

Dear Beloved,

Rev Catherine is preaching today On some of Jesus' parables.
May you all be blessed

Wendy

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

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Wendy's last Sunday in the Parish 24th September

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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

Catherine

Edith and Colin Mayhew

--

Glenn Fletcher

Alan Hood

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Bernie and Gayle

Scott's wife Jennie.

--

Beryl Lucas, Mary Mitchell's sister in Palliative Care (Cancer)

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.

--

Liz Pirie

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Nimmatabel

--

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

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

30 July April 2023 2.1

Hymn TIS 406 Spirit divine, attend our prayers.

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

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8.38–39

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 fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Genesis 29.15–28

¹⁵ Laban said to him, 'Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder one was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, 'I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.' ²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. ²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?' ²⁶ Laban replied, 'It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the elder one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.' ²⁸ And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Psalms 105.1–11

¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name: tell among the peoples what things he has done. ² Sing to him, O sing praises: and be telling of all his marvellous works. ³ Exult in his holy name: and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart. ⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength: O seek his face continually. ⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done: his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth, ⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant: O children of Jacob his chosen one. ⁷ For he is the Lord our God: and his judgements are in all the earth. ⁸ He has remembered his covenant for ever: the word that he ordained for a thousand generations, ⁹ The covenant that he made with Abraham: the oath that he swore to Isaac, ¹⁰ And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute: to Israel as an everlasting covenant, ¹¹ Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan: to be the portion of your inheritance',

Romans 8.26–39

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up

for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13.44–58

⁴⁴ ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ ‘Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ ‘Have you understood all these things?’ Jesus asked. ‘Yes,’ they replied. ⁵² He said to them, ‘Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.’ ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. ⁵⁴ Coming to his home town, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?’ they asked. ⁵⁵ ‘Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?’ ⁵⁷ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honour except in his own town and in his own home.’ ⁵⁸ And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

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.

Christ Jesus, intercede for us 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: 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 408 O breathe of God, breathe on us now

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 472 Father of mercy, God of consolation.

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**

If you turn off your TV, the TV stations keeps broadcasting, it is not like a cassette where you stopped which will resume playing when you turn it on again. What if God has been speaking to us since the time were born? Did we have His channel on, or we switched off and missed the message that He had for us.

This passage is from a theologically rich chapter, as here Jesus gives eight parables to describe the Kingdom of God, five of which only occur in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus's parables are seemingly simple and memorable stories, often with imagery, and all teach a lesson in our daily lives. Note that the word "parable" means "to come or cast alongside," as parables were short stories given to teach the listeners on a certain/specific topic. Scholars have commented that although these parables seem simple, the messages they convey are deep, and central to the teachings of Jesus.



Many of Jesus's parables refer to simple everyday things, such as a woman baking bread (the parable of the Leaven), a man knocking on his neighbour's door at night (the parable of the Friend at Night), or the aftermath of a roadside mugging (the parable of the Good Samaritan); yet they deal with major religious themes, such as the growth of the Kingdom of God, the importance of prayer, and the meaning of love. We need to dig beneath the soil of the text to extract the truth. The roots mesh underground, whether it is weeds or wheat, if planted in the same space the roots will be entangled together under ground. Regardless of the type of crop at the top of the soil, the roots are entangled underground.

In our readings today - The text in Matthew 13 starts with "**The kingdom of heaven is like** ..." "He does not tell us what 'the Kingdom is-' , but He tells us what 'the Kingdom is like...' God's Kingdom truths that we are meant to get out of this is, the truth, that is in is veiled in comparisons... "The kingdom of heaven is like: a treasure hidden in a field. a merchant looking for fine pearls. a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish, the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."



Jesus is telling us this story not to know the truth but to so that we understand it at our level of comprehension. We need to know not just the story but understand the truth in the fabric of the story

It is locked in the parable in such a way that causes us not just to **read** but to **think**. If you don't think when you read (or listen), you will not retain what you heard. Some people will hear this message and take nothing because they do not add the necessary quotient of thinking with hearing. We need not just to listen but listen and think what we are hearing.



Isaiah 53 says: "Who has believed what we heard? And who has the arm of the Lord been revealed to? ..." God extending himself from divinity to humanity. Jesus came to express God. And we beheld the wonder of His story.

Why would Jesus come to express God and then hide God? He is the Revealer. Jesus is the author of Revelation. John wrote it but Jesus said it. But it is man who hides it. It is man who hid from God in the garden of Eden, it is man who walks away from the truth. There isn't a person in this room that is not hiding something. God has nothing to hide. So, when He says, the Kingdom of heaven is like... It is a teacher explaining the unexplainable to the level that



we can understand ...it is God coming to our level... stooping from as high as the heaven are above the earth... to do baby talk with us! That is what Jesus is doing when He is talking to He gives an imagery that we can see, use and understand in our ordinary lives... we begin to think, learn, (maybe question) and in the process He is unveiling, more revelation, adding to what we know... etc. so we can know the truth.

What are these parables saying about the kingdom of heaven? What is a kingdom? A Kingdom is different from a democracy. A monarchy is a form of government in which a single ruler, such as a king or queen, holds supreme power; democracy is a form of government in which the people hold power through elected representatives.. In a kingdom, the king owns all the



land but is responsible for the well-being of his citizens, while in a democracy, citizens get a vote. God is King of the universe. He extended His Kingdom and created us as kings over the earth. That is why He is called King of kings. A king is not voted by the people. The people don't decide who they want as their king, the king is king. Period. And when we become heirs with Christ, nobody can vote us out of the Kingdom.

Who was Jesus speaking to and why? [verse.36] Then He dismissed the crowds and went into the house. His disciples approached and said, "Explain the parable of the weeds in the field to us."

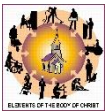


Jesus was speaking to kingdom citizens; His disciples were walking with Him and had tuned into His broadcasting station... they were seeking and interested to know more. treasure hidden in a field, which a man who was not looking for it found! "Again, a merchant in search of fine pearls, he knows there are many pearls but there is one pearl of great value. In both cases, the reaction is the same! One "covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." And the other "went and sold all that he had and bought it."



A net which was thrown into the sea did not discriminate, and gathered fish of every kind; it is not any man's place to say who is committed to Christ and who is not. As a Church we must be open to all, and if it is a human institution it is bound to be a mixture. Look around, the kinds we have in our midst is diverse, and no one in our community feels we are not inclusive.

There will come a time of separation when the good and bad will be sorted. It is not man's work but God's. Friends, it is our duty to gather all who will come, and not to judge or separate, but to leave the final judgement to God. He has His way of selecting those who people end up rejecting. Maybe you have been, or you are in that situation where you have feel not loved, lonely, rejected. All of us will deal with rejection at some point. That rejection is a redirection. God himself acted because God selects what man rejects. We have a lot of People who are rejected, ostracised, isolated, not loved in our community. I am grateful that God sees unloved people.



When we gather together, we are not becoming the same, because every person comes to Jesus with some gift and with some ability. For example, Rev Wendy's gift is not my gift, and my gift is not hers, and God wants us all to serve Him with the gifts that we bring. Maybe you are a farmer, or a teacher, or a businessman, or a bookkeeper, or a sports person, etc. you need not give up nor abandon your gifts but use them even more wonderfully in the light of the knowledge of God who has given them to you. Shall we serve Christ with our gifts? If a farmer care for your land and animals for Christ, if a teacher train as Christ would, if a businessman run it as a Christian would, if a bookkeeper be diligent as unto the Lord, if a sportsman play as a Christian would, if a dancer would you dance as unto the Lord, if a musician use this talent as a Christian would. Don't give it up. Jesus did not come to empty life but to fill it. Christ does not bless empty vessels - come as you are - He uses what you bring and multiplies it for His Kingdom.



In conclusion when Jesus had finished these parables, He went to Nazareth. The hardest place for a doctor to practise is the place where people knew him when he was young. Not many preachers easily preach in the church where they were children. There is a great lesson here on the familiar. In any church there is an atmosphere that resides in it. That atmosphere is either a barrier through which the preacher's word cannot penetrate, or else it is such an expectancy that even the poorest sermon becomes a living flame. When we meet to listen to the word of God, we must come with eager expectancy, and must think, not of the person who speaks, but of the Spirit who speaks through him.