

“Psalm 105.1-6, 16-22”

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.

Sing to him, O sing praises: and be telling of all his marvellous works.
Exult in his holy name: and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

Seek the Lord and his strength: O seek his face continually.

Call to mind what wonders he has done:

his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant: O children of Jacob his chosen one.

Then he called down a famine on the land:

and destroyed the bread that was their stay.

But he had sent a man ahead of them: Joseph who was sold into slavery,
Whose feet they fastened with fetters: and thrust his neck into a hoop of iron.
Till the time that his words proved true: he was tested by the Lord's command.

Then the king sent and loosed him: the ruler of nations set him free;

He made him master of his household: and ruler over all his possessions,

To rebuke his officers at will: and to teach his counsellors wisdom.



‘Give to the Winds Thy Fears

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| 1. Give to the winds thy fears,
hope and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head | 2. Through waves and clouds and storms,
He gently clears the way;
wait thou His time, so that this night
soon end in joyous day. |
| 3. Still heavy is thy heart,
still sink they spirits down?
Cast off the weight, let fear depart,
and ev'ry care be gone. | 4. What though thou rulest not,
yet heav'n, and earth, and hell
proclaim, God sitteth on the throne,
and ruleth all things well. |
| 5. Leave to His sov'reign sway
to choose and to command.
so shalt thou wond'ring own His way,
how wise, how strong His hand! | 6. Far, far above thy thought
His counsel shall appear,
when fully He the work hath wrought,
that caused thy needless fear. |
| 7. Thou seest our weakness, Lord,
our hearts are known to Thee;
O lift Thou up the sinking heart,
confirm the feeble knee. | 8. Let us in life, in death,
Thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath
Thy love and guardian care. |

[Paul Gerhardt 1651-1657; Trans John Wesley 1703-1791]



**The Anglican Parish of
Christ Church Geelong**



“A community of faith in service to others”

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God,
providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's
love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9th August 2020

Liturgical Colour: Green

Sentence

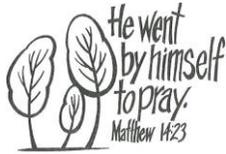
They cried out in fear, but Jesus spoke to them and said,
'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Prayer of the Day *

**Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.
Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ
through the stormy seas of life
and come at the last to your eternal peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen**



The Vicar Writes



The periodic withdrawal of Jesus into solitude was a necessary retreat from the demands of the multitudes. Jesus, the Son of God was always engrossed in his joyous state of union with his Father. yet he still sought seclusion for prayer and meditation to recharge his mortal body for his work on earth. We all need to spend time in solitude with

God to help us always feel God's joy and guidance from within. Saint Francis said that those who preach and serve but do not take time to pray will come to God empty handed. Time alone with God recharges us for our God given mission in life.

When the disciples saw Jesus walking across the sea at night, they were afraid and thought they saw a ghost. Jesus assured them there was no need for fear, it was only he. Jesus reminded them that God, their redeemer was present in him and he could not be affected by the wind-surged waves. Saint Peter, by the power of his faith and mental concentration, became momentarily attuned to the consciousness of Christ, free from the material dream-delusion of matter. Thus, he was buoyed by the divine consciousness when he stepped out of the boat to approach Jesus. But when the violent winds shook Peter's concentrated faith with fear, his habit of seeing matter as all in all came back into his mind and, immediately, he felt his body sinking. This incident tested Peter and revealed to him his need to work harder at his spiritual life. His faith was still somewhat weak.

Jesus' touch restored Peter's faith and brought him to safety, but he scolded Peter for his precarious spiritual instability. Jesus reminded him and us through this lesson to see God as all in all lest our material consciousness repeatedly contradict our divine perceptions. The faith needed by Peter and ourselves is that which is born of intuitive knowing of the soul. This intuitive steady faith comes from deep meditative prayer that attunes our consciousness with the indwelling consciousness of Christ. It is not mere believing but firm conviction that arises from spiritual experience. It is up to us to respond to the love of God in Christ Jesus by developing a spiritual life that fixes us in an unwavering faith in the omnipotent nature of God. We must increase our perception of the Spirit within and be less conscious of the body. Thus, we will gradually be convinced that Spirit is behind all matter, including our bodies, and that matter is simply the energy of God.

Paul teaches that one who believes in the Lord will be saved but he didn't mean blind belief, nor did he mean partial belief or belief in aspects of God that suit us. Belief in God is to believe in God totally, that is to believe in God in Jesus, in the omnipresent Spirit, in the Father, the source of being and so in all being, giving honour to all life. Belief in God includes self-acceptance, acceptance of others, acceptance that existence is good and meaningful, divine. We should not use God to put ourselves in the centre, we have to check that God is in the centre of our lives and not our egos. We should not be like babies and use religion to make ourselves more valuable than others. Babies want all the attention and want to be the centre; sometimes religious people make a confession of a blind belief and think that suddenly they are of God while others are of the devil. This is baby talk.

Spiritual maturity is to grow in empathy for others and develop a mood of service to God through others. In that mood we see the Master everywhere and never make ourselves superior to anyone else. Peter asked the Lord to command him to walk across the water because he wanted to be seen as the leader of the disciples. Jesus had made Peter head disciple and Peter wanted to live out the role.

The Lord taught him a lesson by allowing him to sink and thus fail in front of his peers; he failed again later when he denied knowing Jesus. Peter's failure is also his victory because it taught him to accept the responsibility of leadership and remain humble. We share that victory because we fail too and like Peter we get up again after falling and carry on in the Lord's service, knowing that despite our failures the Lord accepts us'

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

The National Council of Churches Prayer during the Pandemic:

- ✠ Gracious God, trusting in your providence and presence, we bring our prayer for an end to this pandemic.
 - ✠ We pray for your strengthening of all those committed to offering costly leadership during this crisis.
 - ✠ We pray for all who are ill. We pray for those anxious about getting ill.
 - ✠ We pray for those full of grief. We remember those who have died.
 - ✠ Aware of our fragility, we pray for your grace to sustain us as we do what we can to end this pandemic.
 - ✠ Your compassionate, peaceful and creative response to many crises is our model..., (as) we offer our heartfelt prayer in your Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: The souls of all those who have been murdered by family members, and for whose family members have made the attempt; all those who are trafficked and abused at the hands of the evil and depraved. All those affected by the massive explosion that rocked the city of Beirut.

THE CHURCH: The Anglican Church of Rwanda; Diocese of Wangaratta; St James' Dandenong; St Stephen's Bayswater; Parish of Christ Church Lancefield w. St Paul's Romsey; the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: Give thanks for the life and witness of this church; and all who have been helped by its ministry.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Arthur Firth; Mack Kelly; Bob Cooper; John Zula; Isobel Merle Collins). We remember with thanks: John Henry Newman, cardinal and theologian, d.1890 (Tuesday); Jeremy Taylor, bishop and spiritual writer, d.1667 (Thursday); Twentieth Century Martyrs (Friday); Mary, Mother of our Lord (Saturday).

NEXT SUNDAY -16TH AUGUST 2020

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;

Romans 11:13-22 Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

