023 budget

--

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

--

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

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

--

Wendy's last Sunday in the Parish 24th September

--

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 Cooma

--

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.

18 6 23 second order, second thanksgiving

Hymn TIS 439 What shall we offer our good Lord

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

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ask therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9.37–38

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

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory: increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Genesis 18.1–15

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. ³ He said, 'If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant.' 'Very well,' they answered, 'do as you say.'

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. 'Quick,' he said, 'get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.' ⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹ 'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'There, in the tent,' he said. ¹⁰ Then one of them said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.' Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?' ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really have a child, now that I am old?" ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.' ¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, 'I did not laugh.' But he said, 'Yes, you did laugh.'

Psalms 116.1–2, 116.11–18

¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice: the voice of my supplication;

² Because he inclined his ear to me: in the day that I called to him.

¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord: for all his benefits to me?

¹² I will take up the cup of salvation: and call upon the name of the Lord.

¹³ I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people.

¹⁴ Grievous in the sight of the Lord: is the death of his faithful ones.

¹⁵ O Lord, I am your servant, your servant and the child of your handmaid: you have unloosed my bonds.

¹⁶ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call upon the name of the Lord.

¹⁷ I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people,

¹⁸ In the courts of the house of the Lord: even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Romans 5.1–11

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Matthew 9.35–10.8

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

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. Challenge our values again. Jesus and 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 whoever 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

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's mercy.

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 TIS 129 Amazing Grace

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 TIS 154 Great is your faithfulness,

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**



Have you ever noticed that when we pray God often uses us to answer our own prayer. There is a saying 'Be careful what you pray for' because God answers prayer, often in and through us. If you pray for patience, the answer is likely to be lots of opportunities to practice patience. If you pray for rain you will need to deal with the mud. If you pray for a harvest, you will need to gather it in.



In the passage before our reading, after chapters of healing stories, the last healing miracle was where a man had a demon and Jesus cast it out and the Pharisees said 'he casts out demons by the prince of demons'. Jesus makes no response to this accusation and simply gets on with the work. There is a reality in that if you protest your innocence or try to defend yourself against accusations people still won't believe you but think less of you for trying to defend yourself however if you simply continue to do the good stuff people will eventually see that the allegations were false.

So Matthew gives us a sort of summary of what Jesus' ministry was like. Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness. **That is just what he did, from when he begun his ministry on earth to when he was arrested, he was just doing the work of his Father, bringing in God's Kingdom wherever he went.** The Pharisees were never going to believe he came from God, so he ignored their claims and just got on with doing what the Father had told him to do. God's work got done and, in this case, his disciples could learn before they go out on their own healing mission, just what they were going up against.



Jesus had compassion on the crowds 'because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'. This is a regular Old Testament way of describing Israel without a prophet or king to look after them and lead them in the right way. There had been no prophet in Israel for over three hundred years. What Jesus was doing in his ministry was beginning to provide that leadership, that new initiative, that Israel needed. Israel was ready and waiting for God to act but waiting for someone to tell them this action had begun.

Jesus is the true shepherd who loves the distraught and vulnerable flock, and this image has an element of end time theology to it, but this becomes more obvious when the metaphor shifts from shepherding to harvesting. The harvest is a common symbol for judgement in the Bible so when Jesus tells his disciples to pray for workers in the harvest he is looking forward to the final judgement and emphasising that it is God's act, though involving human workers rather than angels as his agents.



The response to this prayer is the mission of the apostles who become the expression of the divine compassion for the needy people of God and are participants in the Messiah's work. The disciple's mission is not a voluntary activity initiated by them, but they are chosen and sent by God, through Christ. Up until this moment the disciples have been onlookers, learners. They have been astonished at what they have seen, but Jesus has made all the decisions, told them where to go, handles the criticisms and tricky situations. Now he's telling them to go off and do it themselves. Wow!

When we remember the church as it was in our childhoods and as young adults, we are often tempted to think that things have really gone downhill since then. There used to be a full church, a huge Sunday school and lots of other ministries going full tilt in the church and it needed a full-time rector plus a curate, as well as many involved volunteers to keep everything going. It is lovely to have kids in church again and Gayle does a wonderful job as Sunday School teacher but it's still a long way from the good old days.



Do you pray for the church, our church? Pray that people will come to church? I hope you do and if you haven't been praying so far, I hope you start now because praying for the church and that more people will come, and worship God is the modern equivalent of praying that God will send workers into the harvest field. Because although the Lord can and does work in people's hearts to bring them back to church, it is when we are acting as God's agents, just like the disciples, that the real changes begin. When you are really praying for the future of this church, God will use you as his instrument to grow the church to bring people, new disciples, into the church.



I don't know if you realise how urgent this is. I have just over three months left before I retire. My last Sunday in the parish will be 24th September. After that there will be a locum, probably until Christmas and then your new permanent Priest will hopefully start in the new year. If you want someone who is going to lead this church into the future that God desires, you need to be already embracing that future of the church before you call a priest or that priest is going to go to a church where they are doing the work.

Those sessions with Steve Clark are designed to help you see the possibilities in the future. There is no point in copying other churches in this area or anywhere else if what they do is not something that is sustainable in this Parish. Every member of this parish needs to assess their own capabilities and discern what the Lord would have them do. No one can sit on their laurels and expect it to all happen by a miracle or by everyone else, or the ministry team doing the work. Each one must do the work that God has given them to do.

10 WAYS TO LOVE

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (Leviticus 19)
3. Give without sparing. (Leviticus 25:35)
4. Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 15:1)
6. Share without pretending. (1 Peter 4:10)
7. Enjoy without complaining. (1 Peter 4:13)
8. Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 23:10)

For some of you I absolutely agree that the time for hard physical work is gone, but you are still perfectly capable of loving people and praying for them and there will be smaller tasks that the Lord will put on your mind that are within your ability. A few weeks ago, I mentioned that the church was not meeting its budget and I have been so privileged and touched to see the response of members of the congregation, people on limited incomes who have found creative ways that they can contribute to the church.



In the same way if you pray and listen and think you can find ways to be God's love, his hands, and feet to the people he puts in your heart. People are not going to be drawn to God's love and come to this church because we have the best musicians, the best liturgy, or the best programs, they will be drawn to this church because the people in this church express God's love to them in a way that they know that God loves them. Then the right people will be drawn to this church and God will inspire them to be wonderful musicians or to start programs that this community needs, which will then express to the community that God loves them, and more people will be drawn to God's love. Like the twelve apostles we are not to be just a sign that God loves the world we need to be part of the means by which he is expressing that love.

Why do we have that odd little instruction to the disciples to only minister to the Jews? Gentiles came to Jesus for ministry while he was on earth, but he never went to them because his ministry was first to restore Israel and then the whole world. Israel's God is the creator God who loves the whole world and intends to save it but the way he does that is by fulfilling his promised to Israel and then using them to bless the world. In the Great Commission which we read at the end of Matthew a few weeks ago, Jesus commanded his disciples to begin in Jerusalem and then go to the ends of the earth.



The instructions Jesus gave the apostles were to be humble not swagger around as agents of the coming king or to be righteous hypocrites. They are to be healers, restorers, people who will bring life and hope to others, they are to be careful not to be asking for money but giving freely of the gift that they had received. The healing and life-giving messages were signs of God's new life breaking into the lives of ordinary people. If people received the message that was good but if not, the disciples just moved on. They are to do just as Jesus did, they preach the same message and receive the same response. There is nothing new, we are disciples of the same Lord our only response can be to go and do likewise.