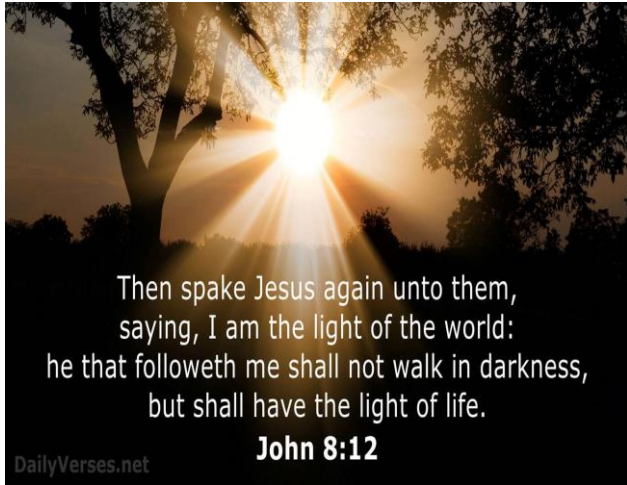




Community News
19 March 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Then spake Jesus again unto them,
saying, I am the light of the world:
he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness,
but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

DailyVerses.net

Church Services

Sunday:

8am Batemans Bay Holy Communion

9.25am No radio today

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Worship

Readings:

Psalm 23 (Page 435)

Colossians 3:1-17 (Page 957)

John 9:1-41 (Page 871)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 30:8-12; John 4:43-54

Tuesday: Psalm 46:1-7; John 5:1-16

Wednesday: Psalm 145:8-13; John 5:17-30

Thursday: Psalm 106:20-24; John 5:31-47

Friday: Psalm 34:15-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30

Saturday: Psalm 7:7-12; John 7:40-52

Sunday: Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace, and in the
renewal of our lives make known your
heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

EMAIL: anglicanbbay@gmail.com

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 9am-12pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 dnewman1956@gmail.com

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410 915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411 242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422 099889

OFFICE: Gayleane Overy 0411 091125

WEBSITE: <https://www.anglicanchurchbbay.org.au/>

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.

BCA BOXES: Please bring in your BCA boxes to the office for Robin.

NELLIGEN COFFEE, BRING AND BUY: On Saturday 18 March 10 -12pm at Nelligen Church. Bring an item or cake/ slice to donate and buy what takes your fancy. Funds support the maintenance of the Nelligen church. It is also a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the consecration of the church.

GLEAN: No Glean this week.

AGM. The Parish AGM will be held at 12pm in the hall after church on Sunday 19 March.

PALM SUNDAY 2 APRIL 10AM. On Palm Sunday 2 April we will meet for our usual 8am Holy Communion service but there will be no 10am service at church and instead we will join in the Combined Churches 10am March from the Clyde Street War Memorial over the bridge and service in Korners Park. I understand that some of us will find the walk and outdoor venue too challenging and I encourage you if that is your circumstance to consider joining with the 8am service. Alternatively; the 6.30pm service that night will include a simple Communion and Worship service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER AND SERVICE. Thursday 6 April 6.30pm there will be a bring and share meal and foot washing service in the Hall. There is a sheet in the office to let us know what meal (savoury or dessert) each person is bringing.

EASTER SERVICES. Good Friday 7 April 9am Service of prayer and reflection.

Sunday 9 April Easter: Batemans Bay 8am Holy Communion; 10am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Reflective Worship, Nelligen 8am Holy Communion

PRAYERS AND PRAISE:

- Continuing prayers for those going through tough times and illnesses.
- Give thanks for answered prayers and healing.

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, Jonathon and Leticia.

Bible Study Answers: Read Colossians 3: 1-17. Being in Christ is to change every aspect of our personal and communal lives and relationships. What does it mean to give up and old way of life; what images does Paul use? The fundamental tenet of the Christian life is that all that is needed to live it fully and authentically is to be fully committed to and enmeshed in Jesus. All else flows from Christs enduring and life altering presence and our focus on him. Our commitment to Christ requires us to commit/surrender our will to him. Having drawn us into a relationship with him then Christ works with us to sanctify us (to make us increasingly into his (and Gods) likeness – a state often called holiness).

The process of sanctification and growing in Christian maturity requires us to discard, put off unhealthy and unhelpful practices of our pre-Christian life. Paul uses the image of changing clothes, taking off the old and dirty and putting on the clean and new clothes representing new life. He also likens it to ridding ourselves of rubbish and gives a typical representative list of things endemic to human life that we can do better without. This was a powerful image in Colossae where many Christians would have been adult converts from Greek paganism; it again worked powerfully for Johnathon Edwards in The Great American Awakening and for William Booth and the Salvation Army forming in Dickensian England city slums - it was easy to see the old and how the new was better. This approach has lost traction in our post Modern world with its high priority for self-determining individualism; if it seems good for me then why shouldn't I do it just for me! Bishop Tom Wright, a senior Church of England Theologian, postulates that we are seeing a re-emergence of paganism and attendant poly-theism in a modern garb (Spiritual and Religious 2017). This world does not respond to religious traditions and theological processes but it does respond to a spiritual community exhibiting the nature of God in how it lives and relates.

How are we to respond to the new life? We are to put on our new life as we would put on new clothes. We are to consciously take up new disciplines and habits that reinforce or help establish the new life e.g. daily bible reading and prayer is often one of the first new habits to acquire. We are to look up, put our minds on things above, and get a new perspective to view life through. We are to take our thoughts intentionally captive; we cannot prevent stray and unhelpful thoughts occurring but we do not need to welcome them in and entertain them to afternoon tea. Instead, acknowledge the thought, reject it and use it as a catalyst for prayer. Brother Lawrence a 17th century monk gives us insight in how we might do this with joy: <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1981/07/the-devotional-life-of-brother-lawrence>

Who is the head of the church? How does passage envisage a church will look and behave? What are two key characteristics of the church? Jesus is the head of the church, the church catholic/universe but also of every individual local expression of church, such as ours. Paul uses the body image with Jesus as the head controlling and directing the church as our minds would. Our bodies are side by side making up the body on which Jesus is the head, therefore, not only do we relate to Jesus but also to each other. Within the church we have different roles and tasks but we share in common the need to look up and to worship. The two key characteristics of the church are unity and love. Verse 11 tells us that the church should not be homogenous but should represent all the local community and that there should be no division between the members within the church – hence the need to especially guard our tongues and how we speak of each other. We are to grow into the nature of God and to treat one another in love. Our combined witness of unity and love is a major way in which we portray God to the world.

What three ingredients of the healthy Christian life does Paul give? Why is gratitude important? The peace of Christ. The Word of Christ. Gratitude to God. The word gives us direction and encouragement from Christ's teachings and is also to be the standard/marker of the songs we sing – regardless of music style they are to profess biblical truths. The peace gives a tangible felt sense of God's enduring presence with us. Gratitude to God acknowledges that we are unable to achieve a mature healthy Christian faith and life without what God has done for us through Christ.

What is one of your favourite hymns or worship songs? Why does it resonate with you? My favourite hymn is John Newton's Amazing Grace. It never fails to move me and remind me of everything that God has done for me, and indeed often through me, when I have used this song in ministry. In response to hearing Matthew 11: 28 -30 proclaimed in a fairly ordinary Sunday service I cried out to God and he met me powerfully in that moment and wrapped me in his powerful warm and light presence. When I started to respond again to the world around me the service was finishing with the hymn Amazing Grace - and it really did just sum all that I had found in meeting the Father. Its words tell a timeless truth about God and humanity.

I tend to value the lyrics far more than the music and many songs and hymns come in and out of season as my need to sing to God varies. I particularly like the work of Robin Mark <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgukTjyCMX8> and more recently City Alight's modern hymns. We sing what helps us praise and adore God and to connect to Jesus.

For Reflection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ei6rOmdVnc>

Sunday 19 March – Beloved of God!

You are made alive in Christ, set your hearts on things above and live for Christ giving thanks to God. God loves you, Christ sets you free so do not take on any extra rules and requirements of the world that clamours to tell you that you are unworthy or that you have not earned Christ's love. You cannot earn that which Christ offers for free.

Traditional: Praise to the Lord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vegvb1u5s4&list=PL-Wo7lu6CksuTKdkFbx68JxCo0xmtG81A&index=185&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Contemporary: Jerusalem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4ZCHRksBA>

Read. Colossians 3: 1 – 4, 15-17. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Thoughts: We live in a world bound by rules, especially in the current climate of fear and uncertainty over health and future living conditions. Most of these recent rules are imposed to control, calm and herd us into a particular way of behaviour and communal belief for what is considered to be our own good. There are some rules (and traditions) that we need to consider and obey, but not blindly, we always need to measure given rules against Christ's love and nature and God's word. Set your hearts on Christ and things above and desire the peace that God gives in Jesus. Then tell out in song what God has done for you. Let us not place rules as barriers between God and people coming to meet Christ. When they have met Christ he will lead them in putting to death all their old and immoral nature and of being clothed in God's nature – into compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, with forgiveness and love and in peace and unity with other believers. God changes those who surrender their hearts and identity to Christ, they are a new creation.

Traditional: Just as I am https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rmCN-w_Gk

Contemporary: My Worth

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytJymjk9xk8&ab_channel=KeithandKristynGetty

Prayers: Father, we thank you for the beauty of the Bay and the joys of living in this place. We think of the coming State election. We thank God for the service given by the members of our current parliament as they complete their time in this parliament. We ask God in this election that you appoint and raise up for us leaders that will put aside divisive politics and seek to unite our state, governing in a way that seeks to provide for all who live here. Father, We continue to ask that you restore hope and provide accommodation and health support for the men who are our guests at Hope House, in particular Lord help them to find the best way forward in their lives. We thank you for Boomerang Meeting Place and Auntie Maryanne as she leads that community, we give thanks for the new building project to expand the space for gathering and ministry at Mogo. We pray for the Mogo SUPA Club and the children that will attend and ask that they meet you in this time. We pray for the SUPA Club being

held each Thursday after school at the Salvation Army in Batemans Bay. We continue to uphold our local schools and especially Bay High in these difficult days.

When we pray together, we witness to the possibility of unity and the promise of reconciliation that God promises us in Jesus Christ. We continue to pray and light candles for the people and the peace of Ukraine and Russia: We pray for hope for those fearful of the future, for God's comfort for those suffering, and for the Holy Spirit to turn hearts towards the compassion and justice that the resurrected Christ promises us will eventually prevail.

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: Tell Out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcFsxk1EbY4>

Contemporary: Only a Holy God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GDph15Kell>

Blessing: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord, and may the blessing of God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever. **Shalom**

Bible Study: Read Colossians 4: 2-18. When the gospel takes root in our lives we bear fruit in prayer, we seek to encourage others to meet Christ and we work together in unity. Who are some of the people who most influenced your Christian walk. What aspects of their faith and life gave them such impact?

What can you do to be more confident that you are praying effectively? What does Paul suggest we pray for?

When we reach out and share the gospel with others what equips and prepares us, and how are we to approach this activity?

In verse 10 –12 Paul intentionally refers to his companions as slaves! Why might he do that? Hint read about Onesimus in the book of Philemon—Philemon is a member of this congregation in Colossae, so this makes a very personal point to Paul's teaching.

If Philemon is to treat a runaway slave as a beloved brother in Christ, what does this story tell us about:

God's nature:

Repentance and forgiveness:

Our calling to love others:



Community Consultation
The Boomerang Meeting Place
Expansion Proposal
2 Church St, Mogo

Tuesday 21st & 28th March 9am - 11am
Thursday 23rd & 30th March 10am - 12pm
Friday 24th & 31st March 10am - 12pm
Sunday 26th March 1pm - 3pm

BOOMERANG MEETING PLACE INC.

BOOMERANG MEETING PLACE: With considerable work since October Boomerang has managed to obtain community grants from the NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs and from Vincent de Paul that will enable the construction and fit out of a large (100m2) steel shed on the Boomerang site for a Men's shed and yarnng space. Public consultations will be held at Boomerang this week and next.