
ANGLICAN CHURCH *of the* ASCENSION

EAST BURWOOD



6th October 2024

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope”

Service for the Blessing of Animals



Welcome as we worship this Sunday with the beautiful creatures we love.

Entrance hymn:

***All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful –
the Lord God made them all.***

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings.**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one.**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky.**

**4 The tall trees in the green wood,
the meadows for our play
the rushes by the water
to gather every day.**

**5 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.**

TiS 135 Cecil F. Alexander 1818-95

Welcome

Please respond with the words in bold type

Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

We ask for your blessing

on the creatures present here that we love

and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.

In the name of God, who creates all life,

In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,

and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,

we proclaim with all in the circle of life:

May your blessing come!

Circle of Praise (Please stand with your pets)

All dogs and cats, large and small: **Praise the Lord!**

All rabbits, mice and guinea pigs: **Praise the Lord!**

All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures: **Praise the Lord!**

All parrots, lorikeets, and singing birds: **Praise the Lord!**

All wombats, kangaroos and wallabies: **Praise the Lord!**

All horses, cows, and sheep: **Praise the Lord!**

All lizards, snakes and creeping things: **Praise the Lord!**

Every animal in the sky, the rivers, sea, and bush: **Praise the Lord!**

*Please be seated as we come to a time of Thanks **and** Confession*

We hold the animal we love and place our hand on its body as we give thanks.

Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

We thank you, God!

Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We thank you, God!

Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

We are sorry.

Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals
in the bush, oceans, or fields,

We are sorry.

Absolution:

I speak for Christ. For all your sins against the creatures of Earth,
+ I forgive you and I call upon you to honour and protect all my animals.
Yes, I speak for Christ. May the animals of Earth be your companions
in life and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life.

Amen! Amen!

As we come home to Earth.

Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to love our home.

Lord, have mercy.

As we seek to care for our kin.

Christ, have mercy.

Let us join together in the Prayer for the Day:

**God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as our kin,
all animals as our partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.**

Reading for Blessing of the Animals

Old Testament reading: Genesis 1:20-31

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.'

And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Psalm 148. 7-15

O praise the Lord from the earth
praise him you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Praise the Lord!

Fire and hail, mist and snow:
and storm wind fulfilling his command;

Praise the Lord!

Mountains and all hills:
fruit trees and cedars;

Praise the Lord!

Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:
creeping things and winged birds;

Praise the Lord!

Kings of the earth, and all peoples:
princes, and all rulers of the world;

Praise the Lord!

Young men and maidens:
old folk and children together.

Praise the Lord!

Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for his name alone is exalted.

Praise the Lord!

His glory is above earth and heaven:
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

Praise the Lord!

Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him.

Praise the Lord!

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Matthew, chapter 6 beginning at verse 25

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to them, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

For the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon

The Prayers of the People:

Intercessions followed by:

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Please stand as we pass the Peace to each other: this is where we say "peace be with you" to each other and to our animals.

We are the body of Christ

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Offertory hymn:

"All Creatures of our God and King"

**All creatures of our God and king,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
alleluia, alleluia!**

**O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise Him, O praise Him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Swift rushing winds that are so strong,
and clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, alleluia!
fresh rising morn, in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise Him, O praise Him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
O praise Him, O praise Him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

TIS 100 St Francis of Assisi.
Tr. William Henry Draper

Prayer over the gifts:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives.

With all animals around the throne, we bless the Lamb of God. Amen!

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blesséd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing before the Sanctuary

All worshippers with animals now come to the altar step, each person placing a hand on the animal being held. The priest then moves to each animal, saying its name, holding a hand over the animal, and blessing it in the name of Christ who fills and heals all creation.

Invitation to communion:

The gifts of God, for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Sending Out

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for all her creatures.
Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our animals!

We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

Notices

Blessing

Spirit of God, who is above all, and in all, and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in all creation,
and the presence of Christ within you. And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with
you always. **Amen.**

Final hymn:

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank You, Lord, for giving me
wings.

And if I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could
sing.

And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle
with glee;

But I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart
And You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus
And You made me Your child,
And I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.*

If I were an elephant,
I'd thank You, Lord, by raising my
trunk.

And if I were a kangaroo,
You know I'd hop right up to You.

And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my fine
looks;

But I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart
And You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus
And You made me Your child,
And I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.*

If I were a wiggily worm,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could squirm.
And if I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile,
And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear,
I'd thank You, Lord, for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair;
But I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart
And You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus
And You made me Your child,
And I just thank You, Father,
For making me 'me'.*

Brian Howard

Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving all creatures!
In the name of Christ. Amen!

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WELCOME TO CHURCH

We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today, please take Communion,
whatever your denomination.

If you are visiting, please make yourself known to Fr Anthony or to one of our welcomers
following the service and do stay for a cuppa and chat!

NOTICES

The flowers today have been supplied and arranged by Judithe in loving memory of her husband Jim Atkinson.

Thanks to all who attended the Triva night. We had a great time and great company! Thanks to all who helped set up the hall and most importantly, all those who helped with the cleaning up afterwards!

Norma Leseberg. Next Sunday at the end of the 9:30am service, the ashes of Norma Leseberg will be interred in the Resurrection garden. All are welcome!

Op shop: Aggie has organized for Ascension to once again work in the Mt Waverley Lions Op shop. Our dates are 21-25th October. Still quite a few spaces left for you to fill!! A list with times and days is in the Narthex for you to add your names. See Aggie for more information.

News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*. The NewsStand is now live on TMA's website, using the link <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand>.

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR:

THE CHURCH

- Sun 6 City on a Hill East, Malvern (Nicholas Coombs); Anglicare Australia (Bp Chris Jones, Chair; Kasy Chambers, Exec Director); Shelford Girls' Grammar (Katrina Brennan, Principal); St Augustine's Mont Albert North – Pastoral service (Bp Kate Prowd); St Aidan's Strathmore – Reception service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Holy Trinity Williamstown – Pastoral service (Bp Brad Billings); Holy Trinity Williamstown – Pastoral service (Abp Philip Freier); St Matthew's Wheelers Hill – Pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker); St Stephen & St Mary's, Mt Waverley - Commissioning Service (Bp Paul Barker); The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (Archbishop Nathan Ingen);
- Mon 7 The Anglican Parish of Saint John and Saint Agnes East Malvern and Glen Huntly (Alexander Ross); Theological Colleges, Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Chaplain to Anglican Centre staff (Anne Wakeling);
- Tue 8 City on a Hill West, Maribyrnong (Luke Nelson); Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia; Archdeaconry of Williamstown (Glenn Buijs); The Anglican Parish of Gisborne – Commissioning Service, Vicar Scott Mudd (Bp Brad Billings);
- Wed 9 Religious Orders serving within the Anglican Church of Australia; St Michael's Grammar School (Terrie Jones, Principal, Kenyon McKie, Chaplain);
- Thu 10 City on a Hill Melbourne (Guy Mason, David Chiswell, Matthew Keller, Stephanie Judd); Locums and all retired clergy; Anglican Cursillo Movement;
- Fri 11 St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne (Andreas Loewe, Heather Patacca, Robert Vun, Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins, Amy Footson, Leili Shirmast, Pedram Shirmast); The Anglican Church of Australia (Primate Abp Geoffrey Smith, General Secretary Anne Hywood, the General Synod & the Standing Committee); Anglican Early Childhood Services;
- Sat 12 St Peter's Melbourne (Michael Bowie, Kathryn Bellhouse); The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Asst Bps Denise Ferguson, Timothy Harris, Christopher McLeod, Sophie Relf-Christopher, Clergy & People); Converge International (Jenny George, CEO, and Chaplains); Holy Trinity East Melbourne – Pastoral service (Abp Philip Freier).

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Reconciliation and justice for our First Nations People. Those impacted by the state of the economy and recent natural disasters.

THE WORLD

Productive and harmonious relationships among Pacific neighbours and a compassionate outcome for all asylum seekers.

A peaceful outcome in Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa. All affected by climate change - wisdom and leadership to prevent further environmental damage.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Please hold in your daily prayers any individual parish members who may be on your heart, and for an awareness of God's presence in the events of the week.

Those in special need of prayer: *Estelle Carman, Don Lambourne, Douglas Mortimer, Jean & Alan Close, Glenys Howell, Kaye & Carole Smith, Pauline & Edith Le Riche, Lyle & Jan Mansfield, Stanley & Rose Joseph, Pam & Tony, Marie Cleaver (Judithe's friend), Shirley & Alan Wagner, Joy (Jan Wheeler's sister), Fanny (Aggie's sister), Pat Ludwick, Gerald (Pat Eadon's brother), Beverley Frost, Heather & Ron, Graeme Shepard, Finn Jellis, Barbara (Kalo's niece), Kalo and others known to us who are in special need of prayer.*

Those at the Peter James Centre, Burwood Lodge and Calvary the Highbury.

Those in need who come to St Mark's Community Centre Fitzroy and Uniting East Burwood.

Those working in Health and Aged Care settings.

Our local Schools, Colleges, and Universities.

Ourselves - as we are strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer for one another

SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday Elizabeth Fry, prisoner reformer, England (d. 1845)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday:

Galatians 2.1-14
Psalm: 117
Luke 11.1-4

Next Sunday: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Job 23.1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22.1-15
Hebrews 4.12-16
Mark 10.17-31

ROSTERS:

Welcomers

Reader

Server

Liturgical Assistant

Intercessions

Music

Morning tea

Sacristan

Flowers

Printing

Gardens

9:30am

Joanne Waite & Pat Ludwick

Chloe Bedlow

Natalie Ortlieb

Christine Youings

Cath Ortlieb

Peter Bedlow

Joy Ritchie & Pat Eadon

Judithe Atkinson

Judithe Atkinson

Alma Brand

Augustus Luo

ANGLICAN CHURCH
of the ASCENSION
EAST BURWOOD



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land,
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.
We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*

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Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheets to Ron McKenzie by 5:00p.m. Thursday evening (r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Sunday 8:00am Eucharist
9:30am Eucharist
'Godzone' children's program during 9.30 am service (during school term)

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist

Friday 10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for cuppa and chat.

Banking details for direct debit or donation:

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Commitment to Child Safety: At the Church of the Ascension, we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life. In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive. We have a zero-tolerance approach to Child abuse or abuse of vulnerable people. This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.
Read the full **Commitment to Child Safety** document on our website: www.ascensionchurch.org.au