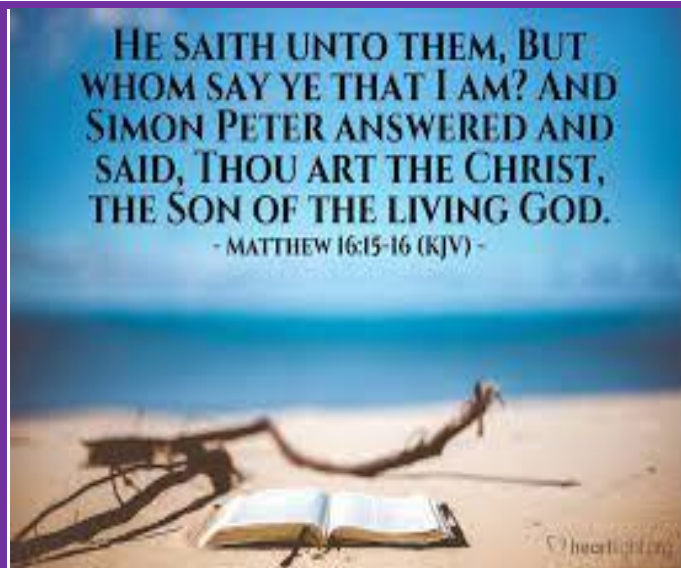




Community News
27 August 2023
Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost



Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

9.25am 2 EAR FM

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Isaiah 51:1-6 (Page 594)

Psalms 138 (Page 503)

Romans 12:1-8 (Page 922)

Matthew 16:13-20 (Page 798)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 149:1-5; Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday: Psalm 139:1-5; Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday: Psalm 139:6-11; Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday: Psalm 90:11-17; Matthew 24:42-51

Friday: Psalm 97:6-12; Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday: Psalm 130; John 12:20-32

Sunday: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; Romans 12:9-21;
Matthew 16:21-28

Creator God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EMAIL: anglicanbbay@gmail.com

PHONE: 44725822 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 and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 drnewman1956@gmail.com

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422099889

OFFICE: Gayleane Overy 0411091125

WEBSITE: <https://www.anglicanchurchbbay.org.au/>

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

ANGLICAN NEWS: <http://anglicanng.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. 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.

LEAVE: Doug and Julie will be on leave Monday 28th August to Friday 1st September, please pray for them to be rejuvenated and renewed.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has prayerfully reviewed their giving. The average giving across June and July was about \$3000 per month better than the first 5 months of the year. While this will not completely reduce our deficit, especially this year, it gives us confidence moving forward to be able to sustain our ministry. Community Life has returned the rectory to the parish now that the Hope House ministry has been completed. The Parish Council is working to provide a short term income producing use for the Rectory whilst engaging with Anglicare on potential longer term options. The parish will provide the small office for Community Life to use as the rectory and grounds are put to a new use. The Women's Mindfulness art classes have been significant endeavour with up to 15 women now attending and new relationships and godly conversations occurring regularly.

ISABELLA'S (Rob and Joy Williams granddaughter) CURSILLO: Please pray for Isabella and all the women making their Cursillo in Newcastle 31 August – 3 September. Kay Walters will also be participating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48vNfKUHWRw>

FILM – SOUND OF FREEDOM: From Thursday 24 August, Perry Street Theatre is showing, Sound of Freedom, an action film based on an account of human trafficking. This is a difficult subject and one that gets little exposure in our busy world where most of what we go to see is for our entertainment. Doug and Julie have seen it. We encourage you to consider attending one of the sessions: The trailer is:

<https://www.perrystreetcinemas.com.au/movies/sound-freedom>.

BOOMERANG WORKING BEE: Cleaning up at Boomerang on Saturday 2 September from 10am. All welcome, Rotary providing a sausage sizzle lunch.

BBECET PRAYER MEETING: BBECET prayer meeting on Monday 4th September at 5 pm in the Anglican Church hall. All welcome.

BCA: It is box opening time in September, please bring in your boxes for Robin.

WELFARE CUPBOARD: Please when you are shopping could you add an extra item for our welfare cupboard please. Thank you to those that contribute.

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, John Wilkinson, Dave Brown.

Bible Study Answers: Matthew 16: 1 -20. Who are the Pharisees and the Sadducees and why are they testing Jesus? What is the sign of Jonah? (Hint Matthew 12:29 , Luke 11:30). The Sadducees are the ruling priestly class, they control the temple, the feast days and the ritual worship. They collaborate with the Roman rule and are heavily influenced by the local Greek culture. They generally are in conflict with the Pharisees but here find common cause in rejecting Jesus but for differing reasons. The Pharisees are the teachers of the Law, the Rabbis that control many of the village and regional synagogues. They worship God through personal piety and strict

adherence to the Law – they reject Jesus because he calls to question their adherence to the letter of the law while missing God’s intent in giving it. The Law has become a rule to be obeyed rather than a revelation of God. Both parties have hard hearts. Both parties test Jesus because they want to see whether as an obvious prophet he will support them and their way of belief. They do not want him leading their constituents away from their control. The story of Jonah centres on Jonah spending three days in the belly of the big fish and then being miraculously delivered by God (a type of being reborn) to come out into a mission to save the most heinous sinners of Jonahs time. Jesus uses this allusion to Jonah as a pointer to the one miracle that will matter – his death, his descent into hell, his three days in the tomb and his resurrection - the spiritual equivalence of Jonahs time in the fish - and with the outcome of Jesus offering salvation to sinners. Just to note that while the Pharisees and Sadducees get mentioned in Matthew there were also other sects of Judaism at the time – notably the Zealots who favoured direct military action against Rome and the Essene who favoured even greater withdrawal and self-isolation and who were perhaps the charismatics of their time.

What might the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees be and why is it dangerous? The yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees is their truncated and self-serving focus on God poison the people who come seeking God and through control of temple ritual sacrament and Law/word they deter people from true relationship with God.

What is the nature of yeast and what might modern examples be of this risk to faith? In many ways, but there are important differences, the Pharisees can be seen has hard line evangelicals e.g. the Puritans and the Sadducees as liberal Catholics, e.g. the Cavaliers – parties who basic philosophical differences still play out in the Anglican faith today underpinning much of our current theological disagreements. It borders on caricature but we need to avoid worshipping our sacraments and rituals, or alternatively the bible and word, as a visible substitute for the God who inaugurated both and calls us to use them as an aid to deeper personal transformative relationship with Him.

Why might Matthew have followed this discussion of yeast and Jonah with Peters confession of Christ.

To point us to who God truly is and remind us that God has revealed himself to us in person.

What does Peter receive because of his revelation as to the true nature of Jesus? What might we receive when we see and recognize Christ as the Son of the Living God? Peter through revelation and acknowledgement of Christ receives Kingdom power and authority – not the power to judge and condemn, for that is God’s alone, but the power to see and proclaim what God is doing in this time. We to as faithful and spirit filled followers of Christ also receive power and authority from God to speak on his behalf to this generation.

Sunday 27 August – Jesus Messiah

Traditional: How Great Thou Art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USM71JqV30o>

Contemporary: Jesus Messiah <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdxSC1tHJn0>

Read. Matthew 16: 13 – 20. 13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Thoughts. Who do you say Jesus is? Is your Jesus peaceful, kind, benign, a friend and comforter – all these are useful and common visions of Jesus but is that all that he is? Sometimes I think that we have domesticated the prophetic voice of God to the point where it is drowned by the strident insistence of culture – where is the Jesus of this text in our lives. The people saw Jesus as continuing the line of wild and confronting prophets, Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist all fearlessly declared truth to Kings rulers and called them to account for their failure to be godly leaders, their failure to pint the nation towards God and to trust in God for his guidance and provision. The people wanted this of Jesus, fix our nation here and now and do it by force and power if needed. The disciples saw beyond that and Peter speaks for all of them, but even they do not yet have a full revelation of Christ- but they know that the Son of Man is the promised anointed one, the long expected Messiah. The one who comes to set us free, the one who calls us out onto the water and beyond our own capacities, the one who reveals the nature and heart of God to us. Do you know this Jesus?

Prayers: God of all, we bring before you the war in Ukraine. In a world you made for peace and flourishing, we lament the use of armed force. We mourn every casualty of this conflict, every precious life extinguished by war. Comfort those who grieve and those who are fearful. May all our human failings be transformed by your wonderful grace and goodness. We ask this in the name of Christ, the author of peace. Amen.

We pray for: Our Nation. Lord hear our prayers, and have mercy on our land. Help us to have hope and to persevere in these days that we may stand as a light in the darkness for those without a saving hope in you. For our Churches. Give to each church the gifts that its needs and the courage to stand in the gap and pray. Keep us safe in the time of trial and give your pastors resilience, your prophets true inspiration, your teachers clarity and your leaders true wisdom.

Those in need. Jesus, fill us with a heart of compassion for the widow, the orphan, the homeless and the lost that we who have much may extend our hand to those who have a need to know you. Sustain our prayers by your Spirit and our love by your hand. Take time to dwell and pray for what God is bringing to your attention. Give it to Him in prayer and then leave it at the cross with Him and trust.

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: Jesus Name Above All <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36-uu4TvOk4>

Contemporary: Jesus All for Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glvnLL-vvOo&ab_channel=GraceBibleChurch-Adell

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: No Study this week as Doug and Julie are on leave. Read Exodus 3: 1-15 with several different readers and bible versions - what words or verses catch your attention . Share these with the group – why do these words speak to you?