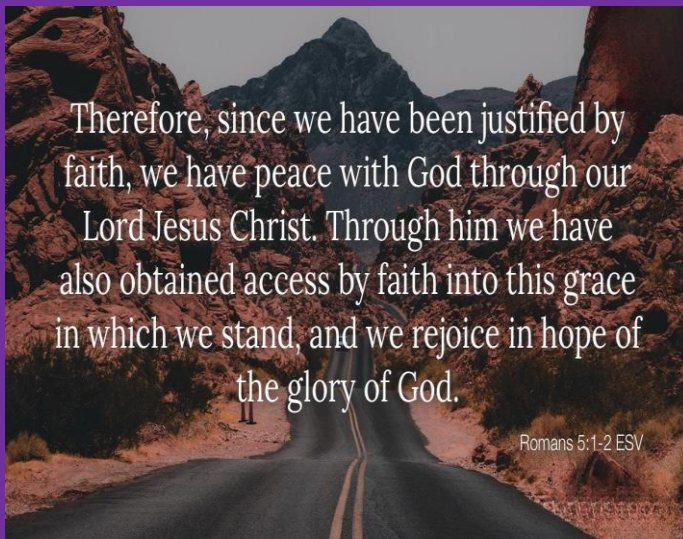




**Community News**  
**18 June 2023**  
**Third Sunday after Pentecost**



**Church Services**

**Sunday:**

**8am** Holy Communion  
**9.25am** 2 EAR FM  
**10am** Holy Communion  
**6.30pm** Worship

**Readings:**

Genesis 18:1-15 (Page 12)  
Psalm 116:1-2,11-18 (Page 491)  
Romans 5:1-11 (Page 917)  
Matthew 9:35-10:23 (Page 790)

**Readings**

**Monday:** Psalm 98:1-7; Matthew 5:38-42  
**Tuesday:** Psalm 146; Matthew 5:43-48  
**Wednesday:** Psalm 112; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18  
**Thursday:** Psalm 111; Matthew 6:7-15  
**Friday:** Psalm 34:1-8; Matthew 6:19-23  
**Saturday:** Psalm 34:4-10; Matthew 6:24-34  
**Sunday:** Psalm 86:1-10; Romans 6:1-11;  
Matthew 10:24-39

Lord, we beseech you to keep your family, the Church, in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**EMAIL:** [anglicanbbay@gmail.com](mailto: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 [drnewman1956@gmail.com](mailto:drnewman1956@gmail.com)

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**WARDENS:** John Ulph 0411242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422099889

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

**ANGLICAN NEWS:** <http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/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.

**PENTECOST RETREAT PODCAST:** <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/anglican-renewal>

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To David Hawdon on being awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to the community in a variety of roles, mostly in the Batemans Bay area.

**PASTORAL PRAYER WORKSHOP:** Saturday 24 June from 1-4pm at church. A workshop on praying pastorally for people during church services, pastoral visits e.g. hospitals and Nursing Homes and in home groups or other social settings. All are welcome. Please register with Gayleane in the office so that we know how much material to copy.

**CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Sunday 25 June will be our annual launch of Operation Christmas Child. Please remember to save 10 cent recyclable bottles and cans and drop them off at church for Pauline. It is good for the environment and significantly helps to fund the boxes that Pauline collects and sends.

**SOMA AGM:** You are invited to our online AGM which has been scheduled for 6.00pm Thursday 29th June 2023. The access link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83937603315>  
Meeting ID: 839 3760 3315 Please feel free to join us to hear all of what has taken place over the last 12 months and to hear what God is stirring for the future.

**LADIES MORNING TEA:** Calling all cool chicks for a ladies fellowship morning tea which will be held on the first Monday of each month, the first being Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, at Maloney's Beach Café Maloney's Beach at 10.30am. There are delicious delicacies available and all hand made by Erin (including Gluten free cakes). Please leave your name on the clipboard in the office if you are attending so we can let Erin know a rough number for catering. For further information see Joan Dolstra or Joy Williams.



#### **PRAYERS AND PRAISE:**

- Continued prayers for those who are unwell or going through personal situations. We give thanks for answered prayers with health and personal situations.

**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, Bronwyn Lithgow, Lisa Brookes, Chris Black, Ruby Brown, Jane Wilkinson, Susan Bateman, Rev Mary Clarke.

**Bible Study Answers: Romans 5: 1-11. What does Paul mean by the term justification? What do we gain through justification?** By justification, Paul means that we have been set right with God through the forgiveness of our sins achieved by Jesus death on the cross and our acceptance and belief in his death and resurrection for us. Through justification by grace, we have peace with God, and we experience the present peace of God. We also rejoice in the hope that this peace with God gives to us.

**It is easy to understand rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God but what do you feel and think about Paul's encouragement to rejoice in (during) suffering?** This is always difficult to consider and work through – our very instinct is to avoid all suffering and therefore we expect God to prevent any circumstances that might lead to our suffering. Paul does not see it this way, he understands that to follow Christ is to also enter into Christ's suffering so that we might have an understanding of the value that God places on our lives. Paul draws on his experience of suffering to express how God in the midst of our suffering can refine our character (fruit of the Spirit) and reveal the nature of true hope – hope revealed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

**What does suffering do for our Christian character and why was that important to the Roman church; why might it be important for us?** Suffering builds perseverance and character in our lives. It gives us a God perspective in our lives and an understanding that even when we ourselves are powerless in the face of evil God is able to provide a way to life for us. The Roman Christians at the time were experiencing sporadic persecution – this would intensify in later years and these words would offer strength and hope to them. These words offer strength and hope to us in our times of trial and to the persecuted church.

**How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in times of suffering?** I have experienced a surreal sense of peace in the midst of persecution and also in praying during life threatening illnesses. God has made his presence felt when all around looks impossible and has delivered and healed people when it did not seem possible. I draw on that lived experience for hope and courage to still pray for seemingly impossible circumstances.

**In verses 9 – 10 Paul introduces the concept of reconciliation. This is similar to, but different from, justification can you use these to two verses to explore what reconciliation is?** Justification occurs through the cross and restores our relationship with God. It is essentially a legal concept that focuses on justice being seen to be done. Reconciliation with God has occurred because we have been justified by Christ. Reconciliation opens the opportunity for continual growth in our relationship with God and in the development of our character by the ongoing presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### **Sunday 12 June – Laughing at God.**

Sarah laughs at God's promise to give her a son within the year because she cannot understand how God can do what God has promised. All of us face this circumstance at some time where we need to trust God to provide what is needed when we cannot see a practical means of God's provision. Trust and obey.

**Traditional:** Father I Place. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T8759Wdg3U>

**Contemporary:** The Heart of Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-Zp586pvZg>

**Read. Genesis 18: 10- 15.** <sup>10</sup>Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup>Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." <sup>15</sup>Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

**Thoughts:** In Genesis 17 God promises Abraham that he will become the father of nations, a great multitude of descendants through a son born to his wife Sarah. At that time Abraham is 100 and Sarah is 90 and Abraham is perplexed by this promise. In Genesis 18, three persons (to be understood as God) visit Abraham and speak to him, we pick up the conversation at verse 10. Sarah laughs at God, how can it be that she at 90, she who has been barren all her life and spurned and despised by other women for her inability to have children, how can she have a child. Understandably she laughs and it is probably a

sad and perhaps the bitter laugh of one who has been mocked and disappointed. She laughs because she does not recognize who is promising her that this will be. A child for her within the year. How often are we confronted with seemingly impossible life circumstances, circumstances where we believe we have heard God promise good, increase and abundance and yet what our eyes see is only increasing incapacity to work at doing and achieving what God has promised. Our problem is that often we assume that the things of the Kingdom of God can only come about through our striving and our efforts – this story points to just the opposite. What God has promised God will do but in such a manner that it will be evident that only God could have done it – the glory will be his. God can give a barren woman a child, even at a very advanced age of 99 and that child will be the progenitor of many nations. In this week's gospel (Matthew 10: 7-8) Jesus tells the disciples that the Kingdom of God is near – and with an implied therefore he sends them to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons. The actions of the disciples do not bring about the Kingdom they flow out of the presence of the Kingdom and God's presence and authority. When we are confronted by the seeming impossibility of God's direction we are tempted to laugh like Sarah but what we need to know is that what God promises God will bring to pass.

**Prayers:** Lord God almighty, give us the courage to pray for that which believe you have already promised us, for that which we hope for but which we have not yet received and for that which we cannot perceive or understand how you can bring it to pass. Reveal to us the Kingdom of God present and glorious. Father, we place into your hands the things we cannot do and ask that you direct our hearts to the path you set before us that you may be known and glorified in our city.

**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:** Trust and Obey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fiw9IKa8SbY>

**Contemporary:** Miracles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gz5OdLOT8w>

**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 Romans 6: 1-14. This builds on Romans 5: 8. Paul is addressing our justification and in chapter 6 speaks of how we should live in response to God's grace to us in Jesus Christ. **How does Paul use the concept of baptism here, what is he expressing with it?**

**What is the consequence of our being alive in Christ?**

**How are we to respond to Christ's resurrection?**

**How challenging is it to not let sin reign? Why is sin so addictive to us?**