



'God in Heaven Hath a Treasure

God in heaven hath a treasure,
Riches none may count or tell;
Hath a deep eternal pleasure,
Christ the Son, He loveth well.
God hath here on earth a treasure,
None but He its price may know –
Deep, unfathomable pleasure,
Christ revealed in saints below.

God in tongues of fire descending,
Chosen vessels thus to fill
With the treasure never ending,
Ever spent – unfailing still.
God's own hand the vessel filling
From the glory far above,
Longing hearts forever stilling
With the riches of His love.

Thus though worn, and tried, and tempted,
Glorious calling, saint, is thine;
Let the Lord but find thee emptied,
Living branch in Christ the Vine!
Vessels of the world's despising,
Vessels weak and poor and base,
Bearing wealth God's heart is prizing,
Glory from Christ's blessed face.

Oh to be but emptier, lowlier,
Mean, unnoticed – and unknown,
And to God a vessel holier,
Filled with Christ and Christ alone!
Naught of earth to cloud the glory,
Naught of self the light to dim,
Telling forth His wondrous story,
Emptied to be filled with Him.

[Frances Bevan, 1827-1909]

WORKING BEE

*The next Working Bee will be held on
Saturday, 8th August from 9.00am.
All welcome - even for an hour or so -
there is always something to be done.
Any help is always appreciated!!*



***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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

26th July 2020

Liturgical Colour: Green

Sentence

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer of the Day *

**O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price.
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world
we may learn to value
the priceless worth of your kingdom,
and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
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 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MERCHANT SEEKING FINE PEARLS, AND UPON FINDING ONE PEARL OF GREAT VALUE, HE WENT AND SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD AND BOUGHT IT.



God is love and God's love is revealed in the unconditional self-giving of Jesus Christ. We celebrate this self-giving love of Christ every time we celebrate the Eucharist. The Eucharist is a re-presentation of the one sacrifice of Christ given once for all. It is not a repeat of the sacrifice but an entrance into the eternal now where the perpetual offering of Christ is met. That is why the Eucharist is called Communion, because we commune with the Lord who is sacrificial love itself. The self-giving nature of God is expressed though all creation, everything is gift. God's love shines through the sun making our food grow, God's love fills the air and water with life force to nourish us and gives us the physical body with which to serve Him and each other. There is nothing we can do without God; nothing is separate from God, but we often forget God and think that our existence is separate from His.

In the scriptures we read about great prophets whose attunement to God enabled them to perceive the presence of God in every aspect of their lives. The Hebrew people were able to witness many miracles of God who they identified as their friend and very near help in their time of need. We are all soul waves on the ocean of God's Holy Spirit, each individual is worthy of respect and has the right to live in dignity celebrating the unique gifts they have received from God. Each one of us exhibits specific individual aspects of God's person that are unique and won't be found in others, no two persons are exactly alike. We should seek to live our lives in a way that our example is an affirmation and encouragement to others that they are valuable and worthwhile children of God. This will constitute a major part of what it means to love God, ourselves and to treat others as we would have them treat us. This, Jesus said is the heart of the Law and the Prophets.

Jesus speaks of the pearl of great price, the kingdom of God and speaks again of the necessity of sorting out the things in our lives that are obstacles to grace. Jesus compares faith to a mustard seed that grows into a tree and gives shelter to others. God loves us unconditionally and He calls us to love Him, ourselves and neighbour unconditionally so that our hearts may be one with His. We have to sacrifice our little egos on the altar of love for God and through deep communion with God enter God's eternal, Omnipresent Spirit. Then our faith and the fruits of the Spirit will lead us to be a shelter for others.

As Paul tells us that despite our weakness, the sighs of the Spirit are deeper than words and that our surrender to the Spirit will draw us closer to the Lord. In that surrendered state we will perceive God first as peace, then as joy. From the platform of God's peace and joy we may conduct all our activities from the spiritual platform motivated by love and our lives will truly be given to God. Thus, everyday can be a Harvest Festival, everyday can be Christmas and Easter and our lives may be a perfect testimony to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The Lord be with you,

Fr Russell

“Psalm 105:1-11”

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.

For he is the Lord our God: and his judgements are in all the earth.

He has remembered his covenant for ever:
the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,

The covenant that he made with Abraham: the oath that he swore to Isaac,
And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute: to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:
to be the portion of your inheritance'

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: All those currently affected by natural disasters, including Assam and Nepal and our own land.

THE CHURCH: The team responsible for preparing the Lambeth Conference, which was due to be taking place now – please pray for them as they consider the implications of the postponement in light of the Covid-19 pandemic; Diocese of Grafton; Inner West Church, Kensington; St James' Dandenong (Patronal Festival); Yarraville Parish; Episcopal Church of Jerusalem & the Middle East.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: Give thanks to those who provide love and care to the frail and elderly in our nursing homes and retirement villages, especially during the current pandemic.

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 (Fr Allan Bignoux; David Jickell). We remember with thanks: William Wilberforce, social reformer, d.1883 (Thursday).

NEXT SUNDAY -2ND AUGUST 2020

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7&16;

Romans 9:1-8 Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

