



Community News

30 July 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Church Services

Sunday:

9.25am 2 EAR FM

10am **Batemans Bay
Combined Service
Holy Communion**

6.30pm Combined Churches – Salvation Army

Readings:

1Kings 3:4-12 (Page 266)

Psalms 119:129-136 (Page 496)

Romans 8:26-39 (Page 919)

Matthew 13:44-58 (Page 795)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 106:20-24; Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday: Psalm 103:6-14; Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday: Psalm 99:5-9; Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday: Psalm 84:1-7; Matthew 13:47-53

Friday: Psalm 81:1-10; Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday: Psalm 67; Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday: Psalm 17: 1-7; Romans 9:16-19; Matthew 14:13-21

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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 9am-12pm and Fridays 9am-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. 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.

GLEAN: This Wednesday at 1.30pm.

LADIES LUNCH: Monday week, 7 August 10.30am at Maloney's Beach Café. Contact Joy for more details.

BECET PRAYERS: Monday week, 7 August 5.00pm in the Church Hall.

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

WOMENS COLOURFUL MIND ART: Continuing each Thursday afternoon in August; 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.

PRAYERS FOR ALAN DEAN: Elizabeth and the family thank you for the ongoing prayers for Alan. He remains seriously ill and will be in hospital for at least two more weeks. However, his diagnosis has come back as NOT cancer and his condition is treatable.

CONGRATULATIONS: Shania Toohey recently engaged to Glen Harris.

BLESSINGS AND THANKS: Rev Liz Rankin standing down as National Director and Rev Colin Walters stepping down from the SOMA Board. Well done good and faithful servants.

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: 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? Hope that is seen can be understood and controlled or worked for, it is within our understanding and control and hence requires no real faith or provision of God. The hope (in God) that we have flows from our understanding of the nature and character of God, a God who intervenes in the world and in our life to guide and protect us, to teach us and to express his love for us. We recognize in some circumstances that we do not know what specifically needs to be done to best resolve the issues, indeed Paul says that even the very creation groans in turmoil. We can look at issues like Climate change and see the angst that it causes in our world but also see the complexity of the issue and realise that no one has a clear and certain answer to the challenges of the issue – and therefore it is difficult to know how to pray other than to place trust in God. In circumstances like this the Holy Spirit is present with us. When we have run out of words and ideas the spirit expresses our heartfelt concerns to God, he intercedes for us. The other gift of the spirit is the capacity in the spirit to remain calm and at peace in the midst of hard trials – our hope is in the God who is beyond and outside of ourselves not in our own limited capacities.

We know that in all things God works for good – discuss this using personal experience. Why is this idea so challenging to us? It is often difficult in the midst of deep and dark places and times of trial to see any possibility of good. Before I had faith I failed, due to lack of physical skill, to achieve a major life goal. If I had not failed that I would have been unlikely to have married Julie and may not have come to faith. I would be someone else and somewhere else. Interestingly I learned enough in that training course I failed to be uniquely skilled to take the lead in developing a whole new military capability – an area which I worked in for over 30 years and which funded my Theology training. Not how I would have done things but God is able to bring good out of loss. I also regularly talk

with people who when facing a major life crisis realign their priorities and see God move to reconcile families and relationships, or to bring to life new and sustaining relationships out of the ashes of loss.

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). Pre-destination occurs when God chose us (before creation – God being outside of time understood all that we would do but chose us anyway) and having chosen us he then called (by his spirit) us into a process that would lead us to him and into a deep and personal relationship with him through Jesus. That process starts with our sensing or hearing the call – the invitation. We respond to that invitation and in accepting Jesus we find grace and forgiveness for our sins (a reversal of our distance from God to restored intimacy with him). We are justified through Christ and are then seen as holy and blameless – redeemed. We have put our hope in Christ and been adopted as children of God - we give praise to God and we are at the end of this life raised to glory – a position in the throne room of heaven.

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? You are chosen and you are called - but you have always had the opportunity to reject or ignore that call. Yes, God knows who will answer but he still calls to everyone regardless of his foreknowledge. Everyone has the opportunity, often many times, to respond to Christ's call. If we did not have the possibility to reject God then we would be little more than slaves or servants. If we know we are chosen then we should live our lives with purpose and confidence in the pursuit of God and in the service of God's kingdom here on earth. This service will take varied forms but ultimately our faith and actions should point and draw others to God. To know you are a child of God, chosen, redeemed and loved, is to be given the spiritual power and authority to endure all trials and persecutions. Nothing can separate you from God.

How might we understand verses 38 -39 in the context of this passage? The great love of God is always with us and holds us and enables us to live and witness to God's goodness and grace in all circumstances. It sustains us in all things.

Sunday 30 July – Chosen.

Traditional: Here is love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM>

Contemporary: How deep the fathers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLDGVI8D5UU>

Read. Romans 8: 28 -39. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thoughts. In all things!! It is difficult to consider that God is able to work good in all things for those who have accepted him as Lord and Saviour – especially when we are in the midst of a serious trial. When we can see no good possible outcome of our present dilemma we wonder where God is and what God is doing. Note this text does not promise that God will deliver us out of our trials, to do so is to abrogate life and our free will that often gets us into these places. Rather, God is promising that even our experience of deep trials can provide us with future gifts and abilities that he can use. This does not mean that we experience good in the specific trial but rather that having endured the trial at some later point we are able to use that experience for good – often in the helping of others. If we start at the end of our passage with the thought that nothing can separate us from the love of God then read back into the time of trial we see that God is in the midst of every life event with us and through trust in him we are able to navigate life in a way that allows us to thrive not just survive.

Prayers: Mighty God and ruler of all creation, give new strength to our faith, that we may recognize your presence even when all hope seems lost. Help us to face all trials with serenity as we walk with Christ through

the stormy seas of life and come at the last to your eternal peace. Lord, we see the pain of the people caught in isolation and darkness who without you have no hope, no peace and no certainty. Answer their needs Lord, even when they deny your existence, reveal yourself to them in dreams and visions that they might find a real and true hope in the harshest of days. Inspire in us Lord and heart for them and an eye to see them as you do so that your word may come to them and set them free and bring back for them.

We pray for the Salvation Army and for the Combined Churches service with them on Sunday night. E pray also for the Baptist Church as they seek a new pastor and especially for Jason and Wendy Morris from the Baptist Church as Wendy recovers from significant surgery this week and they are with family.

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: King of Glory https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-lwX1Yc2Ho&ab_channel=GLORIOUSGOSPELHYMNSANDSONGS

Contemporary: Good and Gracious <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnExXYToQUo>

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: Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpCBFXVx9TQ> We tend to think of the gospel stories as independent sequential events – how does the video give a different impression of this story.

Read Matthew 14: 13 -21. Chapter 13 ends with Jesus being unable to do miracles in his own home town – a prophet is without honour. John is summarily disposed of by Herod and then Jesus feeds the 5000. How was Jesus feeling? Why did the crowds follow Jesus. What did Jesus feel about the crowds and then do?

Why does Jesus feed the crowds – and what can we see revealed of the nature of Jesus in his actions? How many ate and were satisfied – how much was left over? Why were there 12 baskets?

This story has parallels to the Wedding at Cana – what does it tell us about God's priorities for us and what God is able to do for us if we seek him out?