

Sunday 16 August 2026 Cooma Anglican HC 3

Hymn: TIS 542 (tune 156) - This day God gives me

This day God gives me, Strength of high heaven,
Sun and moon shining, Flame in my hearth,
Flashing of lightning, Wind in its swiftness,
Deeps of the ocean, Firmness of earth.

This day God sends me, Strength to sustain me,
Might to uphold me, Wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, Your ears are list'ning,
Your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, Saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, Drive from me always
All that would harm me, Stand by me still.

Rising, I thank you, Mighty and strong One,
King of creation, Giver of rest,
Firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

Sentence of Scripture

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. Revelation 1:3

The Great Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 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.' 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life; give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Daniel 7:9-14 (NIV)

⁹ “As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. ¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

¹¹ “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. ¹² (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

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

Psalms 89:19-29 (NIV)

¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said: “I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people.

²⁰ **I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.**

²¹ My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.

²² **The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him.**

²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.

²⁴ **My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.**

²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.

²⁶ **He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.’**

²⁷ And I will appoint him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.

²⁸ **I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail.**

²⁹ **I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.**

Revelation 1 (NIV)

¹ The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth

was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹ "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

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

Matthew 5:14-18(NIV)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

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

Sermon - Revelation 1 - God's Revelation to John

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.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

Response: Lord, 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

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:26-28

The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **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 584 - Just as I am!

Just as I am! without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am! and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am! Though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
With fears within, and foes without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am! poor, wretched, blind
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am! Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am! Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

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.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

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 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns.
Come, Lord Jesus!

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen

The Holy Communion

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, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

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.

Notices

Hymn - TIS 613 - Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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 - Revelation 1 - God's Revelation to John

Introduction

We are starting a new sermon series. Moving from the first book of the Bible to the last, Genesis to Revelation. I'm taking on Revelation with some trepidation. It is one of the more complex books of the Bible, very controversial with differing camps of interpretation and scholars arguing about when it was written, who wrote it, who the original readers were, and how we should understand it today. The odds are that some amongst you will disagree with what I say in each of those areas, or at least feel that I haven't mentioned your school of thought. If you are one of those people, please don't just walk out - take the opportunity to share your ideas with me so I can learn even more of the rich tapestry of this book, and if appropriate, I'll share it in a future sermon with the whole congregation.

Today is largely an introduction to Revelation. Chapter 1 is a prologue to the book, and it gives us a good idea of what the rest is about. Still, it leaves many questions still not categorically answered that we have to keep reading for, so make sure you read through the whole book, even though we are only going to chapter 5 in this series.

A Revelation

The first thing we read is that the book is a Revelation, a revealing or an unveiling. The Greek word is apocalypse, which you might think means an event of great disaster or the total destruction and end of the world. That is a very modern use of the term, no one used it that way before about 1940. You see, the book of Revelation may talk about great disasters and the end of the world, but it is primarily an unveiling, or uncovering of something that was previously hidden. This is the first clue to what we should look for as we read it - we should be looking for the 'something' that has previously been hidden that it reveals. Of course, to find out whatever that is, we have to keep reading, we won't reach it today.

Also, for the pedantic people amongst us, it is the revelation (singular) to John, NOT revelations (plural). What is revealed is a single, unified message, not a series of individual revelations.

Chapter 1 tells us that the Revelation is from God the Father, to Jesus, via an angel to John, the human author. We also know that John wrote the message down (perhaps via a scribe) and it became part of our Bible, and had been copied by scribes, translated from the original Greek into English, and transmitted to us, either in the printed form, or electronically, and read out

loud this morning. This process highlights the importance of Revelation, because God has overseen every step of the process. God didn't just give it to Jesus to kick the chain off and then gone hands off, hoping it wouldn't get lost. God has made sure those he wanted heard it as we have this morning. We have heard this word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ and heard it accurately in a language we understand.

God has made sure of this, because it is a blessing to the one who reads it, and blessed are those who hear it and keep what is written in it. So, that is another thing we should look for as we read it, the blessing that God promises to those who take it to heart. This is particularly important because, as John says, the time is near. But before we look at why the time is near, I want to look in more detail from the rest of the chapter at the chain of transmission of the message from God to us.

From God

Firstly, God, the Father, initiated the message. But what does John tell us about God?

Verse 4 called him 'the one who is, and who was, and who is to come.' He is eternal, and this parallels the way he is called the alpha and the omega - the beginning and the end in verse 8. He is the one we are to worship in verse 6: to him be glory and power for ever and ever. John also calls him 'the almighty', the el Shaddai as we read in Genesis 17 a few weeks ago.

Jesus

John says God gave the message to Jesus, whom John describes as: Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Jesus literally means 'God saves', and Christ means 'the anointed one', or 'the Messiah', the 'expected one' in Hebrew. He is the faithful witness, which reflects Jesus' words of John 18:37 where he tells Pilate that the reason he was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Importantly for us, there Jesus says that everyone on the side of truth listens to him, so it is important to know that he is a faithful witness to that truth.

John also calls him 'the ruler of the kings of the earth'. This reflects our psalm this morning, which calls him 'the most exalted of the kings of the earth'. Yet, despite this majesty which in humans would lead to an aloofness, a separation from mere commoners, John tells us that Jesus loves everyone of us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood. He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father. He loved us and he not only forgives our sins, he frees us from the power of sin, and has made us into God's kingdom,

living under this reign as the eternal king to serve him and be his priests. We are able to come into God's immediate presence, just like the Old Testament priests who were the only ones who then could personally meet with God in the temple's holy of holies.

John writes in verse 7 "Look, he (that is Jesus) is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him." John is prophesying the fulfilment of our Old Testament reading this morning from Daniel 7 that Jesus will return in the clouds in majesty. Jesus also told the high priest in Matthew 26:64 (NIV) that he would do this when he said "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." That enraged the high priest so much that it drove him, the elders and teachers of the law all to condemn Jesus to death as a blasphemer, but it truly speaks to Jesus as divine!

John describes Jesus as one like a 'son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. 'Son of man with white hair' is another allusion to Daniel 7, the 'long white robe' implies royal or priestly authority. The 'fiery eyes' convey divine knowledge and insight. 'Bronze feet' allude to the heavenly man in Daniel 10, the 'roaring voice' recalls Ezekiel 1, the 'shining face'; Isaiah 60. He is 'holding stars' to signify his divine authority over the whole universe, and the 'sword from his mouth' recalls Isaiah 49:2, and the double edged sword that Hebrews tells us it's the word of God.

As we read, we will find Revelation full of these symbolic images. They are nearly always allusions to the Old Testament, and so you should read Revelation with your Old Testament open, looking for what the images mean.

The Angel

Next, John tells us that Jesus gives the Revelation to an angel. Chapter 1 doesn't describe this angel, although he does mention other angels, the angels of the seven churches at the end of the chapter. The word angel simply means messenger, and although the angels in Revelation seem to be supernatural, or heavenly, an angel could just as well mean a human messenger. Many angels are obviously terrifying, as the first thing people do when they see them is fall

down terrified as if dead. John falls down this way when he sees Jesus, but doesn't seem to when he sees angels. One thing we should note is that even when they are heavenly, angels are not divine, and must never be worshipped as if they are God. Only God, Father, Son or Holy Spirit should be worshipped that way.

John

The next link in the chain is the human writer of Revelation: John. He is identified in verses one, four and nine, and is most likely the apostle John: the author of the gospel of John and John's three letters. It is possible that these might be different John's, particularly as the style of John's letters is different to the gospel and Revelation, but because the Bible is not explicit about whether they are the same or different, we shouldn't be dogmatic, and just accept that they were written by one or more men called John.

John describes himself as 'your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and the patient endurance that are ours in Jesus. He was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. Whichever John it was, he was a fellow citizen with the readers of the kingdom of God, he patiently endured suffering because of his faith in Jesus, and was exiled to Patmos because he had preached the gospel. Patmos is a small rocky island in the Aegean sea, and was probably used as a Roman penal colony.

The recipients

Verses 4 and 5 are very similar to the start of most of the letters in the New Testament. Consistent with most first century letters, it starts with the name of the sender, the name of the recipients, and some form of greeting or blessing. That's what we see here: 'John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you.'

The original recipients are the seven churches in Asia, and we actually get seven short letters addressed to each of these churches in chapters 2 and 3. John names these churches as the churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. These were the most prominent churches at that time in the region of Asia (modern day Turkey), but they weren't the only churches we know of. Because of this, and because seven churches were chosen, the number of completion, as we shall see numerous times throughout revelation, it is highly likely that Revelation was intended for all churches throughout the world and throughout the ages to today. That is why we are reading it today.

The content of the Revelation

This brings us to the content of Revelation. Obviously we will look at this more over the next few weeks, but verses 2 and 3 tell us it is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. The message of Revelation is the word God. The message is: "Look, he is coming with the clouds, and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him" and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." The message of Revelation is that Jesus is returning. This is what John has seen, **what is now and what will take place later**, and as have been told, the time is near!

The time is near! What does this mean? How we answer this goes a long way to how we understand this book. The time of what is near? We haven't read far into the book yet, so it's hard to make an assessment, but if the book is all about Jesus's return and the end of history, then, was that to happen soon? If we think, as many scholars do, that John wrote the letter late in the first century, around twenty centuries ago, we would have expected it to have happened by now. If John wrote the book much earlier, say around 60AD, then we know that soon after John wrote it, the Romans got fed up with the Jews constantly rebelling against them, put their foot down and destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. Is that what was to happen soon? Maybe if it was written around 90AD, it is actually looking back to 70AD. Perhaps is it talking about other things entirely?

Given what little I know, the approach I am taking is that the bulk of the book is anticipating something significant that was to happen within a few tens of years of John writing. If he wrote around 60AD it was most likely the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. If it was written later, say 90AD, it might be looking back to the destruction of the temple, or possibly alternatively, or more likely additionally, other persecutions that happened then and have been happening since. Christians of every generation since John have looked for events in their own times in Revelation - like various early church persecutions, the Reformation, world wars and even the rise of other religions. Revelations may not talk about these events directly, but it does teach us lessons about living in the world between Jesus's ascension and his return, often using the events shortly after John wrote, such as the destruction of Jerusalem, as illustrations that we can learn from, to teach how we should live up to and when he does return.

Conclusion

Getting back to the text, on the Lord's Day (a Sunday), John was in the Spirit (or a trance), and he heard behind him a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches. He turned around to see who was speaking, and saw seven golden lampstands. Verse 20 says these lampshades are the seven churches. Among the lampstands was Jesus, looking impressive in his robe, white hair, blazing eyes, glowing feet, booming voice, sword from his mouth and face like the sun, as I've already described. He held seven stars, the angels of the seven churches, and he called himself the First and the Last, which we discussed earlier were the attributes of divinity, of God. Jesus Christ, the faithful witness is calling himself divine, but he is also calling himself the Living One who was dead, but is now alive for ever and ever! Jesus has defeated death, and holds the keys of death and Hades.

This is Jesus who is revealed to John, and who reveals to John what he had seen, what is now and what will take place later, so that John can write it down, and the seven churches receive it from their angels, read it aloud and bless those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

The golden lampstands are the churches. This is because the churches, as Jesus told us in our gospel reading, give light, just as a lamp does. We are to give out God's light, his message, to share his word, just as John passed on the word of God in the Revelation. As our gospel reading told us this morning, we are to let your light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Not only are we to have the message of Revelation revealed to us, to listen to it and take it to heart, we are to reveal that light before others.

From this passage of God's Revelation today, my prayer is that we let the lampstand that is this church, Cooma Anglican share God's light, the light of his Word, including the revelation to John, shine out to others and be a blessing to them, particularly as the time is near. **Amen**