

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYNS

**The Feast of
St Francis of Assisi**
and the concluding Sunday for
the Season of Creation 2022

9th October 2022



St. Francis of Assisi preaching to the birds
Giotto di Bondone—(1267 - 1337)

9.30am Eucharist

11.00am Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Venerable Neil Hicks

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Please STAND at the entry of the Ministers

The Welcome and The Greeting

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer,
and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe,

Source of all life, whom the angels sing;

wondrous Light of all mysteries

known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

Hymn—TiS 100 (tune Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

- 1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfold rich blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show;
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 5. And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise him, alleluia!
All who long pain and sorrow bear
praise God and on him cast your care;
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! .**
- 7. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Based on Laudato sia Dio mio Signore
the 'Canticle of the Sun' of Francis of Assisi 1182–1226
by William Henry Draper 1855–1933 alt.

Let us pray.

**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.**

The Confession

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.

Silence may be kept.

cf Romans 8.22,23

We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

God our Creator. you delight in your creation,
its colour and diversity;
yet we have misused the earth
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You have brought order out of chaos,
light in darkness, good out of evil,
but we have preferred darkness
in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You have showered us with blessings,
but we have been grudging towards others
and lacking in generosity in word and deed.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Absolution. Standing, the priest says

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise, Gloria in excelsis.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

This verse sung softer

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.****

Let us pray.

The priest says or sings the collect.

O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself
to the childlike and lowly of heart:
grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis,
we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness
and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Micah [6. 6-8]

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 100

**O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his face with songs of joy.**

**Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.**

**For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians [6. 14-18]

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn TiS 745. [tune, Seek ye First]

1. **Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness.
And all these things
shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia.**
**Refrain: *Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.***
2. **Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and you shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, alleluia.**
**Refrain: *Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.***
3. **We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds
from the mouth of the Lord.
Allelu, alleluia.**
**Refrain: *Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.***

Karen Lafferty 1948—
based on Matthew 6.33, 7.7 & Deuteronomy 8.3
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The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [12. 22-34]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they

have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The sermon

Short period of Silence for reflection

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This is Christ's commandment:
to love one another as he loved us.
With contrite spirits and respect for all humanity,
let us pray to God that we may learn to care for not only our
brothers and sisters, but for all God's creation shown forth in the
wonder of nature that maintains our common life.

The minister says

Remembering those affected by floods and droughts in the
world we pray Lord that you will have compassion on all who
suffer from trials and pain, especially the victims of natural
disasters caused by our own greed and negligence.
Grant them their needed relief and the help of your children in
their daily struggles.

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Kindle the hearts of the leaders in your Church;
especially Clarence, our bishop, Neil, our priest, and all other
ministers. Reveal in them the example of your Christ, who
revered and cared for the fullness of your creation.

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Inspire all civil authorities to dedicate their resources and efforts
to the building of a better world for all your people.
May they govern with respect and balance toward nature
through policies that seek to relieve the environmental calamity
that surrounds us.

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Remembering Vi Bussell. Dot Adams. Jayne Jarrad.
Neliya Don Leonard. Nina Colson. Bronwyn. Josef.
Kaye McKenzie. Kate Jessup. John Parkes. Robert Whalley,
Have mercy on your children suffering from illness, granting
them healing and comfort from their afflictions.

Equip us to serve all who are ill as we would serve Christ.

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Remembering Peg Lewis who died last week and those whose Year's Mind occurs this week: Gladys Mills. Vera Alexander. Emma Jordan. Edward Smith. Bert Moore. Merle Menhennitt. Herbert Holdern. Babette Rule. Eunice Tobias. Myrtle Bienvenu. John Pond. Nancy McBain. Ellen Whitehead. Ronald Rosser. Oriel Cavanagh,

Bring to your glorious presence all those faithful who have departed this world with faith in Jesus Christ.

Grant them eternal rest in the company of the Virgin Mary, apostles, martyrs, and all your saints.

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

Receive the prayers we now offer you as a sign of our immense gratitude for Francis of Assisi, for the many blessings you have given us, and above all for the life in nature that continues to flourish despite our carelessness.

Grant that we may return your love in acts of charity and compassion toward the world that you created and all of its creatures.

Inspire us to love the whole of creation.

The Priest concludes with the following Collect:

Creator of all, whose Son came to reconcile all creation to you: inspire in us a reverence for your creatures in this world and accept the prayers that we now offer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn Tis 155 [tune, O Store Gud]

1. **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*
2. **When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:**
Then sings my soul
3. **But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die—I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, our burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away our sin:**
Then sings my soul
4. **When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: My God, how great thou art!**
Then sings my soul

Words and music © Stuart K. Hine
1953 Kingsway Thank You Music

Based on Carl Gustaf Boberg 1859–1940

tr. from a Russian version Stuart Wesley Keene Hine 1899–1989 *alt.*

Prayer of Preparation

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT 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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me. ✠

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink 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. ✕

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. ✕

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Francis, Mary, Michael, Paul, George,
and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread, saying

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei—sung

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Invitation

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray

Blessed Francis,
your example shows us how we should live in respectful
solidarity with our sisters and brothers
who lack the good things of the earth.
Your actions are an example of how we should care for creation,
how to be joyful and generous in our service of our loving God,
and how to open our eyes to the presence of God in everyone.

**Help us to be like you,
sharing the joy and compassion of God
with all whom we meet,
and treating everyone
and the whole of creation
with reverence and respect. Amen.**

CAFOD Prayer for St Francis

Notices

Hymn—Great is thy faithfulness [tune, Faithfulness]

1. **“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**
“Great is Thy faithfulness!”
“Great is Thy faithfulness!”
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!*
2. **Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**
“Great is Thy faithfulness!”
3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**
“Great is Thy faithfulness!”

T. O Chisholm 1866–1960 *alt*
based on Lamentations 3.22,23
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Blessing

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

Dismissal

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



St. Bonaventure (1221 -1274), a follower and contemporary of St. Francis, has given us a complete account of the night of the first live nativity scene:

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, St. Francis determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed.

The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise."

Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226

The son of Pietro Bernardone, a wealthy cloth merchant, Francis worked with his father until he was 20. He was well known in Assisi for his love of parties and celebrations. In 1202, as a result of a border dispute between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was taken prisoner and held for a year. On his release he returned to Assisi and continued his energetic way of life. However, after a long period of illness and a further taste of army life, Francis began to grow weary of his lifestyle. He made a pilgrimage to Rome, and was greatly affected by the beggars that he met in the city.

When he returned to Assisi Francis resigned from his father's business and left his old friends behind. He stole a bag of cloth from his father and sold it, using the proceeds to repair church buildings. He was never reconciled with his father. While he was working on the Church of Saint Damiano one morning he heard a reading from Matthew chapter 10, in which Jesus asks his disciples to leave all behind them. Francis understood these words to be directly spoken to him.

People soon began to join the man who by now had a reputation for simple living and charity rather than for extreme behaviour and partying. He formed a group of followers, who called themselves the 'Friars Minor' and they quickly developed into a religious order.

The order spread, and Francis travelled. He attempted to reach Africa, but illness forced him back to Italy. He journeyed with the Crusaders, but preached a spiritual crusade rather than a physical war. He returned to Italy, and divided his rapidly growing order into manageable districts. He appointed other people to be in charge and wrote a 'Rule of Life'. Francis resisted seeking full approval for his order from the Papacy until 1223. By the time of his death there was a men's order, a women's order (instituted by Clare) and a lay order. He received the gift of stigmata in 1224, and died in 1226.

Francis is known as a gentle and generous man who radically altered his life in response to God. Fully devoted to God, and fully prepared to give everything for others, his life of humility and action have led to him to be remembered as one of the most influential men of medieval times.

Most High, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of our minds.
Give us a right faith,
a firm hope
and a perfect charity,
so that we may always
and in all things
act according to Your Holy Will.

Francis of Assisi: Vocation Prayer