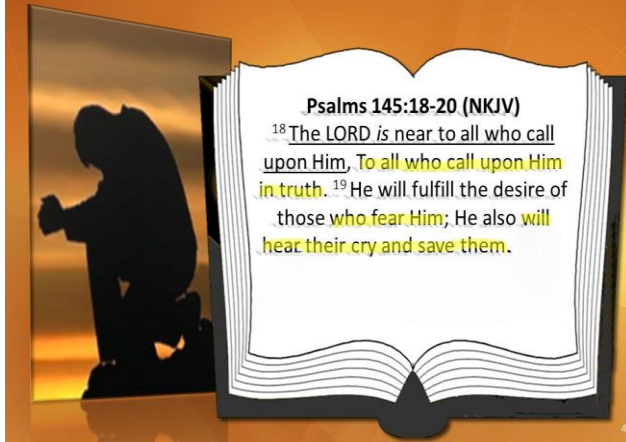


Drawing Nearer To God



Psalms 145:18-20 (NKJV)
¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

Church Services

Sunday:

8.00am Holy Communion

9.25am 2 EAR FM

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

Psalms 17:1-7 (Page 431)

Romans 9:1-16 (Page 920)

Matthew 14:13-21 (Page 796)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 81:11-16; Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday: Psalm 51:1-7; Matthew 15:1-14

Wednesday: Psalm 106:17-24; Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday: Psalm 95:1-7; Matthew 16:13-23

Friday: Psalm 77:11-15; Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday: Psalm 18:1-7; Matthew 17:14-20

Sunday: Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 1:4-15;
Matthew 14:22-36

Almighty God, whose beloved Son for our sake willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross: give us courage and patience to take up our cross daily and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and 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 Wednesday mornings 9am-1pm 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. 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.

UPDATED HOURS FOR GAYLEANE IN OFFICE: Wednesday: 9am to 1.00pm and Friday: 9.00am to 3.00pm.

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

BBECET PRAYERS: Monday 7 August 5.00pm in the Church Hall.

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

CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCH: Thank you to everybody who helped and who came and made this a very enjoyable shared time of fellowship.

PRAYERS FOR ALAN DEAN: Elizabeth and the family thank you for the ongoing prayers for Alan. Alan will be home today (Friday).

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: 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.** I was caught by how the video showed the feeding as an integral part of Jesus teaching rather than a standalone miracle – it looked natural and was a response to a natural need, they needed to be fed because they had travelled and gathered and God did not neglect their physical needs while ministering to their spiritual hunger.

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? Jesus is devastated by the loss of his friend and cousin John the Baptist, not only did John go before him and prepare people for Jesus ministry but the very nature of John's death and Jesus recent prophetic challenges in Nazareth remind him of what lies ahead for him. Jesus was in grief and he was seeking to get away on his own to be alone with his memories of John. We have all experienced that need and know how emotionally difficult it can be when anyone makes an unwanted intrusion into our solitude. Jesus response is different to ours – he sees the crowds with God's eyes – he sees their need, they are like sheep without a shepherd and he has compassion on them. Jesus comes ashore and he heals all their sick. Think about how many sick there would be among 5000.

Why does Jesus feed the crowds – and what can we see revealed of the nature of Jesus in his actions.?

The disciples discern the need to feed the crowds, they are starting to think and operate beyond their own needs and more like Jesus. They can see the need and the challenge, they just can't see how to do it. Jesus says to them – you feed the crowds! They look to give everything they have, 200 denarii which is nowhere near enough and 5 loaves and 2 fish, enough perhaps for two people. They bring what they have to Jesus and Jesus, calling upon God with thanks, provides the food. Matthew is using this story to point to Jesus in the role/type of a new Moses, the one who will lead God's people out of captivity and bring them to the new creation. The feeding of the 5000 has strong parallels with the provision of manna and quail in the desert journey out of Egypt.

How many ate and were satisfied – how much was left over? Why were there 12 baskets? 5000 men plus women and children ate. There were 12 full baskets left over. There were 12 baskets because Jesus asked the 12 disciples to each participate in the feeding, the disciples are to lead God's people in a way analogous to the 12 tribes of Israel – it signifies that all God's people are to be led and fed.

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? In the wedding God provides the best wine but the source of provision is hidden, for Jesus' time had not yet come. Here God provides simple but wholesome food, food typical of the daily meal, and it is sufficient and nourishing but not a feast. Here the provision of God is visible through Jesus and it affirms his messiahship and irrevocably declares his divinity. The crowds want to elevate Jesus to King, and he leaves to avoid this because this is not the path that is before him. After this miracle there is no way of hiding who he is and the road to a death in Jerusalem has firmly begun

Sunday 6 August – Provided For.

Traditional: Break Now <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPGiVA731IM>

Contemporary: The Table https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peeqJ1bmT_w

Read. Matthew 14: 13 -21 When Jesus heard what had happened (that John the Baptist had been beheaded), he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." ¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Thoughts. God calls us to see those around us with his eyes and his heart – to have compassion on them even when that intrudes on our own angst, cares and anxieties. God realizes that the resources that we have are inadequate to the human solution of the problems we confront because much of what is a problem has its root in the human heart that is distant from God and hardened like Pharaohs. These hearts see power as the solution to all problems, but God sees compassion, trust and obedience as the better way. God is able to magnify our resources to resolve all manner of challenges in a way that unequivocally sees the glory given to God and not self-serving man. **God feeds us for the journey and provides for us that which is essential to abundant life!**

Song: Food for the Journey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwbXgOkWvK0>

Prayers: Father behold the circumstances of your people in 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. Multiply the crops and release the resources that this world has to feed those that are hungry especially those in Yemen and Africa experiencing food shortages at this time.

We pray for the City Church and Cameron and Shelley as they lead there and for Cross Central led by Tapa and Jo. Bless them as they share the Gospel and provide food pantry support to our community.

Pray for Batemans Bay Primary, Sunshine Bay Primary, Mogo Primary, Batemans Bay High schools. We pray a blessing on each of the schools, students, teachers and families in Term 3 and we give thanks for faithful volunteers teaching SRE in the Bay.

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: Immortal Invisible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oGuGzCFEWI>

Contemporary: Around the Table <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DfFhD3ZMV-4>

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=b7AuN_G3YT4 Does the video help you appreciate this story. What most struck you from the dialogue?

Read Matthew 14: 22 -36. This story follows immediately after the feeding of the 5000 and they are similarly linked in Mark (6:45) and John's gospels. Jesus is leaving before the crowds force him into direct confrontation with the authorities (see John 6:14-15). Jesus sends the disciples ahead by boat so that he can be alone and then he meets them on the water in the early morning (3.00 -6.00am). **What does this story tell us of Jesus?**

What does it tell us about Peter?

Where does the boat land and what does Jesus do (use all 3 gospels)?

What does it require for us to get out of the boat? How can this be a metaphor/ example for us?

Jesus Returns

Twas the night before Jesus came and all
through the place,
Not a creature was praying, no one down on
their face.

Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without
care,

In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
No one kneeling or bowing their head.

And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
Was watching the Late Show while I took a
nap.

When out of the East there arose such a
clatter,

I sprang to my feet to see what was the
matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the
sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should
appear,

But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.

With a light like the sun sending forth a
bright ray,

I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my
head,

It was Jesus returning just like He had said.

And though I possessed worldly wisdom and
wealth,

I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.

He spoke not a word as He searched for my
name;

When He said "It's not here" my head hung
in shame.

The people whose names had been written
with love,

He gathered to take to His Father above.

With those who were ready He rose without
a sound,

While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late,

I had waited too long and thus sealed my
fate.

I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;

Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is
clear,

The coming of Jesus is drawing near.

There's only one life and when comes the
last call,

We'll find that the Bible was true after all.