

# The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

5<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## THE GATHERING

*Opening Hymn TiS 156 [tune, Buinessan]*

1. **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 word.**
2. **Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness where his feet pass.**
3. **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.**

Eleanor Farjeon 1881–1965  
Words and music from Enlarged Songs of Praise 1931  
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Arrangement © L. F. Bartlett

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

### *The Greeting*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### *Sentence*

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.16

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 Two Great Commandments*

‘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.’

*Kyrie eleison—when sung each line is threefold*

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

*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.**

**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.**

*The Collect*

Let us pray.

Faithful God,  
you have appointed us your witnesses,  
to be a light that shines in the world:  
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,  
but tell everyone your love,  
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah [58. 1–9a]**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,  
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear-guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 112

O praise the Lord. Blessed are they fear the Lord:  
**and greatly delight in his commandments.**

Their children shall be mighty in the land:  
**an upright race who will be blessed.**

Riches and plenty shall be in their house:  
**and their righteousness shall stand for ever.**

Light arises in darkness for the upright:  
**gracious and merciful are the righteous.**

It goes well with those who act generously and lend:  
**who guide their affairs with justice.**

Surely they shall never be moved:  
**the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not fear bad tidings:  
**their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.**

Their hearts are confident and will not fear:  
**they will see the downfall of their enemies.**

They give freely to the poor:  
**their righteousness stands for ever,  
their head is uplifted in glory.**

The wicked shall see it and be angry:  
**they shall gnash their teeth and consume away;  
and the hope of the wicked shall fail.**

**A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [2. 1–13]**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,  
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him'—  
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

*Gradual Hymn TiS 599 [tune, Savannah or Nottingham]*

- 1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

- 2. Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3. Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**
- 4. Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.**
- 5. Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6. Take my love: my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-79

## **The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [5. 13–20]**

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and

teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

*Silence for reflection*

*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 from 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 truly 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 worshipped 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 for the Church.

We give thanks to you, O Father,  
for the light that shines in our lives through Christ our Lord.  
Fill your church with that light, that it may be a light to light all nations,  
that we may proclaim your presence and your glory.

We pray for your blessing and guidance to be with Clarence our  
Bishop and for The Parish of Benalla, Priest in Charge: Dino Gabriel  
(*Elizabeth*) and the Parish leaders and communities at: Benalla &  
Swanpool.

We pray for all visionaries, for all who patiently wait upon you.

We pray for all who have dedicated their lives to you,  
for all who work in your church today.

We remember especially those who have served you faithfully  
for many years.

We pray for the growth of the church in our generation.

Light of Christ,

**scatter the darkness from your world.**

In our cycle of prayer we pray this week for: Andorra, Italy, Malta,  
Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City.

We pray for all nations who have difficult decisions to make and are  
not sure which way to turn.

We pray for all who strive to bring in justice, to free the oppressed,  
to share with the hungry, to house the homeless  
and to care for the poor.

We pray for leaders who feel, they are working in the dark,  
for all who cannot find answers to the problems before them.

Light of Christ,

**scatter the darkness from your world.**

We pray that the dark places of our hearts, and all dark deeds,  
will be done away.

That the darkness may be dispersed from our communities,  
that sin and vice, greed and violence may be done away,  
that our homes may be places of peace and light.

Light of Christ,

**scatter the darkness from your world.**

We pray that all who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death  
may see your light.

We remember all who have lost hope, all who have ceased to trust.

We pray for all captives, for the hungry and the homeless.

We pray for all who are in sickness, especially Trent. Emily. Brady.

Kate Jessup. Vi Bussell. Nina Colson. Bronwyn. Josef. Kaye McKenzie.



Neliya Don Leonard. Nancy Backlund. Ross Backlund.

May your healing be known among them.

We pray particularly for: Hospitals. Health Care providers. All medical and health personnel. Medical and Health administrative workers.

Light of Christ,

**scatter the darkness from your world.**

We give thanks that life is eternal.

We remember loved ones who have gone before us  
and are in the fullness of light in your kingdom.

We pray that one day we may all walk in that light.

In particular we remember this week: Amy Langburne. Alma Newton.

'Duke' Goldsmith. Betty Barnard. Bill Wood. Charles Thompson.

Jenny Honey. Floreen Ingarfield. George Crosher. Bill Powell.

*Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.*

***And may light perpetual shine upon them.***

God of grace, God of glory, guide us by your goodness,  
that we may walk in your ways, seek to do your will,  
and worship you always;

**through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

cf Titus 2.11-14

Let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you**

**in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**Have mercy on us, forgive us all that is past,  
and grant that we may serve you  
and live a new life to your glory;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

The light of Christ scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*All may exchange a COVID Safe sign of peace.  
i.e. if you aren't living together, don't touch. 😊*

*Offertory Hymn TiS 547. [tune, Slane (1)]*

1. **Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**
2. **Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**
3. **Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;  
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.**
4. **O King of glory, my victory won;  
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Words from The Poem Book of the Gael  
Harmony from the Revised Church Hymnary 1927 by permission OUP  
Gaelic c.8th cent. tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1880–1931  
versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull 1860–1935 alt.

*This prayer may be said*

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;  
accept the offering of your Church  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour, be yours now and always,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

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

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

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. ✠

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ✠

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

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

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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life, to share in the body of Christ.  
and that life is the light of the world:

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*The Agnus Dei is said or 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.**

*The Priest gives the invitation to receive communion.*

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

Go before us, Lord, in all we do  
with your most gracious favour,  
and guide us with your continual help,  
that in all our works  
begun, continued and ended in you,  
we may glorify your holy name,  
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body  
and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Notices*

*Closing Hymn—TiS 152 [tune, Ode to Joy]*

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!
2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around Thee,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
singing bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in Thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
all who live in love are Thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Henry Van Dyke 1852–1933 alt.  
Arrangement © L. F. Bartlett

*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.**

**St Michael's Ladies Guild:**

Contact: Sue Wheeler (Events and catering Coordinator)  
(m) 0414 259 154

**Parish Women's Fellowship:**

Contact: Jean Martens (m) 0408 497 169

**Parish Men's Fellowship:**

Contact:

**Glenrowan Community Contact:**

Convenor: Robyn Coles (m) 0427 662 209  
Meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 2 pm--3.15pm

**St Michael's Friendship & Craft Group:**

Contact Jenny Still (p) 572 18241  
Meets Wednesdays at 9.30 am

**Parish Paper & Pewsheet:**

Margaret Gibson—margaret.a.g@bigpond.com (m) 0428 276 255

**St Michael's Hall Bookings**

Parish Office/Vicarage: (p) 5722 6692

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**OUR VISION IS TO  
STRENGTHEN AND GROW  
A COMMUNITY OF FAITH IN CHRIST**

***Our Mission therefore is to: REAP***

**Reach out to all people,**  
families, the marginalised and disadvantaged  
through Parish, community and personal engagement.

**Encourage and educate our parish community**  
through discipleship initiatives.

**Advance and develop relationships**  
with each other and the community  
through Pastoral Care.

**Promote, nourish and deepen our spiritual lives**  
through worship and outreach

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