

Cooma Anglican 2 August 2026 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 179 - Praise With Joy The World's Creator

**Praise With Joy The World's Creator,
God Of Justice, Love, And Peace,
Source And End Of Human Knowledge,
Force Of Greatness Without Cease.
Celebrate The Maker's Glory,
Power To Rescue And Release.**

**Praise the Son Who Feeds The Hungry,
Frees The Captive, Finds The Lost,
Heals The Sick, Up-Sets Religion,
Fearless Both Of Fate And Cost.
Celebrate Christ's Constant Presence:
Friend And Stranger, Guest And Host.**

**Praise The Spirit Sent Among Us,
Liberating Truth From Pride,
Forging Bonds Where Race Or Gender,
Age Or Nation Dare Divide.
Celebrate The Spirit's Treasure:
Foolishness None Dare Deride.**

**Praise The Maker, Christ, And Spirit,
One God In Community,
Calling Christians To Embody
Oneness And Diversity.
Thus The World Shall Yet Believe, When
Shown Christ's Vibrant Unity.**

Greeting

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

Sentence of the Day

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Gen 17:1,2

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

O God, whose beloved Son for our sake willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross, give us courage and patience to take up our cross daily and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Genesis 17:3-10,15-20(NIV)

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

¹⁹ Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will

establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”²² When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

²³ On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or **bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.**

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

Psalm 37:27-40(NIV)

²⁷ Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

²⁸ **For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish.**

²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.

³⁰ **The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak what is just.**

³¹ The law of their God is in their hearts; their feet do not slip.

³² **The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, intent on putting them to death;**

³³ but the LORD will not leave them in the power of the wicked or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

³⁴ **Hope in the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.**

³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,

³⁶ **but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.**

³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright; a future awaits those who seek peace.

³⁸ **But all sinners will be destroyed; there will be no future for the wicked.**

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ **The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.**

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

¹² “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.¹⁶ Repent therefore!

Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

John 15:9–15(NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. This is the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - Genesis 17 - What’s in a Name?

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

The 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 SOF 40 - Be still for the presence of the Lord

Be still for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One is here

Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found, We stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord Is shining all around

He burns with holy fire with splendor He is crowned

How awesome is the sight, Our radiant King of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace

No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him

Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in this place

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 571 - Forth in your name, O Lord, I go

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
you, Lord, alone resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.

Each task your wisdom has assigned
still let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.

You may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance view,
and labour on at your command,
and offer all my works to you.

Give me to bear your easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day;

for you delightfully employ
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.

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 Genesis 17 - What's in a name

What does your name mean? Cath once bought me a coffee cup that reminds me that Martin is derived from Mars, the Roman god of war, and means something like 'warlike.' I'll let you judge for yourselves how appropriate you think that is for me. Actually, I am named after my father's father, another Martin Christensen, who died before I was born. He was born in Denmark and there doesn't appear to be a lot of famous Danes named Martin, so I suspect that he was named after Martin Luther, the great protestant reformer.

Names come up a lot in our Genesis reading today. Firstly, God himself uses a name that hasn't been used previously, then two people have their name changed, and two other significant names are mentioned. All these names are significant in themselves, but the timing is also significant. Throughout the Bible, giving or changing names happen in times that are significant for other reasons. Apart from Abram and Sarai, who we will talk about shortly, who can think of other names in the Bible that were changed?

- The apostle Paul's name was changed from Saul - when God spoke to him and he changed from persecuting the Church to proclaiming it.
- The apostle Peter was changed from Simon when Jesus called him to follow him.
- Jacob (Abraham's grandson) name was changed to Israel after he wrestled with God

All these name changes, and a few others, happened at significant times, as they did for Abram and Sarai in our reading today.

God Almighty (El Shaddai)

Firstly, however, God uses a new name. He tells Abram that he is God Almighty, or El Shaddai in Hebrew. So far in Genesis, he has been called "God" (Elohim in Hebrew), YHWH, his personal name which he tells Moses in Exodus, and I presume that the author of Genesis, Moses, is just foreshadowing that name, and "God most High" (El Elyon in Hebrew) which Melchizedek and Abram used a few weeks ago. By referring to himself as God Almighty, God is emphasising that he has power over everything, including all the nations of the world, not just Abram and his descendants. This overarching power and authority is important to the covenant he makes with Abram: because Abram is to become the father of many nations, and as we previously heard, God is to bless all the nations of the world through him, the Bible emphasises that God has power and authority over all nations, including Abram's descendants, to do this.

Abraham

Next, God calls Abram to walk faithfully and to be blameless. We know that this is a big call from the way that Abram has behaved to date. In fact, we know that being blameless, being perfect, is a big call for anyone, and is actually completely outside human character. Abram is not capable of perfection, he will fall short again. Yet, already, God has given the way that he will achieve this in Abram. Back in chapter 15 verse 6, the Bible tells us that Abram believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Abram was not to be considered blameless, or righteous, because he was perfect - he was blameless because he believed God, and that was credited to him as righteousness. Romans chapter 4 tells us that ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. So we too can be blameless if we only believe in the almighty God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Back to the passage, this is the point where God reaffirms his covenant with Abram. God tells him again he will be the Father of many nations. This time, in case he was worried enough about being called Abram, Exalted Father, without any legitimate children, now God tells him: No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. Abram means exalted Father, but Abraham means Father of Many. God is making it clear that he expects to keep his promise to Abraham and that many nations will trace their ancestry to him, and the Jews do through Isaac and Muslims do through Ishmael. Of course, even if we aren't related by blood to Ishmael or Isaac, Galatians 4 tells us that all those who rely on faith in Jesus's resurrection are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith, which is the fulfilment of God's promise that all nations will be blessed through him.

Sarah

To emphasize this further, God also changes the name of Abraham's wife Sarai to Sarah. Sarah means 'my princess' in Hebrew. Married guys amongst us, isn't that a wonderful way to refer to your wife? Every time you call your wife by name you are reminded that she is your princess. I pray that you treat her that way! And wives here, I pray your husbands treat you that way!

When God changes Sarai's name to Sarah, she was still Abraham's princess, but she was now princess of the nations as well. Sarah, who was worried that she was too old to have children of her own and felt the only option was for her

husband to have children through her slavegirl, was now to be the mother of nations, the mother of many nations!.

Isaac

Next, God tells Abraham that, as a symbol of the covenant, he is to circumcise every male in his household, blood relatives and those not related. It also wasn't to be a once-off thing, but it was to be redone for all generations to come. This symbolised the covenant in their flesh, and it was to be an everlasting covenant, for the generations to come.

God also restated that the covenant was to be through Abraham and Sarah's own son, not through Ishmael. Not surprisingly, Abraham still wasn't convinced that it would work out like this, it was 12 years since God had promised before, and Sarah was now 12 years older! He laughs to himself, and he still thinks having Ishmael was the best idea. Abraham wasn't counting God being Almighty. God would certainly bless Ishmael, but the covenant that God established with Abraham would be established through Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac, and passed down through his descendants through him. As well, just to always remind Abraham about his and Sarah's lack of faith God tells them to give him the name Isaac, which means 'he laughs,' or 'mockery' in Hebrew. Abraham and Sarah were the ones who laughed, but it was God who had the sense of humour. However, Abraham had got it at this stage, every male in Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him. And, as we shall hear in the weeks to come, Isaac was soon born and as God had required in the covenant, Abraham circumcised him 8 days after he was born.

Circumcision and naming

So what does this all mean for us? In the Christian world, as opposed to the Jews, circumcising baby boys is becoming less common. From the time of Acts onwards, the Bible has argued that circumcision is not necessary for Christians, even though the first Christians were all Jews and circumcised. Romans 2 tells us the priority is spiritual obedience to God, rather than physically circumcising. More so, Colossians says that Christians are actually all circumcised, when it says that ¹¹ In Christ Christians were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands, you were circumcised by Christ. In other words, spiritual circumcision, rather than the physical circumcision that Abraham and all his household experienced, is essential to all Christians.

But what about names and name changes that we read about? We read how God used the name God Almighty, and the significance of that to the covenant with

Abraham, the father of many nations, and his descendants, the many nations throughout the world. We, his spiritual descendants who are Christians, are saved through our faith in the name of Jesus, a name that is highly significant: The angel told Mary to Name her child "Jesus", which means God Saves, because he will save us from our sin.. He is also called Immanuel - God with us, and, as Acts 4 reminds us: ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Also, ever since Acts 11, when Barnabus and Paul visited Antioch, we are called Christians because we follow Christ. This name is also significant because we bear the name of Christ.

But God has not only given all Christians collectively a new name, Revelation 2 tells us: To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. This reflects John 10:25 Jesus calls us, his own sheep by name

So, just as changing Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai to Sarah signified a key moment in their salvation and highlighted the spread of God's covenant to all the nations of the world, so does Jesus giving each of us our new name with a white stone signify a key moment in our salvation. Traditionally Christians recognised this by naming an infant at their baptism, or christening service, or by giving a new, or Christian name when they were baptised as an adult, or confirmed their baptismal promises at their confirmation service It is appropriate that that key moment in their personal salvation history, their promise of faithfulness to Jesus Christ and membership of his church, is signified by a name change, as it was for Abraham and Sarah.

Now, you may or may not have been circumcised, and you may or may not have been baptised as an infant, or even as a believing adult, but if you you have put your faith in God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins, and in God the Holy Spirit whom the Father has sent in His name, then you too have a new name. Jesus calls you friend, and God calls you Christian. You are identified by God himself with the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, because salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Have you been renamed Christian by God in this way?

Amen