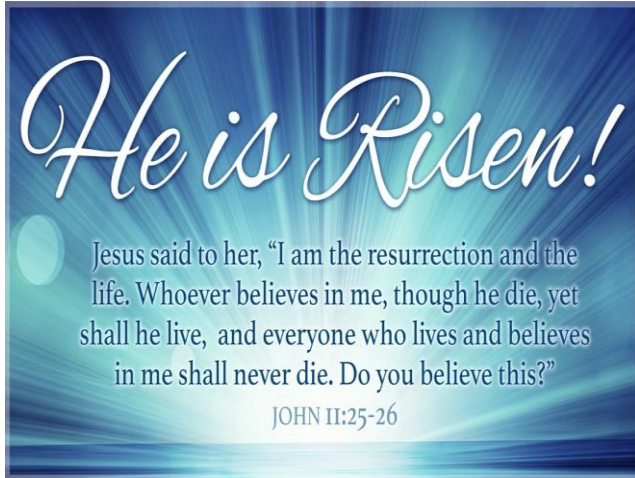




Community News
26 March 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Church Services

Sunday:

8am Batemans Bay Holy Communion
9.25am 2 EARFM 107.5FM
10am Prayer and Praise
6.30pm Worship

Readings:

Psalm 130 (Page 500)
Colossians 4:2-6 (Page 958)
John 11:1-45 (Page 873)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 23; John 8:1-11
Tuesday: Psalm 102:18-22; John 8:21-30
Wednesday: Psalm 38; John 8:31-42
Thursday: Psalm 105:7-11; John 8:51-59
Friday: Psalm 18:1-7; John 10:31-42
Saturday: Psalm 85:8-13; John 11:45-57
Sunday: Psalm 31:9-18; Philippians 2:5-11;
Matthew 26: 14-27

Life-giving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/01.-Anglican-News-March-2023.pdf>

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.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Congratulations and blessings to Ros Dee who will turn 80 on Friday 31st March.



AGM: Thank you to all who participated in the AGM. We had an excellent attendance. The Parish Report is included in this week's email. The Parish faces significant challenges in 2023 which Parish Council is looking to address.

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 **Boat Ramp – opposite Seven Cafe** 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 (savory 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

MARKET STALL: Saturday 15th April 2023 8am – 1pm at the Church. Supporting BCA. Call Belinda on 0434102480 to book a stall.

SOMA MISSION: Rwanda: 17th to 29th April. Rev Liz Rankin and Tilly are part of the team (with John D and Jan H) and both are excited about going to Africa. Please keep the team in prayer. If you wish to financially support the team see the post on SOMA Australia page, [Rwanda Mission – Meet the Team \(somaau.org\)](http://Rwanda Mission – Meet the Team (somaau.org)) or Gayleane has the details.

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 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? Each of us has people who have influenced our faith development and indeed each of us has been an influence to others. The character of those influencing me included authenticity, they lived what they preached, humility, they knew it was through Christ that they could live as they did, Simplicity, they lived simple, straightforward lives, no secret knowledge required just a trust in God, they prayed and expected God to move and answer their prayers and they had an active confident faith.

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

Keep a Journal or lists of what you pray for and when. Look back at it when God answers a prayer and see what you prayed and compare it to what God does. Often God's answer is slightly different, and better, and but looking at how God moves we can sharpen our prayers and petitions. We will also see prayers that God appears not to have answered, yet! We can re-examine these and review what caused us to pray and what we asked for – we may in reflecting decide that it was not the thing to ask for, or we may be encouraged to persist with prayer as God's answers are not always instant. At a previous church we had four Sunday school teachers (and no one else wanting to teach Sunday school) and six kids- we prayed for more kids to come and three weeks later two families joined the church and the number of kids attending increased to 23, completely overwhelming the teachers. In hindsight, we should have prayed for more workers because the harvest is always there for God to bring in. Paul suggests we pray the gospel to be preached with confidence and clarity and for open hearts to receive it.

When we reach out and share the gospel with others what equips and prepares us, and how are we to approach this activity? We are prepared by prayer, study and the Holy Spirit. We are to remember that when Paul speaks of proclamation he sees it as a plural activity - to be undertaken by all the church as an iterative, ongoing activity. Most people that respond positively to the gospel have had at least 12 God related conversations/ encounters with people of faith before they make a conscious response to a gospel proclamation-many others respond not to a spoken word but to an invitation to relationship with you leading them to ask about your life and values, others, increasingly fewer, are born into faith families and just absorb faith until one day they look up and realise that they have chosen to worship God - but each must come to that moment of personal encounter with Jesus. God alone saves and redeems.

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. Onesimus is described by Paul as a faithful partner in the gospel and a brother in Christ, he is also Philemon's runaway slave – legally owned by Philemon. By identifying himself as a slave, Paul takes common position with Onesimus and reminds us of all that social status is of no value in determining our worth before God - to God we are all regardless of our human accomplishments of one nature and value. In Christ there are no Jews or Gentiles, slave or free, male or female but all are one. Church history identifies an early Bishop as Onesimus and it is possible, but not possible to confirm, that this refers to this Onesimus

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

God's nature: God treats us as we do not deserve, as beloved children.

Repentance and forgiveness: God makes forgiveness available to all who repent, regardless of the depth or duration of their sin, and his forgiveness is total – there are no distinctions according to crime in heaven.

Our calling to love others: If God forgives us absolutely and loves us as his children then we are called to love others in the same way. No making distinction by their sins but trusting God that those who have truly repented will be changed by God into his likeness and nature.

Sunday 26 March – Be Prayerful!

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.

Traditional: I will Sing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAcpYr9I6Tk>

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

Read. Colossians 4: 2 – 6. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Thoughts: Devote yourself to prayer! Paul encourages the church in Colossae to withstand the cultural pressures of living in a world filled with visible rulers (like corrupt religious leaders) and invisible powers (like deceptive spiritual beings). Paul tells us that the church can withstand these pressures because it has been rescued to live in a new world, God's new creation. Living this way with Jesus allows his new creation to become a visible and experienced reality on Earth as it is in Heaven for Christians, even in the midst of life's daily pressures and suffering. Paul started this letter in prayer and he concludes it by reiterating the need for constant prayer – constant conversation with God. Culture expressing itself as spirit always seeks to distract us from Jesus and to deceive us into self-focus and wants. Prayer keeps us centered on God and focused on Christ so that we may continuously grow into the nature of God with our words seasoned with the gospel and full of grace and mercy.

Psalm 42: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuvddPLM-Jc&list=RDNnExXYToQUo&index=24>

Prayers: Loving God, we pray for the People of Ukraine and Russia. For all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may walk in your ways and that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. We pray for those newly elected to lead us in NSW, may they govern with integrity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQHSVF438Cg&ab_channel=CHRISTelle27II

Lord, we pray for your church in Batemans Bay that we will work together to in spiritual unity and with visible evidence of your grace, mercy and forgiveness. Heal and restore all who we persistently pray for: 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, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Rachel Harding, Tony Hughes, Annette Stewart Jess Hughes, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Jonathon and Leticia. We give thanks for answered prayers that Rodney and Jason from Hope House have found affordable rental accommodation.

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: O For a 1000 Tongues <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4O9kw3cLLpg>

Contemporary: 10,000 Reasons https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE&ab_channel=GloryToFatherGod

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: — Lectio Divina, Praying the Word. Have one person read **Philippians 2: 5—11** and all listen in prayer for about 2 minutes—listen for a particular word or phrases that resonates with you, the God seems to bring to your particular attention. Write the word or phrase down but do not share it as yet.

Silently read the same passage to yourself. Wait and pray silently for another minute listening to God. You may get another word or deeper insight to the word/s previously heard in prayer. The leader then invites everyone to speak out the words or phrases that they have heard. ***There is no comment or discussion at this point—just speak out the word of God you received.***

Have the passage read slowly again—share any words or phrases again. When all who want to have spoken any new words or phrases —**now you can discuss, briefly comment or ask clarifying questions of one another to dig deeper into God's word. It is a bit like building a mosaic with the collective discernment of what elements of the reading God wants you to reflect on together today.**

The leader collects the insights gained from praying through these verses & summarizes the insights gained. What is God's combined message to you all? Discuss and comment on the collective message and on your experience of reading scripture together like this. **Who do you most relate to [today] in the story? Why?**