

Cooma Anglican 1 March 2026 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 156 - Morning has broken, like the first morning

**Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world**

**Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day**

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sentence of the Day

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. philippians 1:18

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.

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

Prayer of the Day

Remember, O lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

1 Chronicles 16:7-18 (NIV)

⁷ That day David first appointed Asaph and his associates to give praise to the LORD in this manner:

⁸ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. ⁹ Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

¹⁰ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

¹¹ Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. ¹² Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

¹³ you his servants, the descendants of Israel, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

¹⁴ He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. ¹⁵ He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, ¹⁶ the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. ¹⁷ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

¹⁸ "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit."

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

Psalms 118:1-17 (NIV)

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² **Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."**

³ Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."

⁴ **Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever."**

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place.

⁶ **The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?**

⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.

⁸ **It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.**

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

¹⁰ **All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.**

¹¹ They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹² **They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down.**

¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴ **The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.**

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ **The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"**

¹⁷ **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

Philippians 1:12-18, 2:1-11

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that

in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Matthew 10:16–32 (NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! ²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. ³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

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

Sermon - Advancing the Gospel - Philippians 1:12-2:30

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 forever.**

Prayers

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's 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.

Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us.

Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.

We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 2:1-2

Hymn TIS 483 - Lord, in the strength of grace

**Lord, in the strength of grace, With a glad heart and free,
Myself, my residue of days, I consecrate to thee.**

**Thy ransomed servant, I restore to thee thy own;
And, from this moment, live or die, to serve my God alone.**

The Thanksgiving

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 indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator and Eternal God. 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 hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

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.

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed 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 which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Amen.

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

Almighty and everliving God, we heartily thank you that you graciously feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and thus assure us of your favour and goodness towards us and that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people, and are also heirs, through hope, of your eternal kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of your dear Son. And we humbly beseech you, heavenly Father, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end.

Hymn TIS 111 - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

Praise to the Lord who in all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining:
have you not seen all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.

Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes confounding.
sheds forth his light, scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Notices

Dismissal

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.**

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

Sermon Philippians 1:11-2:30 - Advancing the gospel

What sort of people do you admire? Having just spent far too much time watching the winter Olympics, you might admire athletes who are just so committed to their sports, giving up their young lives to ski that little bit faster, to skate that little bit more artistically, to be that little bit better in their chosen sport than the rest of the world. Or you might admire scientists who go to extreme lengths to advance humanity's scientific knowledge. You might even admire mission workers who put their own lives in danger to bring the gospel to people that need to hear it. All of these people have given up so much and have risked so much for their chosen field.

In today's reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, Paul shows his commitment to his cause, advancing the gospel. Don't get offended that I seem to be calling advancing the gospel just another cause. I really do consider it much more than just a cause, it should be the fundamental activity of all Christians - to proclaim Christ crucified for the eternal life of all believers to the glory of God the Father.

It is easy to say that we should advance the gospel, but how do we do it? Are we committed to it the way Paul is? Paul doesn't actually spend much time in this passage saying what we are to do to advance the gospel, he's talking about how we advance the gospel - the way in which we are to do it, the motivations and the attitudes we are to have as we do it. However, he does give at least one concrete action that advances the gospel. It's in verse 14 where he says we are to proclaim the gospel, or as he puts it in verses 15 through 18: We preach Christ. This is ultimately how the gospel is advanced - by proclaiming it, by telling people about who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

So if that is what we are to do, how are we to do it?

Paul tells us of a number of things that actually stop the gospel from being advanced if you proclaim the gospel that way, but they are not the ideal way to proclaim it.

One of the first that we see is your motivation for proclaiming Christ. In verse 15 we read that some are preaching Christ from envy and rivalry, out of selfish ambition, hoping to stir up trouble for Paul while he is in gaol. It seems they were trying to big-note themselves, perhaps gain more followers than Paul, and even steal away followers from Paul. But Paul is adamant that his priority is that the gospel is preached, regardless of people's motives. Ultimately what Paul

wants is for people to hear the gospel and follow Jesus, and doesn't mind whether they hear it from him or from someone else.

Actually, it is not quite as simple as this. Your motivation does matter. As Paul goes on to tell the Philippians how they should proclaim Jesus, he tells them that their motives should be better. In chapter 2, verse 3 he tells to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. These things may not stop the gospel being heard, but they are not ideal. They are not ideal because they are not the way Jesus did things, and not appropriate for his followers who should act like Jesus did.

Similarly, Paul says the Philippians should be able to proclaim the gospel without fear in verse 14, without being frightened by those who oppose them in verse 28. Yet in 2:12 he tells them to work out their salvation, which includes their proclamation of the gospel, with fear and trembling. There are actually two different sorts of fear here. They should not fear what people will do to them - after all, Paul is in gaol, quite likely to be killed for his preaching the gospel, but that doesn't stop him from preaching. He even rejoices that his imprisonment, as inconvenient and uncomfortable as it may be for him, has meant the palace guards and others who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to hear the gospel are hearing it. Even more so, in some strange way, his imprisonment has meant that most of the brothers and sisters, those who have heard and believed the gospel, have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

What he is afraid of is that he, or any of those who have heard the gospel, might turn away from it, which has eternal consequences. Those who stand firm in the gospel will be saved by God, but those who oppose them will be destroyed, as he says in verse 28. Falling away really scares Paul.

Paul goes on to say that as they proclaim the gospel, their lives should be worthy of it. There are many aspects of this worthiness, but Paul says they can be summed up in being united in Christ and imitating him. Chapter 2 verse 1 says Christ gives encouragement, comfort from his love, tenderness and compassion, and above all, humility. Consequently, these traits should be shown in his people as they proclaim him. united in Christ by his Spirit. We should be united - striving together for the faith of the gospel, showing Jesus's love, having one mind, without selfish ambition or vain conceit, and with Jesus's humility valuing others above ourselves.

In order to help us understand how we are to live this way as we proclaim the gospel, Paul gives us 4 different examples that we can follow. In chapter 2

verses 19 to 30, he gives the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus. He wants to send Timothy to them, even though he was very close to Timothy, like a Father with his son, and earnestly wanted him to stay with him while he was in chains. Timothy's great example was that he was most concerned about Christ's interests, not his own, and showed genuine concern for the Philippian's welfare as he served with Paul in the work of the gospel.

Paul also wanted to send Epaphroditus, who he considered his brother, his co-worker and fellow soldier. Apparently the Philippians had sent Epaphroditus to help Paul in his ministry, taking care of Paul's physical needs, and he had acquitted himself very well. Unfortunately he had become gravely ill, distressing the Philippians, which in turn distressed Epaphroditus and Paul himself. He almost died for the work of Christ and he risked his life to make up for the help the Philippians could not give Paul.

Both Timothy and Epaphroditus were brilliant exemplars of the characteristics that should be displayed in proclaiming the gospel. Their primary concern was the gospel, and both had genuine concern for the Philippians and for Paul. Both had proved themselves, Timothy in gospel work with Paul, and Epaphroditus in his care and provision for Paul.

Paul also sets forward another example for the Philippians and for us to follow: himself. Paul's commitment to the gospel was obvious - he rejoiced that his chains gave him the opportunity to share the gospel with his guards and others who wouldn't otherwise get the chance to hear it. He held the priority of the gospel over his own status - not caring if others preached to knock him down provided Christ was preached, in which he rejoiced. His priority of the gospel even overwhelmed the priority of his own comfort, his own life. Sure, he had confidence that through prayer and God's grace that he would be delivered from gaol and imminent death, but he only wanted this deliverance to share the gospel more, not for himself.

Despite giving these three excellent exemplars, Paul also puts forward a much greater exemplar, the ultimate example to follow as we seek to advance the gospel of Christ. He puts forward Jesus Christ himself as this example. Chapter 2 tells us we are to follow Christ's example in the Spirit, in love, in tenderness, in compassion, in the absence of selfish ambition and vain conceit, and in the looking to the interests of others over your own.

Christ is not only the message, but the perfect example of how we should deliver that message in complete humility. Chapter 2 verses 6 through 11 are probably an early Christian hymn or creed, and perfectly describes the example

of Jesus we should follow in proclaiming him. It tells us ⁵ In your relationships with one another, you should have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11

If it is a hymn or poem, it contains many of the elements of the gospel that we are to proclaim: Jesus's divinity yet willingness to become flesh to serve us, obedient to death on the cross but raised so that all who acknowledge him will glorify God the Father.

It is in proclaiming this gospel and following Jesus's example that we work with God to advance the gospel. Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus showed us not only what we should do to advance the gospel, to proclaim Jesus Christ, but also how we should do it - what characteristics and traits we should demonstrate in our lives as we do it. Let us in turn follow their example in imitating Christ, and look forward to the day that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10-11

Will you join me as I join Paul and all the saints who have gone before us, that the gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen again for our eternal life, may be advanced throughout all the world until he returns in glory?

Amen