

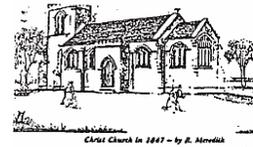


“Ye Sons of Earth Prepare the Plough”

*Ye sons of earth prepare the plough,
Break up your fallow ground!
The Sower is gone forth to sow,
And scatter blessings round.
The seed that finds a stony soil,
Shoots forth a hasty blade;
But ill repays the sower's toil,
Soon withered, scorched, and dead.
The thorny ground is sure to balk
All hopes of harvest there:
We find a tall and sickly stalk,
But not the fruitful ear.
The beaten path, and highway side
Receive the trust in vain:
The watchful birds the spoil divide,
And pick up all the grain.
But where the Lord of grace and power
Has blessed the happy field;
How plenteous is the golden store
The deep-wrought furrows yield!
Father of mercies, we have need
Of thy preparing grace;
Let the same hand that gives the seed
Provide a fruitful place.”*

[William Cowper; 1731-1800]

We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its building now stand.



***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.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

12th July 2020

Liturgical Colour: Green

Sentence

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord;
you have the words of eternal life.

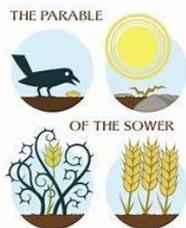
Prayer of the Day *

**Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us
the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit,
help us to receive it with joy,
and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith
and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen**



The Vicar Writes

Today's gospel deals with the parable of the sower that gives very deep instructions for spiritual life and how we may progress quickly toward the infinite. The person sowing good seeds in the field may be compared to the person who takes time to listen to the word of God within their hearts and cultivate devotional service to the Lord. The servant of the Lord increases in spiritual capacity through daily prayers, meditation, and contemplation of the scripture, service to others and to the church. Divine service prepares our hearts and expands our minds so that the word of God may fructify in us in the form of wisdom, divine joy and the perception of God in our lives.



If our devotions are focused and single pointed the effects will flow over into every part of our lives. Such regular spiritual practise will lead us into remembering God all through the day, feeling the joy of God's presence and offering all our hearts and works to him. If however our devotional activities are not regular and not deep we will find that distractions will plague us both during our practise and at other times. The fruit of such distraction will be the weeds of forgetfulness of God and a mind that is unable to perceive the presence of God in our daily lives. We may also become side-tracked by ulterior motives making our service to God tainted by selfish desires, in this way our service is really for ourselves and not for God. Look at Jacob deceiving Esau. Was that for himself or God?

This is what Paul means when he says those of the flesh cannot please God. Being of the flesh means to work only to please our ego and temporary desires rather than to please the eternal Lord who is Spirit. By living for Spirit, the Lord manifests in us, we belong then to the eternal kingdom and not the temporary material atmosphere, this will be evidenced by the fruits of love and peace in our lives. You can tell when you are living for the flesh as Paul puts it, you will serve only to suit your needs, seek fame and adoration in return for your service and feel jealous when you see others do a good job and get adoration.

Finally, the fruits of devotional practise will be varied according to the capacity of the performer. Jesus said that one person will yield a hundredfold, another sixty another thirty. In time every soul will yield an infinite result from serving God but everyone is at a different level in this Unless we seek to live by the Spirit the Word of God will not take root in us. Instead, we will be like the people Jesus talks about in the parable who hear the word but can't understand it, hear the word but have it choked by worldliness and by the cares of the world. The mind set on flesh is hostile to God so it is imperative we regularly check our focus and our motives to make sure we are serving to please God and not self-serving.

No devotion goes in vain. If our service is for the Lord's pleasure, we will be detached from the results leaving the result of our devotion to the Lord. Our prayer, worship and devotion is what increases our capacity to serve and to perceive the Divine in our lives. Eventually we shall all be Spirit filled and living in the eternal Blessedness of God's kingdom. Our prime duty is to love God, neighbour and self, nothing else really matters.

The Lord be with you,

Fr Russell

"Psalm 119:105-112"

Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.

I have vowed and sworn an oath;
to keep your righteous judgements.

I have been afflicted beyond measure: Lord,
give me life according to your word.
Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.

I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.

Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.

I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Compassion and comfort for our world, our nation, our city and our church as the Coronavirus spreads; for help to all our communities according to their needs; heal those afflicted and strengthen all who have the responsibility for care; provide a cure and give wisdom to those seeking to develop a vaccine (Sydney Anglican Church)

THE CHURCH: The Anglican Church of PNG; Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia; Hospital Chaplaincy; St Dunstan's Camberwell; St Matthew's Cheltenham; St James' East St Kilda; St Mary's North Melbourne.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: "Today we read of hungry Esau throwing away his birthright for a mess of potage, a lentil stew, cooked by his brother, Jacob. It was an expensive deal: The son who had the birthright became the family leader on his father's death & inherited twice as much as any other brother. What valuable things have we thrown away for short-term gain in our lives? Pray that we can see the true value of the people & relationships we have in each facet of our lives, & that we can give thanks to God for everything that is precious (ABM)"

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 (Helen Elkington; Marjorie Farrow; Lily Seymour). We remember with thanks: Sydney James Kirby, bishop, pioneer of outback ministry and the Bush Aid Society, d.1935 (Monday).

NEXT SUNDAY -19TH JULY 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Genesis 28.10-29;

Psalm 139.1-11, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

