
ANGLICAN CHURCH
of the ASCENSION

EAST BURWOOD



9th October 2022

EIGHTEENTH 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.

‘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.

Loving God,

we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for,

so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that when we turned away from you,

you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us,

and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you

and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that on the cross

Jesus took away our sin,

all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear,

from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

And so with everyone who believes in you,

with all the saints and angels,

we rejoice and praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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.

You have gathered us together
To feed on Christ
And to remember all he has done for us.

Fill us with your Spirit
That we may follow Jesus
In all we do and say,
Working for justice and bringing your peace
To this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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!**

WELCOME TO CHURCH. . . We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today, please take Communion, whatever your denomination and come and worship with us again. 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

Flowers today are arranged by Judithe Atkinson in loving memory of her beloved husband Jim who entered eternal life on 6th October 2010.

Trivia night raised \$912. Thanks to all who came along and supported this night.

Mission Action Plan (MAP) launch: Next Sunday 16 October we will be launching our MAP! Hard copies will be available for everyone and an electronic version will also be sent via email.

Not home alone: We will meet at the Mt View Hotel, 28th October at 12 Noon for lunch at 12:30pm. Look forward to seeing you all there. Judithe 9729 8185

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:

- Bible being used to subjugate Indigenous Australians: Pattel-Gray
- Catholics mobilise for record election package to fix leaky, ageing schools
- Archbishop to talk climate in Australia
- What is Diwali and how do Australian communities celebrate it?
- Women's resistance in Iran, and why it matters for women's rights everywhere
- Episcopalians in Florida, Puerto Rico continue hurricane recovery efforts
- Bohra digital entrepreneurship shows how religious communities can help women thrive
- Two Charged in Mid-Sermon Robbery of Bejeweled Brooklyn Bishop
- How the European far right coopted an Arabic letter
- C of E must welcome gay people or face questions in parliament, says MP
- and more...

SAINTS AND HOLY WOMEN AND MEN FOR THIS WEEK

Wednesday Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, England (d. 1845)
Saturday Teresa of Avila, teacher (d. 1592)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday:

Galatians 5.18-25
Psalm 1
Luke 11.42-46

Next Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31.27-34
Psalm 119.97-104
2Timothy 3.10-4.5
Luke 18.1-14

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

THE CHURCH

Sun 9 The Church of the Province of Central Africa (Abp Albert Chama); The Diocese of North Queensland (Bp Keith Joseph, Clergy & People); Brighton Grammar School (Ross Featherston, Principal; Chester Lord, Chaplain); St Columb's Hawthorn (Mark McDonald); Christ Church St Kilda – Pastoral Service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); St John's Upper Beaconsfield – Pastoral visit (Bp Paul Barker); St Paul's Cathedral – 175th year anniversary service (Abp Philip Freier);

Mon 10 The Diocese of North West Australia (Bp elect Darrell Parker, Clergy & People); Children's & Families' Ministry; The Parish of St John's, Healesville w. St Paul's, Yarra Glen (Matt Smith);

Tues 11 The Diocese of Perth (Abp Kay Goldsworthy, Asst Bps Jeremy James, Kate Wilmot, Clergy & People); Chinese Ministry (Richard Liu, Missioner); St John's Highton (William Orpwood, Josh Simon, Christopher Lynch);

Wed 12 The Diocese of Riverina (Bp Donald Kirk, Clergy & People); Defence Force Chaplains; Church of the Epiphany Hoppers Crossing (Glenn Buijs, Trish Hunt, Hei Ler Kyi Shwe); Melbourne Synod;
Thurs 13 The Diocese of Rockhampton (Bishop Peter Grice, Clergy & People); Beaconhills College (Tony Sheumack, Principal; Peggy Kruse, Chaplain); Parish of Hume (Satvasheela Pandhare); Melbourne Synod;
Fri 14 The Diocese of Sydney (Abp Kanishka Raffel, Regional Bps Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Peter Hayward, Peter Lin, Malcolm Richards, Gary Koo, Clergy & People); Church Missionary Society (Jonathan Wei-Han Kuan, Victorian Director; Andrew Gifford, Andrew Livingstone); The Parish of St Paul's, Inverleigh w. St John's, Bannockburn and Church of the Epiphany, Meredith (Tim Smith); Melbourne Synod;
Sat 15 The Diocese of Tasmania (Bp Richard Condie, Missioner Bp Chris Jones, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Essendon (Vanessa Bennett); Melbourne Synod; St George's Ivanhoe East (John Sanderson, Kristen Dillon).

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

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff. A compassionate outcome for all Asylum Seekers. Productive and harmonious relationships among Pacific neighbours. A peaceful outcome in Eastern Europe. Those affected by climate change - wisdom and leadership to prevent further environmental damage.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue to develop our Parish's Mission Action Plan (MAP).

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: *Helen Daniels, Estelle Carman, Jean & Alan Close, Shirley and Alan Wagner, Glenys Howell, Barbara Stark, Gwen McMahan, Carole Smith, Pauline Le Riche, Lyle Mansfield, Stanley & Rose Joseph, Marie Cleaver (Judithe's friend), Geoffrey (Josh's father), David Wood, Fanny (Aggie's sister), Joy (Jan Wheeler's sister), Graeme Harding (Barrie's brother), Dave Ritchie, Pat Ludwick, Gerald (Pat Eadon's brother), Nelson, Zoey, Russell and Jenny Mills, and others known to us*

We give thanks for the life of Ray, Pat Eadon's brother, and we uphold Pat's family at this time for God's comfort and peace.

Rest eternal grant unto Ray, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

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:

Welcomer	Kym Le Riche & Heather McKenzie
Server	Christine Youings
Intercessions	Trevor Smith
Music	Heath McKenzie
Morning tea	Ros Smith & Natalie Ortlieb
Flowers	Judithe Atkinson
Sacristan	Sue Tregear
Cleaning	Sue Tregear
Printing	Ron McKenzie



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.*

PRIEST in CHARGE: Fr. Anthony Frost **Phone:** 0409 012 543

OFFICE MANAGER: Ron McKenzie **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 pewsheets to Ron McKenzie by 5:00p.m. Thursday evening (r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Weekly services

Sunday	8:00am Eucharist
	9:30am Eucharist
	'Godzone' children's program during 9.30 am service (during school term)
Tuesday	<i>Fr Anthony's day of rest!</i>
Wednesday	10:00am Eucharist
Friday	10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for coffee and chat.

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