



Community News
05 February 2023
Epiphany 5

**Is not this the kind of
fasting I have chosen:
to LOOSE THE CHAINS
of injustice and untie
the cords of the yoke,
TO SET THE
OPPRESSED FREE
and break every yoke?**

Isaiah 58:6



Church Services

Sunday:
8am Holy Communion
9.25am 2EAR 107.5 FM radio
10am Holy Communion
6.30pm Worship

Readings:
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 112
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

Readings

Monday: Psalm 104:33-37; Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday: Psalm 8; Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday: Psalm 104:26-32; Mark 7:14-23
Thursday: Psalm 128; Mark 7:24-30
Friday: Psalm 32:1-8; Mark 7:31-37
Saturday: Psalm 90:9-12; Mark 8:1-10
Sunday: Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9;
Matthew 5:21-37

Father of all, who gave your only-begotten Son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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PHONE: 44725822 (Thursday and Friday) or contact Doug on 0428 907200.

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Anglican Investment & Development Fund. BSB: 702 389 Account: 05202562 Ref: AnglicanBBay2562

CHURCH: The church office is open Thursday mornings and Fridays 9-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 dnewman1956@gmail.com

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/batemansbayanglican/>

ANGLICAN NEWS:

2023: A year to Stand! Please extend this newsletter to someone to encourage them.

HOUSEKEEPING: Books are available for worship – to avoid multiple people handling them they will remain in the back of the pews. The Common Cup is available for our Communion Worship. **Intinction is not allowed** and we continue to offer individual cups for those who do not wish to use the Common Cup.

Masks: There is no requirement to wear a mask to attend church but you are invited to wear a mask to reduce community risk.

Hand Sanitizing: COVID and Flu remain active – please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

COLOGNE CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA: The concert was a sold out success and all enjoyed the performance. If anyone wished to see the concert and was unable to on Wednesday, there is a performance in Canberra on Tuesday 14th February at St Christophers Cathedral FORREST.

BBECET PRAYER MEETING: For this month on the second Monday 13 February in the Anglican Hall at 5pm. All welcome to come and pray for our schools ministry.

LENT STUDIES. Lent commences with Ash Wednesday on 22 February. As usual I encourage us all to participate in some intentional bible study for Lent. One option will be the Anglican Board of Mission Study "The Imaginary Doorway." Bishop George has kindly offered to facilitate this study, please let the office know if you would like to participate in it. A taste of what it offers can be seen at: <https://www.abmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/The-Imaginary-Doorway-Sample-studies-36-pdf.pdf>

BOTTLE TOPS: Thank you for all the bottle tops being collected. A small clarification – they are only the ones with the recycling symbol and the number 4 or 5 on them. Again many many thanks, please keep them coming.
Stephanie

PRAYERS AND PRAISE:

- Birthday blessings and wishes to Carlene Franzen who turned 70 this week.
- Continuing prayers for those going through tough times and illnesses.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER: For support ring Elizabeth Dean 44724330.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS: Please take time to read our prayer list and ask God for one or two people on it to pray for, not necessarily people you know: Phillipa Shepherd, Veronica Newson, Judy Charman, Dora Coma, Michael Kovacs, Harry Lewis, Ian Oliver, Wendy and Chris Berger, Jay Stewart, Helen Plumb, Marina Vander-Burgh, Keith Sutherland, Iain Ritchie, Rodney Hay, Susan Dean, Robin Hay, Noreen Ralston-Birchall, Ian Overy, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Rachel Harding, Tony Hughes, Jason King, Annette Stewart, Jess Hughes, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Debbie.

Bible Study Answers: Matthew 5: 13-20. Who will be called great in the Kingdom of heaven? Will compliance with the law enable you to enter the kingdom? Those who understanding that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Law practice (keep) the Law in such a way that it transforms their lives. They give witness to this obedience leading to transformation by teaching but also by lived example. They understand that keeping the Law will not save them but rather knowing that they are saved (by Jesus) they keep the Law to honour God and point others to Christ.

What do you think Jesus intends then to be the purpose of the Law now that the Messiah has come? Will failing to keep these laws cause a Christian to be excluded from the Kingdom of heaven? I think that Jesus intent in citing this support of the Law at this point in his ministry is to affirm the unity of God and continuity of God's call to Israel, and by extensions to the disciples. Israel was a nation called to live as a witness of God to the other, gentile, nations (Exodus 19: 5-6). The disciples call will include this role of witness, first to their own people but eventually to the nations. Obedience to the Law is intended to be reflected in the disciples nature not just in their external visible actions – the principles of the law are to change their hearts and attitudes from the inside to out. Failure to keep the law grieves God but it does not exclude God's children from salvation or heaven; it does however, dull our senses and our ability to hear and respond to God and this can reduce our enjoyment of the kingdom in this life.

What leadership roles are the disciples (we) expected to fulfill in the Kingdom of heaven? Disciples are salt and light – they preserve what is good (especially in obedience to the law/ commandments) and they reveal (shine/ light up) the person of God (witness) so that others can see the darkness and seek God. We cannot save ourselves, and we cannot save others – indeed we all come broken to God, but we can give testimony to God's love and intervention in our lives and community.

Sunday 5 February – Preserve and Reveal!

Traditional: Holy Holy Holy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwuDSw-9cUQ>

Contemporary: Agnus Dei https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ3w6wGaStk&ab_channel=LightoftheWorld

Read. Matthew 5: 13-16 ¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither 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. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Thoughts: The opening verses of the Beatitudes outline the Inside-Out/ Upside-Down principles of the Kingdom of God; the kingdom that Jesus inaugurates and which is breaking into our human existence. Here the teaching switches directly to address the call of the disciples (and therefore us) – note this is given as a statement of their current status not some future skills which they will acquire through training – You **ARE SALT**; You **ARE Light**! So let your light shine before others – **NOW!!** The very condition of being a disciple and therefore having our heart and spirit within the Kingdom of God calls us to do two basic things: to **preserve what is good and to reveal what is in darkness** by being a lamp/ light that is visible and attractive. Salt preserves food, but it can only preserve good food. If the food has started to rot and decay salt cannot save it and reverse that process. To be salt is to therefore practice and preserve that which God has ordained as good – the teaching on the law which follows our reading (verses 17 -20) give the disciples and understanding of what is good. Being and doing good does not save but it does illuminate, shine forth a light to reveal God and God’s nature. Being light is the tough call to expect your every action to be visible in this world – like a city on a hill – and to be prepared to have others judge your faith and works. Our works are to point to God and are to glorify God (demonstrate our value of God). God calls you to be salt and light now, yes we are to grow deeper and stronger in our faith but in God’s upside down economy it is often that first brilliant flame and passion of new faith that is seen to have a great Kingdom impact. This is because such flames are most often lit in absolute darkness and the contrast is greater than deep and profound works/ demonstrations of faith carried out in the midst of a community that already believes.

Reflection: How Deep the Fathers Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLDGVI8D5UU>

Prayers: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the one true King of peace. In You alone is freedom found . Please free our world from conflict; especially in the Ukraine and Russia. Bring unity to other troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. By your light dispel all darkness and evil.

Father of us all; we pray for the dire circumstances visible to us in Alice Springs, but in reality manifest in many of our own communities, where profound lack of hope and consequent anger and despair lead to lack of meaningful identity and family and community breakdown. This hopelessness is often self-medicated with alcohol and drugs which remove inhibition and exacerbate the situation. As we pray for this complex situation remember that we all come broken before our Lord and it is by grace that we have been saved and have been named and known by God – let us pray for that humble understanding knowing that Christ alone is able to fully resolve the deep issues that underly this situation. The intercessors in Alice Springs ask that we pray for:

- For God to give the young people a purpose and a hope in life.
- For wisdom for all those making decisions.
- For consultations to include local Indigenous People and Organisations.
- That what has been happening will not result in the hardening of hearts.
- For Christians to commit to long-term praying.
- For Christians to be sensitive to the prompting of the Spirit as to what He wants them to do and to pray.
- For organisations to provide learning opportunities for people who have missed out on school.
- For a spirit of peace to reign in the towns at night and for a spirit of hope to be restored in the community.
- Giving thanks for the community gatherings seeking local solutions to local problems

Please continue to pray for our local schools, teachers and students as they settle into 2023.

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 forever. Amen

Traditional: I the Lord of Sea and Sky [I, the Lord of Sea and Sky \(Here I Am, Lord - 3vv+refrain\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Contemporary: I Come Broken

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrNfaqZa8PI&list=RDwrNfaqZa8PI&start_radio=1&ab_channel=RonBaldwin

Blessing: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His peace and may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Savior: and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us, and remain with you always. **Shalom**

Bible Study: Read Matthew 5: 21-30. This needs to be read and understood in relation to the previous two readings of chapter 5. These verses and the rest of Chapter 5 provide examples to reinforce the teaching concerning the law. It is addressed primarily to the disciples – not to the assembled crowd. Jesus takes the commands of the Law and shows how it provides a framework for our relationships. **Jesus equates anger to murder (the word for murder is the same as used in Exodus 20:13).** **How does Jesus describe anger and its impact on our relationships with each other and with God (our worship) ?**

Jesus stresses the need to be reconciled, especially with those we have a close church or family relationship (see reference to brothers in NIV verses 22-23). This requires dialogue and willingness to change and this is not always reciprocated by close relations. **How can we act to facilitate reconciliation?**

If you have unreconciled relationships, pause and commit them again to God's care in prayer.

You shall not commit adultery. Jesus puts adultery in the same category as murder and anger. Our culture would not equate these actions and largely condones adultery as an unintentional consequence of our right to self-fulfillment. Whereas the underlying attitude for murder is anger the underlying attitude for adultery is lust. **What is lust and what does the metaphorical discussion of the eye have to do with Jesus teaching on lust and the sin of adultery?**

The Blood of the Lamb

"A rattlesnake bit one of my sheep in the face about a week ago. Deadliest snake that lives around here. The sheep's face swelled up and hurt her terribly.

But the old rattlesnake didn't know the kind of blood that flows through the sheep. Anti-venom is most often made from sheep's blood (checked on Google and yes its true). The sheep swelled for about 2 days but the blood of the lamb destroyed the venom of the serpent.

I was worried but the sheep didn't care. She kept on eating, kept on drinking and kept on climbing because she knew she was alright.

Often the serpents of this life will reach out and bite us. They inject their poison into us but they cannot overcome the Blood of the Lamb of God that washes away the sin of the world and the sting of death. Don't worry about the serpent or his bite, just make sure that the Lamb's Blood is flowing through your veins.

