



Community News
23 July 2023
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



But you, O Lord, are a
God merciful and
gracious, slow to anger
and abounding in
steadfast love and
faithfulness. ~Psalm
86:15

Church Services

Sunday:

8am Batemans Bay Holy Communion
9.25am 2 EAR FM
10am Batemans Bay Prayer
6.30pm Worship

Readings:

Isaiah 44:6-8 (Page 587)
Psalm 86:11-17 (Page 474)
Romans 8:12-25 (Page 919)
Matthew 13:24-43 (Page 794)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 24:7-10; Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday: Psalm 78:11-15; Matthew 12:46-50
Wednesday: Psalm 78:20-30; Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday: Song of the 3YM; Matthew 13:10-17
Friday: Psalm 19:7-14; Matthew 13:18-23
Saturday: Psalm 50:1-6; Matthew 13:24-30
Sunday: Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39;
Matthew 13:44-58

O God, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections: teach us to love what you command, and to desire what you promise, that, among the changes and chances of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 0410915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422099889

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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. We 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– please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

OFFICE: Gayleane is on leave for the month of July. Please use the parish email for routine matters or contact Doug directly for more urgent issues.

COMBINED CHURCHES SERVICE: Sunday 30 July 6.30pm at the Salvation Army. All welcome.

WOMENS COLOURFUL MIND ART: Continuing each Thursday afternoon in July; 12.30 -2.30pm in the hall.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCH: Sunday 30 July will one combined service at 10am. A roast fellowship lunch will be available in the hall after the service for \$10 per person. There is a clipboard in the office to indicate attendance for catering. Volunteers are requested to help with catering.

COMBINED SERVICE: Sunday 30 July will be the fifth Sunday in July. We will have one service that day, a combined service using third order communion with carols and to be held at 10am. It will be at 10am (not the usual 9am) because it will be followed by a roast Christmas in July fellowship meal in the hall.

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

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, Dora Coma, Harry Lewis, Wendy and Chris Berger, Jay Stewart, Helen Plumb, Marina Vander-Burgh, Keith Sutherland, Iain Ritchie, Rodney Hay, Susan Dean, Robin Hay, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Annette Stewart, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Jonathon and Leticia, Bronwyn Lithgow, Lisa Brookes, Chris Black, Ruby Brown, Jane Wilkinson, Susan Bateman, Richard Austin, Eric Strachan, Roger Hacker, John Wilkinson.

Bible Study Answers: What is the Kingdom of Heaven like? Read Matthew 13: 24 – 53. What visual image does the parable of the weeds give us of the kingdom? What is the field in the parable? Does this image help you make sense of the world as it is? The field is the world. The world has a mix of righteous and unrighteous people or living together in close proximity and sometimes, perhaps often, not externally appearing that different. There are a lot of good people out there who are not right with God (righteous). In this world good and evil are seen to co-exist, indeed often they co-exist in the hearts of individuals. We live in this as a reality but this parable tells us that into our reality the Kingdom of God has come and exists and will eventually with Jesus return fully replace our current reality. This image helps us understand why the world is the way it is and gives us comfort that we have a good future outcome. We are also encouraged to live in the emerging Kingdom of God.

Why does the farmer let the weeds remain until the harvest? What will happen to the weeds? The weeds will eventually be gathered and destroyed. The farmer, who is God, leaves the weeds to grow because the consequence of removing the weeds would be damage to the wheat as the workers trampled through the field to reach the weeds. This is true in the physical, can you just think on your pain if suddenly those members of your extended family who are not interested in God were suddenly and violently removed from your world? The other reason that God leaves the weeds in place because unlike physical wheat and weeds people can change spiritually and God continually calls the weeds to change and become righteous. The wheat living in close proximity has an important role in be a living witness of goodness and righteousness to the weeds.

What will happen to the righteous after the harvest? They are gathered into the fully realized Kingdom of God and live in the presence of God.

What other images are used throughout these parables to explain the Kingdom of Heaven, what do they have in common, how might they differ?

Mustard seed - small and insignificant but grows into the largest garden plants providing living space to the birds.
Yeast – a very small quantity over time causes great lightness and increase in whatever it is added into.

Treasure hidden in the field – the field is comparatively vast and the treasure is small but valuable, it is to be sought for and discovered, it is to be highly prized.

Pear of great value – the pearl is small, perfect in shape and of great value.

Net and fish – this parallels the wheat and weeds – both good and evil are caught in the one net, both co-exist.

The Kingdom of God is present in the midst of this age.

House owner – has new and old treasures, the kingdom of God retains the good of old but will also bring forth new treasures.

Sunday 23 July – The uniqueness of God.

Traditional: At the name https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w-tDjIpgk&list=PL-Wo7lu6CksuTKdkFbx68JxCo0xmtG81A&index=19&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Contemporary: Ancient Words <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vmTkXNpwzs>

Read. Isaiah 44: 6-8. "This is what the Lord says— Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

Thoughts. Why is the singularity, the uniqueness of God, important. In this passage God declares that he is the first and the last and that there is no other God. The context of this passage is that it is in the midst of a section talking about the futility of worshipping idols but it is a powerful statement to the Hebrews in exile. Despite what you see in this powerful Babylonian empire in which you are a captive alien their Gods, their idols, are created by human hands within our creation and have no power. We are reminded of the text – God said, apart from me you can do nothing – all real power devolves from God or is permitted by God for his purposes. There is no other one who can foretell the future or control it. Evil power exists but it exists within creation. We are to not be anxious or afraid and we are to witness to the goodness, power and presence of God in our lives and in our community.

Prayers: Father behold the circumstances of Ukraine and send them aid in their time of need. Increase the fruits of the earth by your blessing; and grant that receiving your gifts with thankful hearts, they may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need, and for their own health. We pray that the fruits of their, land especially their grains, be released to the markets of the countries dependent on their produce for their annual sustenance.

Keep us watchful for Christ's return, that we may be found faithful in all that you have entrusted to us.

Living God; You have placed in our hands the wealth we call our own: through your Spirit give us wisdom, that our possessions may not be a curse, but a means of blessing in our lives. Grant us a spirit of generosity and a faith to hold to your promise as we bring our mites as an offering to you.

Grant your peace to your church and your children that we may with one heart and one voice bring our praise and thanksgiving before you, for the glory of our Lord and Saviour.

Lord let us to be a blessing and to boldly proclaim your blessing to our families and our community.

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: God has spoken https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoPiKqKTmbg&list=PL-Wo7lu6Ckst1nKUa08cPgxxJL0cNg6zn&index=10&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Contemporary: Christ our hope

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oibli1rz7mw&ab_channel=KeithandKristynGetty

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 8: 22 -39. Why is hope that is seen is no hope at all? How does the Holy Spirit help us when we cannot see the way ahead?

We know that in all things God works for good – discuss this using personal experience. Why is this idea so challenging to us?

Romans 8: 29-30 describe the concept of predestination by God. Outline the process of predestination to glorification (see also Ephesians 1: 4-6, 11).

Let us dig deeper. How do you reconcile predestination with free will? What could be the implications of this concept of predestination for how we live and practice our faith? How does it feel to know that you are chosen?

How might we understand verses 38 -39 in the context of this passage?