

"Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope"

Jesus said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' John 20.27.

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!



For those who have children with them, there is a children's corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend 'Godzone' - Special Children's Activities - shortly after we begin the 9.30am service.

Before each service we enter a time of silence as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Entrance Hymn: "Let us build a house where love can dwell"

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live. A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace. Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true. Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace. Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found, in water, wine and wheat. A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space, as we share in Christ the feast that frees us; All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard. And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace. Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter; All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Welcome

Prayer of Preparation:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Two Great Commandments:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is

like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.' *Kyries:* Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,

Lord have mercy.

The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God. Lamb of God. you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, vou alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day:

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked: draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. This we ask through Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray together for hope:

God of Hope You call on us to be your witness in this uncertain world; By your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service; that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Godzone blessing

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Acts 5.27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 118. 14-29

The Lord is my strength and my song: and has become my salvation. The sounds of joy and deliverance: are in the tents of the righteous. The right hand of the Lord does mighty things: the right hand of the Lord raises up. I shall not die but live: and proclaim the works of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me hard: but he has not given me over to death. Open me the gates of righteousness: and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord: the righteous shall enter it. I will praise you, for you answered me: and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected: has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing: and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made:

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

- O Lord, save us, we pray:
 - O Lord, send us prosperity.

Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord:

from the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light:

guide the festal throng up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God and I will praise you:

you are my God, I will exalt you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

and his mercy endures for ever.

The second reading: Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,

and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: TiS 585 "I heard the voice of Jesus say"

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.' I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live.' I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, chapter 20, beginning at verse 19

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.' I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar 1808-89 alt.

Sermon – followed by a time of silent reflection

The Creed:

Let us stand together and affirm the faith of the church:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The prayers of the people:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Response: God of Hope, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** *At the conclusion*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers, Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preparation

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16.

Prayer of Approach:

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Confession:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

Confession:

Merciful God, our maker and our judge we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Greeting of Peace:

Christ is risen. Alleluia! He is risen indeed. Alleluia! The peace of the risen Lord be always with you And also with you.

Offertory Hymn TiS 210 "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease such music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace. He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf: his praise you dumb, your loosened tongues employ; you blind, behold your saviour come; and leap, you lame for joy!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad, the honours of Thy name

Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.

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.

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,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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.

The Risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we 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.

The breaking of the bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

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.

The Communion

Post communion hymn: TiS 779 "May the feet of God walk with you"

May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight. May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry. May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life. May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.

May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight. May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry. May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life. May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.

Aubrey Podlich 1946-

Prayer after Communion:

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith, that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world. **Most loving God**,

you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

Notices

The Blessing:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; + 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: TiS 380 "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son"

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won; angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes, where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord is living, death has lost its sting. *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love: bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*.

Edmond Loise Bubry 1854-1932 tr. Richard Birch Hoyle 1875-1939

Dismissal:

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

NOTICES

Farewell for Chloe & Peter Bedlow: It is with very mixed feelings that we bid farewell to Peter and Chloe today as they set out on their new adventure in Bendigo!

We bless them on their way, and celebrate with thanks their many years of faithful service at Ascension.

Please join us after the 9:30am service today for a special morning tea.

Mother's Day raffle: Mothers' Day is approaching (11th May raffle will be drawn) and I would be very thankful to receive any donation (big or small) to be included in the hampers. I would also appreciate any baskets or beautiful boxes to hold the goodies. Thank you for all your support. Chellam.

Not home alone: We meet at 12:00 noon this Friday (2nd May) at the Glen Waverley RSL for lunch at 12:30pm. All are welcome, looking forward to seeing you! Judithe 9729 8185.

Footy Tipping. A challenging round 6 last weekend for most, with the average score being 5.1 correct.

Natalie Ortleib found it relatively unchallenging, with an astounding 8 correct, with Gavin Ganasalingham, Heather & Ron McKenzie each getting 7 right.

This now sees Peter Bedlow and Heath McKenzie (39) both claiming top spot in the First Half-season Championship, with Louise & Matthew Godden (38) sharing second place, and the rest of the Goddens - Cooper and Peter - (37) on equal third. That family is destined to dominate the competition!

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

In this week's NewsStand:

- Latin American Pope Francis dies on Easter Monday The Melbourne Anglican
- Chinese festival bridges culture to Christianity The Melbourne Anglican
- Australian prime minister pays emotional tribute to Pope Francis as a 'devoted champion' The Guardian
- Easter's date remains divisive. Some church leaders want that to change ABC News
- Hope reigns supreme this Easter amid global uncertainty The Canberra Times
- Finding Faith and Friendship: The rise of Greek Orthodox Youth Groups in Australia The Greek Herald
- Veterans affairs agency orders staff to report each other for 'anti-Christian bias' The Guardian
- Judge blocks worker protections for abortion and fertility care for Catholic employers Religion News Service
- 9 Christians imprisoned, fined over \$100K for distributing Bibles in China The Christian Post
- Kenya's Christ the Redeemer statue offers spiritual reflection and scenic views And more!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday: Acts 5.17-26 Psalm 34.1-8 John 3.16-21

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5.6-14 John 21.1-19

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

THE CHURCH

Sun 27 St George's Monbulk (Jerome Dias, Vivianne Dias); Anglican Church of Australia: Hope25 outreach in parishes; The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean (Bp Gilbert Rateloson); St George's Travancore - Pastoral service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); St Barnabas Glen Waverley – Pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker);

Mon 28 St Thomas' Moonee Ponds (Incumbency vacant); The Diocese of Willochra (Bp Jeremy James, Clergy & People); SparkLit (Michael Collie, National Director); *Tue 29* St David's Moorabbin (Michelle Wang); Anglicare Australia (Bp Chris Jones, Chair; Kasy Chambers, Exec Director); Archdeaconry of Melbourne (Yvonne Poon); *Wed 30* St Nicholas' Mordialloc (Ronald Johnson); Theological Colleges, Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Camberwell Girls' Grammar School (Debbie Dunwoody, Principal; Helen Creed, Chaplain); St Thomas' Moonee Ponds – Commissioning service of Vicar Robert Koren (Bp Alison Taylor); St John's Footscray – Pastoral service (Bp Brad Billings).

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

Comfort, relief, and a peaceful outcome for the people of Gaza, Palestine, Israel, and in Eastern Europe. Compassionate support and improved outcomes for all Asylum Seekers. Justice and Reconciliation for our First Nations People. Healing and support for all affected by climate change - wisdom and leadership to prevent further environmental harm.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Each other and 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, Siew Tin, 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) & Clifford, Gerald (Pat Eadon's brother), Beverley Frost, Heather & Ron, Aggie Canterbury, Andrew Harding, Kathryn, Tim Youings, Rev Ken Rogers, Charles Bayliss and others known to us who are in special need of prayer.

Those at the Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge 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.

ROSTERS:

NUSIERS.	
	8:00am
Welcomers	Sue Tregear
Reader	Sue Tregear
Server	Sue Tregear
Liturgical Assistant	
Intercessions	Fr Anthony
Music	·
Morning Tea	
Sacristan	Judithe Atkinson
Flowers	Robin Jellis
Printer	Barrie Harding
Gardens	Sue Tregear
Cleaning	Augustus Luo

<u>9:30am</u> Joanne Waite & Suzanne Seager Trevor Smith Christine Youings Ron McKenzie Chloe Bedlow Peter Bedlow Cheryl & Keith Hall



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.

Vicar: Fr Anthony Frost

Office Manager: Ron McKenzie

Phone: 0409 012 543 **Phone:** 0418 320 301

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

FACEBOOK Please visit and www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

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

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:

Bank:Indue LimitedName: Anglican Church of the AscensionBSB:703122A/C:050095388

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: <u>www.ascensionchurch.org.au</u>