



Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta
Parochial District of Wangaratta West & The Warbys
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST {OS 33}

17th November, 2024
Ante Communion 11.00 a.m.

The Welcome & 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

Do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we wear?' Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6.31, 33

Hymn: TiS 187. Tune, Darwall.

- 1. Let all creation dance in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance, unfolding space and time,
for nature's art in glory grows,
and newly shows God's mind and heart.**
- 2. God's breath each force unfurls, igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls, with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun seem mindless things,
each orbit sings: 'Your will be done.'**
- 3. Our own amazing earth, with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise, a fragile whole,
and from its soul heaven's music plays.**
- 4. Lift heart and soul and voice: in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice as all is made complete.
In hope be strong, all life befriend
and kindly tend creation's song.**

Brian Arthur Wren 1936–
based on Psalm 148.

This Prayer of Preparation may be said.

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

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.

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

Confession

Let us now confess our sins to almighty God.

**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.**

The minister stands and declares God's forgiveness.

God desires that none should perish,

but that all should turn to Christ, and live.

In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.

God pardons those who humbly repent,

and truly believe the gospel.

Therefore we have peace with God,

through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.**

**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
Creator God,
you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works,
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book Genesis [1. 26-28]

Then God said,
'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and
let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of
the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'
So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he
created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them,
and God said to them,
'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have
dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over
every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

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

Psalm 8

**O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!**

**Your majesty above the heavens is yet recounted:
by the mouths of babes and sucklings.**

**You have founded a strong defence against your
adversaries:
to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers:
the moon and the stars which you have set in order,**

**What are we, that you should be mindful of us:
what are we, that you should care for us?**

**Yet you have made us little less than gods:
and have crowned us with glory and honour.**

**You have given us dominion over your handiwork:
and have put all things in subjection beneath our feet,**

**All sheep and oxen:
and all the creatures of the field,**

**The birds of the air and the fish of the sea:
and everything that moves in the pathways of the great
waters.**

**O Lord our Governor:
how glorious is your name in all the earth!**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [8. 19-23]

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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.
*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.
*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.
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.***

Karen Lafferty 1948—
based on Matthew 6.33, 7.7 & Deuteronomy 8.3
© 1972 Maranatha! Music

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [6. 25-34]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the crowd, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, 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, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

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

Affirmation of Faith.

Let us together affirm our faith.

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Time for reflection

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The priest says

Let us pray for the Church and the world.

The response to "Loving God" is "hear our prayer."

The minister says the prayers

The priest says

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.**

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.

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, my Saviour God, to thee, . . .

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, my Saviour God, to thee, . . .

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, my Saviour God, to thee, . . .

Based on Carl Gustaf Boberg 1859–1940
tr. from a Russian version Stuart Wesley Keene Hine 1899–1989 alt.

Offertory Prayer

We give what we have, but not all

– **help us to be more generous.**

We serve as we are called

– **help us to see when you are calling us further.**

We love within our limits

– **help us to break down those barriers,**

so that we may love and serve you and give wholeheartedly.

We hand you our gifts on a plate,

you gave us your love on a cross.

Help us to reconcile the difference between our giving and yours,

for Jesus' and the world's sake. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Notices

Hymn—TiS 188. Tune, Hanover or Paderborn.

1. **Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.**
2. **Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.**
3. **Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.**
4. **Now, people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.**

Elizabeth J. Smith 1956–

Concluding prayer

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.

**Take us and use us
to love and serve you and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Grace & The Dismissal

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

17th November: Committed to Creation

Old Testament: Genesis 1:26-28: Humanity's role in stewardship over the earth.

Psalms 8 A celebration of God's creation and its beauty.

New Testament: Romans 8:19-22: The creation longing for redemption and the hope of restoration.

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34: Jesus teaches about God's care for creation, encouraging trust in God's provision.

Illustration:

A chicken and a pig were walking down the street. They passed a church sign that read, "Donations Needed: Help Us Feed the Hungry." The chicken suggested they help out. The pig asked, "What will we give them?" "Ham and eggs!" answered the chicken. After pondering for a moment, the pig said, "Well, for you, that's pretty convenient, but for me, that's quite a commitment." This anecdote humorously illustrates the difference between involvement and commitment.

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The story of the chicken and the pig highlights a crucial lesson: the difference between being involved and being truly committed. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be fully committed to caring for God's world.

God has entrusted us with creation, so we must manage these resources wisely to honour God through this. Stewardship goes beyond simple involvement; it requires a genuine commitment.

Stewardship is both a theological and practical responsibility. It means engaging in practices that protect and preserve the environment, ensuring its health for future generations. Even when inconvenient, prioritizing the environment is essential for a thriving planet.

By embracing fundamental principles of creation care, the church can create spaces that uplift the spirit and nurture the environment. Establishing gardens where people can sit and reflect offers a peaceful sanctuary for prayer and connection with nature. These green spaces can also serve as educational areas, teaching visitors about sustainable practices and the beauty of God's creation. Through these efforts, the church enhances its ministry. It embodies a living example of stewardship and care for the world around us, inviting all to participate in the flourishing of community and creation.

Quotes

Pope Francis: The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish.

Mahatma Gandhi: “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed”.

We need more than a whole chapter to get the point of Romans 8. We come crashing in at the climax, like somebody turning on the radio just as Nimrod states its theme for the last time. Paul has spent eight chapters preparing for just this moment. Jesus the Messiah has been obedient to God's Israel-shaped play and purpose. Israel's mistake had been to suppose the play was all about herself. It wasn't. Israel's task was to redeem the rest of the world; Jesus has accomplished it. God forgive us, we have often supposed that the plan, the play, was all about us humans. It wasn't. The human task was to reflect God's image into the whole of creation, painting on God's canvas the living signs of powerful, sovereign love. So when Jesus accomplished his great saving act, humans were delivered from death; and when humans then share God's solemn glory, creation itself will be set free for its original purpose. It can't wait.

Underneath all this is a principle that cuts deeply across some current assumptions. Creation was made to flourish when looked after by humans. Humans were made to reflect the image of the creator into the world. Freedom isn't throwing off all constraint. It's finding what you were made for, and being obedient to that and nothing else. It will always be costly; that's part of the point, part of reflecting the image of God now seen in Christ (v. 29).

Inside this again, waiting to be rediscovered by our rushing, restless age, is the strange glory of the sabbath. Look at it this way: if even God took a day off, why do you need to worry? Look at the signs of God's relaxed pleasure—the lilies, the birds—and learn to reflect that too.

N. Tom Wright (2001). *Twelve Months of Sundays: Reflections on Bible Readings, Year A* (pp. 34–35).
Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Today's Gospel reading reminds us how important it is not simply to take all passages of Scripture and apply them directly to ourselves, as though they had no original context and no intervening history. Jesus tells his hearers that God will give them everything they need, if they only set their hearts on the kingdom of God, but many, many people have perished for lack of food, clothing and basic necessities. Are we to assume that they somehow failed to concentrate sufficiently on the Kingdom, and so were punished, whereas we, who have the good fortune to live comparatively sheltered lives, are also much better at keeping our hearts fixed on God? I think not.

Part of the discipline, then, of understanding what this text might mean is to try to imagine the people Jesus was speaking to. If you read the rest of the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7), you begin to build up a picture of a fairly settled, law-abiding crowd. They are not so well off that they are cushioned from day-to-day worry entirely, but they have some savings and some education, and they are reasonably satisfied with their lives. Everything Jesus says to them is provocative and challenging to such a way of life, and with at least some part of themselves, they want to be provoked: otherwise what are they doing, following Jesus and listening to his teaching?

So instead of listening for the reassurance, we need to listen for the challenge—not what God promises, which this crowd already have, but what God asks. The radical, imaginative picture of discipleship that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is meant to shake us loose from the petty things and get us excited by the possibility of a new and adventurous attitude to life.

Jane Williams, (2004). [*Lectionary Reflections: Year A*](#) (p. 38). SPCK.

Anglican Diocese of Wangarratta Stewardship Program



10 NOV: Committed to Community

17 Nov: Committed to Creation

24 Nov: Committed to Christ

Eucharist, Second Order Text from A Prayer Book for Australia (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trusts Corporation. Used by permission. Some elements from An Alternate Order of Holy Communion, Liturgy Commission 2009.
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Offertory Prayer by Marjorie Dobson, in First Fruits (FF) by Mann, Stevens & Wilmington; Canterbury 2001.

Thanksgiving Prayer H from Common Worship.