



BALLINA & LENNOX HEAD ANGLICANS

An inclusive Christ-centred community, growing in our
relationship with God and the wider community

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Bundjalung nation,
and pay respects to their elders past and present.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 19 JULY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Today's psalm is one of my favourites because it reminds me of how well God knows me. It is a beautifully intimate reminder that God knows all about me, in every way, physically and emotionally, inside, and outside. It also reminds me that I cannot run and hide from God because God is everywhere. Jacob also discovered this in our reading from Genesis when he experienced God's presence in a dream. It was so moving that he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

I wonder if you have ever had an experience of feeling God's presence, like Jacob did. Perhaps it was in a dream or at some other time when it just felt like God was right beside you. What an amazing feeling that would be.

I remember a parishioner telling me many years ago that she got up every morning around 5.00 am and went outside and sat on her garden seat and chatted to her friend. I can recall thinking at the time that that was a very early time for someone to be visiting. It took me quite a while to realise that she was talking about Jesus, and she said that she felt his presence next to her in such a real way that she chatted to him, as you would to your best friend.

Our Prayer of the Day today has these words: "Saving God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence..." If we can be like my former parishioner, and have an intimate relationship with Jesus, as our best friend, then we can also experience being in God's presence. Jacob's life was changed forever when he felt God's presence and the psalmist reminds us that God is present everywhere that we are. What a wonderful God who wants to be with us always. The challenge is, do we want to be with God always? Now that's something to ponder.

Every blessing

Matthew

Birthdays: Mavis McDonald.

News:

Amy Norris died peacefully on Thursday 9 July and Rev'd Margaret Davis officiated at her funeral 2pm Wednesday 15 July. Amy turned 100 on 6 March this year and was well known in our Parish. Our prayers remain with Amy's family and we give thanks to God for a faithful servant. May she Rest in Peace.

SPECIAL COVID-19 APPEAL

To help maintain Parish ministry and the jobs of paid churchworkers through this crisis, the Diocese has opened a special appeal. Contributions to this fund will go first to maintaining paid roles of churchworkers across the Diocese, whether located in Parishes, the Registry or special ministries such as chaplaincies. Click here to find out more and learn about ways to donate: [The Anglican Diocese of Grafton COVID-19 Support Fund](#)

PACT Prayer: -

To our God of life we ask, come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the faithful so that our eyes and hearts may be directed toward Jesus, so that our steps may follow his light filled path each moment of every day. Sowing and nurturing his words into the hearts of those we meet along our life journey, so they too can share a joy filled and peaceful life of grace. **Amen.**

ABM Reflection:

We read of Jacob's dream at Bethel. Once Jacob woke he said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' How many times have we taken God's presence for granted, or worse, ignored the fact that wherever we are, God is by our side.

- Pray that we will discern God's presence with us hour by hour. Pray that we will listen to God's voice.
- Give thanks for the Daehan Seong Gong Hoe (대한성공회), the Anglican Church of Korea.

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Financial Giving to the Parish

During this difficult time we continue to minister to our people and our community, although in different ways. Expenses still need to be met. To cover these expenses we will shortly be drawing cash from long term deposits. Our major sources of income to cover expenses are normally provided by the giving of Parishioners and the Op Shop. The Op Shop has ceased operating and giving by Parishioners has been by the various electronic transfer methods only. A small amount of cash has been received but this method is now not to be used.

You are encouraged to support the Parish through regular giving in the following ways:

Direct deposits through AfGD (Anglican funds Grafton Diocese) known as Parish

Provider: Application Form is attached. Print, complete and scan it for return as an attachment to AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au. Alternatively, you can complete the Application Form attached, photo it with your smartphone and send the photo to AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au .

To minimise exposure to COVID-19 please do not use the postal system to deliver the form.

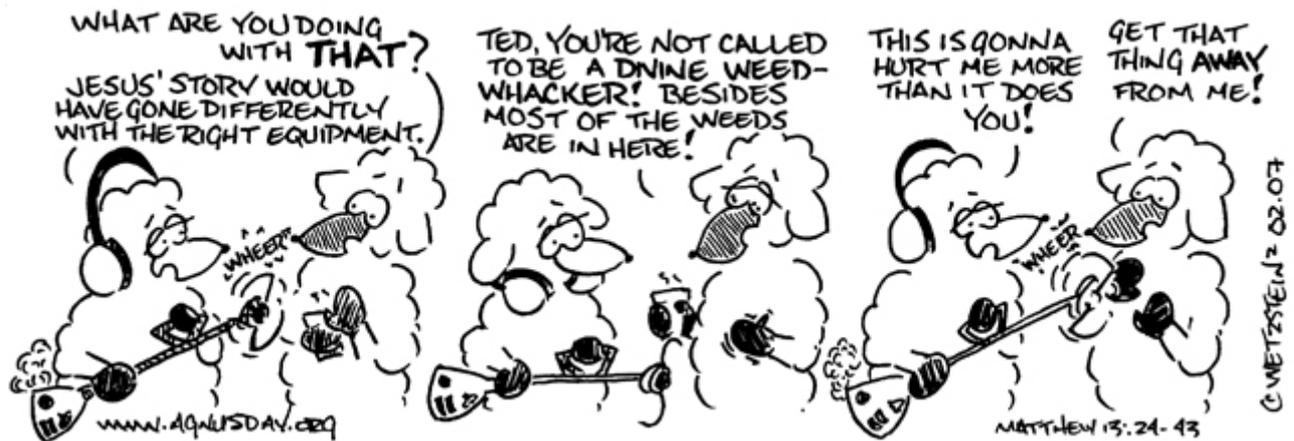
Direct deposit to the Parish of Ballina Working Account: this method enables you to use your bank to electronically direct transfer funds into the following account.

Account: Parish of Ballina Working Account: *BSB:* 705-077 *Account Number:* 00040134.
Use Reference: Offering.

This system enables users to make regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.

Many of you may be unable to use either of these methods in which case we encourage you to make a catchup donation at some time in the future when current restrictions are lifted and you can afford the outlay.

Hugh McIntosh
Parish Treasurer
24 June '20



CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

19 JULY 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ctrl+Click or Click on [Couch Church](#) to watch this service online.

Call to Worship:

The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.
The field is the world,
and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom.'

We are the people of the kingdom.
Come now to worship the Son of Man.
Come seeking new understanding
of all that he has done for us,
and of all that we are called to do
for the building of the kingdom.
Amen.

Hymn: God Himself is Present

God himself is present,
let us now adore him
as with awe we come before him.
God is in our midst, now
in our hearts keep silence,
worshipping in deepest reverence.
Him we know,
him we name,
come and let us make him
our renewed surrender.

O majestic Being,
I would praise you duly
and my service render to you
in the selfsame spirit
as the holy angels,
ever standing in your presence.
Grant me now
so to strive
evermore to please you,
dearest God, in all things.

Let your glorious light, Lord,
permeating all things,
reach my face and eyes to touch them;
as the tender flowers
open out their petals,
to the sun their hearts unfolding,
so may I,
calm in joy,
hold your rays from heaven,
power within me working.

Lord, make me your dwelling,
let my heart and spirit
be for you an earthly temple:
come, Immediate Being,
my whole life illumine,
so I'll always praise and love you,
so where'er
I may be
there I may perceive you,
ever bow before you.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697 - 1769)
TIS 121

Gathering Prayer:

Lord, we gather and we pause
to think about your world:
such a beautiful place.

We want everything to be perfect,
but we accept it is far from that.
So, bring us together to learn from you
how to be your presence in the world,
how to create a right environment
and be fruitful for you in all we do.
Keep us always watchful and prayerful.
Amen.

Sentence:

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86:15

Prayer of the Day:

Saving God,
in Jesus Christ you opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Readings:

Genesis 28: 10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Psalm 139: 1-9, 12-14

Cantor: O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:

 you know when I sit or when I stand,
 you comprehend my thoughts long before.

You discern my path and the places where I rest:

 you are acquainted with all my ways.

All sing: Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Cantor: For there is not a word on my tongue:

 but you, Lord, know it altogether.

You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
So high that I cannot endure it.

All sing: Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Cantor: Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.

All sing: Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Cantor: If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.

All sing: Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Cantor: For you have created my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will praise you, for you are to be feared:
fearful are you acts, and wonderful your works.

All sing: Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

Cantor: You knew my soul,
and my bones were not hidden from you:
when I was formed in secret,
and woven in the depths of the earth.

All sing: Guide me Lord, along the everlasting way.

The Psalms: The Liturgical Psalter (1994)
TIS 88

Hymn: God of Bethel

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
your people still are fed,
who through this earthly pilgrimage
have all our forebears led:

our vows, our prayers, we now present
before your throne of grace;
God of our people, be the God
of each succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
for all our needs provide.

O spread your covering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

Philip Doddridge (1702 - 51)
TIS 564

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds

appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 - 43 (NRSV)

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again
and is coming to call all to account.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's
people,
and brings all things to their true end.
This is our faith, the faith of the Church:
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intercessions:

Faithful God, you have promised that there is no place on earth beyond your presence: hear our prayers for the world and its people.

We pray for all who live in places of war and oppression; for prisoners of conscience and for refugees; for the leaders of nations and for all who make and administer laws. Search out our hearts and lead us in your way, that we may work to end war and injustice.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you promised to make us your adopted sons and daughters: hear our prayer for your church. We pray for all who suffer persecution for their faith, and for all whose faith is weak; for all who proclaim your name. We uphold to you the Parish of Murwillumbah, especially their parish ministry team. Search out our hearts and lead us in your way, that by our lives we may proclaim your good news to our communities.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are hungry or homeless, the marginalised, and the unwanted. We give you thanks for all who provide for those in need. Search out our hearts and lead us in your way, that we may live in love for you and each other.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you have promised to be with us even in the darkest parts of life: hear our prayers for all who are in pain, sorrow, or hardship. We pray for those who do not know the joy of companionship and love; for those whose minds are anxious and whose hearts are sad; for the sick, remembering those of this parish and those who care for them. We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, Neil Maclean, Norma Meehan, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Bonnie Kerkenezov, Margaret Leadbeatter, Margaret Waller, Maureen Colburt, Lynda

Garde, Rachael Hampton, Alton and Ros Rowe, Elaine Frederiksen, Karen and Ben Shaw, Pauline Suffolk, Marj Roder, Rose Fox, and Mary Stedman.

Search out our hearts and lead us in your way, that we may respond with generosity to the needs of others.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you have promised your people the hope of glory: hear our prayers for all who have died in this hope, especially remembering Amy Norris at this time. Search out our hearts and lead us in the way of the everlasting, that we, with all your saints, may enter the gate of heaven and dwell for ever in your presence.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us 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.

Confession:

Lord, we confess to you

that we're not very patient with the weeds in our lives.

We try to yank them out, without thinking of any harm that may cause,
to us or others.

Sometimes, we're so frightened that those tangles will overcome us
that we try to ignore them, pretending they're not there.

Please forgive us, Lord,
and help us to trust you to show us your way.

Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God.

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God:
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.

Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be ever more

Martin Rinkart (1586 – 1649)
TIS 106

Sending Out Prayer:

Lord, thank you that we have been able
to spend time with you today.
We have felt ourselves grow stronger
as we have been blessed with your presence.
Send us out to spread your love,
in your precious name.
Amen.

Blessing

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