



Weekly Church Services

Nelligen – **No service this month**

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

2.30pm 2EarFM Broadcast

6.30pm Soaking

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Acts 1:1-11 (Page 884)

Psalm 93 (Page 478)

Ephesians 1:15-23 (Page 949)

Mark 16:15-20 (Page 830)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 68:1-6; John 16:29-33

Tuesday: Psalm 68:7-14; John 17:1-11

Wednesday: Psalm 68:28-35; John 17:11-19

Thursday: Psalm 16:1-6; John 17:20-26

Friday: Psalm 103:15-22; John 21:15-19

Saturday: Psalm 104:26-32; John 7:37-39

Sunday: Psalm 104:26-36; Romans 8:22-27;
John 15:26-16:15

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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DIRECT DEPOSIT: Anglican Investment & Development Fund. BSB: 702 389 Account: 05202562 Ref: AnglicanBBay2562

CHURCH: The office is open Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

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ANGLICAN NEWS:

2024: Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

HOUSEKEEPING: Books are available for worship—they 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. COVID and Flu—please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

NELLIGEN SERVICE: No service this month.

DISASTER RECOVERY REQUEST: In need of the following to add to resources in case of an emergency. After things to keep children busy but quiet, so need: coloured pencils; notepads; crayons, and colouring in/puzzle books. Please don't send textas as they dry out and are messy. If you wish to donate any of these items please leave them in the office and they will be passed on to Margaret Foster.

WELFARE CUPBOARD: Thank you to those that continue to give to our welfare cupboard. In need of the following please: tinned soups/stews; noodles; long life milk, cereal. We have enough pasta and rice.

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, Lisa Brookes, Chris Black, Ruby Brown, Jane Wilkinson, Susan Bateman, Richard Austin, Eric Strachan, John Wilkinson, Marjorie Duns, Ken Ormston, Katrina Nicolls, Kerry-Lee Smith, Judy and Jane Chapman, Amanda Lloyd, Matais Harpley, Alisha & Jess.

Bible Study: Read John 15: 9-17. What does it mean to you to be chosen by God? Do you feel chosen by God? When did you first feel/ know that you were chosen by God and what did that lead you to do? Share.

Clearly your answers to this will be very personal – they reflect your lived experience but they also represent a greater lived existential truth. Scripture tells us that God chooses us and indeed that God loves us before we even knew him – I chose you (verse 16). Romans 8:28 tells us that God's call and love is not random – we are called and chosen for a purpose – there is intentionality in God's call to us. So. Being chosen by God is easy for me to understand – I was not a Christian and not understanding of any of the doctrine of salvation when I cried out one anguished prayer to God in response to a reading of Matthew 11: 28 -30 - and woke up 10 minutes later on the floor. My experience of meeting God gives me great certainty in knowing that God chose me - but it is not the usual experience of most who come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. My immediate response was internal transformation that was in response to the Holy Spirit - it felt weird like I was a different person and many of my ideas and attitudes (to things Christian) changed almost instantly – like scales had been removed from my eyes. It started me on a path of saying yes to God and eventually responding to Jesus invitation to know him. ... and here I am almost exactly 34 years later.

How does our belief shape our actions? In what ways have you or do you lay down your life? Our belief shapes our values and how we look at and interpret the world (another term for this is our worldview – the lens through which we examine and filter what the world tells us). What we believe or don't believe informs what we do – atheists do not believe in God but have their understanding of the natural world informed by some version of evolutionary theory - hence at one level they do not respond to suffering with anger towards God (who they do not believe exists) but rather with a spectrum of responses from complete indifference (survival of the fittest is natural) to self-interested sympathy (it is right to help others and if I help them I will feel better and more in control of the world). Christians do get angry with God over suffering and the world, we know that this is not the plan and we are stirred to action, not to shore up our own position or comfort ourselves but because we see with the heart of Jesus and we respond to his heart and cry to help and love others as he has loved us. This can be costly, mostly in the opportunity cost of what we give up of our personal space, time and preferences to invest ourselves into the lives of others – and often the lives of others who cannot pay us back directly but in whom we trust the Spirit will move and that they will in turn in the kingdom be a helpmate and blessing to others whom God will bring to them.

Noting that all we do in our life of faith should flow from God's love how do we remain in God's love? How do we know our masters business? We immerse ourselves in reading and thinking deeply about God's word - we glean the truth by sifting the wheat from the chaff and applying what we learn to our lives and our decisions and we do it by constant prayer. Always asking God not just what is good and right but what it is that we should do. Often we can see many things in the church and the kingdom that need to be done and our task is to pray and ask God to prioritize those things we see and then tell us which of them are our calling. God is in the business of helping us to bear fruit and sometimes that is a time consuming and resource consuming business – if we allow ourselves to be distracted by all the urgent cries around us sometimes we will miss the really important but less strident call – and some times we can get drawn into events of the world with the best intentions and find on reflection that we have been diverted from things that God would have us focused on - it happens to me and it is prayer and Gods word and the occasional advice of a wise wife (or Godly counsel of a friend) that refocuses me on God's enduring call.

Read on in John: What are the worldly consequences of being chosen? You do not belong to the world and therefore the world will reject you and even hate you because you march to a different drum and do not comply with the worlds values. Jesus reminds us that the world first did this to him and that we are in his company when we are rejected. Opposition to authentically lived faith is to be expected.

Sunday 12 May – A Mother's Child & an Ascended Lord

The Ascension provides a book end to Jesus earth bound life and ministry. He comes at Christmas born of his mother Mary as a man to live amongst us but incarnate of the Holy Spirit and then 33 short years later he leaves us, alive, risen from the dead, and carried up into heaven. Restored to his place in the throne room of heaven at God's right hand.

Traditional: [All Hail the Power of Jesu's Name \(Tune: Miles Lane - 5w\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] \(youtube.com\)](#)

Contemporary: Blessing and Honour

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBcP1ICgUIM&ab_channel=pastorloran

Reading: Mark 16: 15-20. Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."¹⁹ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.²⁰ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Thoughts. Jesus parting words to his disciples ring down the centuries to us. They are an imperative, a command to those disciples to go and make other disciples, and they remain an imperative command to us and to each new generation – go and tell of the good news of Jesus so that some will be saved. God calls us and sends us – but like those first disciples he also works with us, preparing the hearts and ears of those we go to and still confirming his word and promise of good news with accompanying signs. We are to go and proclaim in his name.

Prayers. Loving God, your Son has chosen us and called us to be his friends: give us grace to keep his commandments, to love one another, and to bear fruit which will abide; through him who is the true vine, the source of all our life, Jesus Christ our Lord. We desire above all to see You Jesus, the true light, as you really are. Reveal yourself to this broken world that we might turn to you and be restored to life in its fulness. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for those who are mothers and for the gift of physical life that they gave and nurture to maturity. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children can bring. Give to them grace, wisdom, prophetic insight and a deep sense of your affirming presence as they socialize the next generation of leaders and adults. **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: [Ye Servants of God! Your Master Proclaim \(Tune: Laudate Dominum - 4w\) \[lyrics for congregations\] \(youtube.com\)](#)

Contemporary: [REVELATION SONG \(with Lyrics\) Kari Jobe \(youtube.com\)](#)

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 Acts 2: 1-21. This is the key description of Pentecost; who are the “they” expecting the Holy Spirit? Why are they expecting him and why is he sent to them. Hint: see also end of Marks gospel.

How is the arrival of the Holy Spirit described in Acts 2. What did the disciples see and what does this signify/result in?

Why is the Holy Spirit essential to our faith? What is the nature of the miracle that is described in Act 2: 5 -12 ?

How does Peter explain the giving of the Holy Spirit and what does he say the Spirit will enable amongst disciples?

Have you heard a word that you understood as being prophetic? Have you heard a word of knowledge that revealed an otherwise hidden truth or event to you?

