

Cooma Anglican Sunday 10 August 2025 HC 2.1

Hymn TIS 462 Now we come, our heavenly Father

Now we come, our heavenly Father, one in glad community,
needing still your guiding mercies, stronger faith, more fervent plea;
all your blessing, now confessing, we would praise you trustingly.

Through the years your spirit guided those who blazed the path we tread,
in the glow of faith they laboured by the bread of life were fed;
while their yearning, hearts were learning, more of Christ, their living head.

Proudly high they held his gospel, far surpassing human creeds,
striving for his church united in the things for which he pleads;
torn no longer, but made stronger, one church meeting all our needs.

Like we, then, their torch with gladness, pledging all to this high aim
your lost world reclaimed from darkness, yielded to your sovereign claim;
visions firing, hearts inspiring, march we onward in your name.

The Grace

of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you. **And also with you.**

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'
Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord have mercy on us, and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.

Sentence of the Day

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Genesis 9:13-15

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

Mighty God and Ruler of all creation, give new strength to our faith, that we may recognise your presence even when all hope seems lost. Help us to face all trials with serenity as we walk with Christ through the story seas of life and come at last to your eternal peace. We

ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Genesis 9:1-17 (NIV)

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.” ² The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. ⁴ “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. ⁶ “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. ⁷ As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.” ⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” ¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalms 105:1-11 (NIV)

¹ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

² **Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.**

³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.**

⁵ Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

⁶ **you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.**

⁷ He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸ **He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations,**

⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

¹⁰ **He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant:**

¹¹ **“To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.”**

Hebrews 9:23-28 (NIV)

²³ It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. ²⁵ Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Luke 17:26-35 (NIV)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁶ "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸ "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

³⁰ "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. ³² Remember Lot's wife! ³³ Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - Genesis 9 - God's Covenant with Noah

The 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 and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

Response: 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.

Scripture Sentence

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one, so that your Father who is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25

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.

The Confession

The Spirit of truth comes to convict us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement. Let us open our hearts and 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.**

Greeting of 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 514 - Be known to us in breaking bread,
Be known to us in breaking bread, But do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread, Thy table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.

Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

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. By his death on the cross, 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, 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.'

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.

The Holy Communion

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 with thanksgiving.

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. Amen

Notices

Hymn - TIS 547 - Be thou my vision

**Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.**

**The Supper is ended. May now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of His teaching, Our Hungry souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for all human kind.**

**His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for his kingdom his purpose to find.**

**With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing as neighbour all those of each race.**

**One feast that has fed us, One light that has led us;
Unite us as one in his life that we share.**

**Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honour to Christ and His name that we bear.**

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.**

Sermon - Genesis 9 - God's Covenant with Noah

Introduction

What do you do to pass the time? My wife Cath has been doing a lot of crochet lately, and I like to do Sodokus - the number puzzles where you put numbers in the empty squares so every row, column and box of nine has each of the figures 1 through 9 once and only once. I love them because they require a simple, orderly mind, which I like to think I have. Nevertheless, I am not great at Sudokus, and I often make mistakes. My problem is that I don't notice my mistakes until I am well down the track, and usually find it easier to rub out everything I've done and start from the beginning, rather than just fix the couple of numbers I've got wrong.

Creating the universe is on a whole different level to sudokus, but God chose to essentially rub everything out and start again from the beginning again with Noah as we've been looking at for the last couple of weeks. 2 weeks ago, God saw that the world and mankind, except for Noah, was so evil it had to be destroyed. Noah and his family alone were saved since he alone was righteous. After the flood, God remembered Noah, dispersed the waters, and it was time to start again.

That's what happens in our reading today. God told Noah and his family to "be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth". This was the same command God gave Adam and Eve in Genesis 1 when they were created, showing that this was truly starting again.

So God started again. In spite of the intolerable evil, God keeps to his original purpose in creating man. God had created them in his image to fill the earth and to reflect his glory with their faith and righteousness. That's why he preserved one righteous man and his family and commanded him to fill the earth again as a new "Adam." But God hasn't started completely from scratch. This time the

beginning is not in paradise with perfect relationships between God, humankind and creation. At this point, there are three real threats against this mission. There is: a threat from animals, a threat from man, and threat from God himself. To counter these threats, God makes three special provisions to protect the life of man in the new world where sin and corruption will soon abound again.

God Gives New Rights over Animals

The first provision God makes is that he gives humans new rights over the animals so that they will not threaten him but serve him, even as food. Genesis 9:2—3 says, The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. 3 Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything." It seems that prior to Noah, humankind were vegetarians, but now God removes the threat of animals: man now has the right to domesticate them and even use them for food. This of course does not remove mankind's responsibility to take care of God's creation that we were given in Genesis 2:15. If we do eat meat, we must do it in a way that is consistent with good stewardship of God's creation, with not abusing that good things that God has made.

God Makes Provision to Restrain Murder

Second, God makes provision to guard society against murder and protect the mission to fill the earth and humankind from itself. Verses 5—6 says animals and mankind are accountable for the taking of lifeblood. Whoever sheds the human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. Before the flood God had the whole prerogative to take life. He threatened sevenfold vengeance on anyone who slays Cain, even though Cain was a murderer (4:15). But now God makes a provision for murder to be at least partly restrained by man. He makes murder a capital offense. Man is created in God's image. God's purpose is that people in his image fill

the earth with his glory. Therefore, when a man presumes to snuff out the potential of that glory, he attacks God in such a way that his own execution by men becomes a part of God's purpose. The Bible has other practical legal implications of this, like the role of the state (e.g., Romans 13:1—6); but here the point is that a special provision is made by God to protect his mission from the threat of humankind.

God Makes a Covenant with Noah

Finally, there is the threat from God himself. How can the earth ever be filled with his glory if his anger overflows again in a flood against sin? To protect against this, God makes a covenant with Noah and his sons in Genesis 9:11, that never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. This restates the promise in Genesis 8:22, "While the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never cease."

In other words, God gives protection from the animals, from mankind, and in his own covenant promise he gives protection from himself. As long as the world lasts, God will withhold universal judgment like this and preserve the order of creation. God will not surrender his purpose in creation to fill the earth with men and women who reflect his glory in their faith and obedience, and he gives us the rainbow as a symbol of the covenant. Whenever God brings clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, he remembers his covenant with all living creatures of every kind. No matter how evil the world becomes, no matter how sinful all the inclinations of the human heart, never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

But this cannot be the whole story. Sin is just as much a problem after the flood as before. The flood did not eradicate sin; the covenant did not guarantee righteousness. Since God's purpose was to fill the earth with the glory of his righteousness, then either God is a failure, or God is preparing for something greater in the future.

Well, God is not a failure, so something greater was to come.

There is a final clue in the story about the greater things to come. At the end of the flood and before God had made his covenant, "Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of man.'"

God's gracious covenant with Noah was a response to Noah's pure sacrifice. This foreshadows that God, who must find a remedy for sin, will find it in another greater sacrifice, namely, the sacrifice of his Son? Hebrews 9:26 says, "Christ appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

God still hates sin. We are still sinful. But God will never surrender his purpose to fill the earth with his glory. The final remedy is Jesus Christ. It is to him that we must look to discover the true purpose for which you were made. He is the one true sacrifice, who has truly defeated sin and allows us to fill the new heaven and the new earth with the glory of God's righteousness.

Do you look to Jesus to find your true purpose? Do you accept the sacrifice he has made on your behalf to put away your sin and show forth the glory of God's righteousness, your true purpose?

Amen