



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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 26 JULY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Did you ever dream of finding hidden treasure? I know I did. When I was a child, I was a huge fan of Enid Blyton's books, especially The Famous Five. They always seemed to be having really exciting adventures involving pirates and hidden treasure. Whenever we went to the beach, I used to spend hours digging in the sand looking for valuables that people may have dropped. Sometimes I actually did find things, like coins, which made the search worthwhile.

In today's Gospel, Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to buried treasure. He says it is so valuable that the person who found it sold everything they had to be able to buy the land and stake a claim on the treasure. Imagine getting rid of everything you own to buy one thing. It would have to be pretty valuable to go to those lengths. What price would we be able to put on eternal life? If the kingdom of heaven is like buried treasure, what would it be worth? What would we be prepared to pay for it?

Well, the good news is that for us, it is free. Jesus has already paid the price and all he asks of us is to believe, and he will open the door and we can have a place in his eternal kingdom. He is prepared to share the treasure with those who choose to believe in him. Is it any wonder that the psalmist is able to proclaim:

"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." Psalm 105:1

May we all discover the treasure of knowing God and sing God's praises and tell others of his marvellous works.

Every blessing

Matthew

Birthdays: Nancie Garlick, Kerry Johnston and Margaret Shaw.

News: 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: -

Loving Father, guide the minds of our leaders in the decisions they make that will affect all our lives. Please lead them to act wisely, carefully, and in the best interests of all Australians and shine your light on the path ahead. Please give each one of us the calmness and wisdom we need to carry us, together, through the days, weeks and months ahead. We ask this through Jesus Christ Your Son. **Amen**

ABM Reflection:

Having tricked his older brother out of his birthright, Jacob is himself tricked. Having served Laban for seven years on the understanding that he would be allowed to marry Laban's younger daughter, Rachel, Jacob finds that the veiled woman he went to bed with was in fact Leah, the older sister, not nearly as pretty in Jacob's eyes. Complaining, Jacob is forced to hear Laban saying that giving the younger daughter in marriage before the first is not the done thing. Jacob then works for another seven years in order to enter into a (polygamous) marriage with Rachel.

- Pray for all who find themselves to have been tricked or swindled by wily, unscrupulous operators.
- Give thanks for the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

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EAC Prayer Points:-

As we move into the second half of the year, we give thanks for a smooth start to Term 3, a rewarding Staff Development Day and fine weather for our Primary and Secondary Athletics Carnivals.

Looking ahead for this week:

We pray for the upcoming Parent -Teacher interviews.

Year 7 as they undertake the Mental Health Course

Members of our school community who are facing serious health issues, and those that are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Coffee and Conversation

Thursday 30 July 10am at the Lennox Head Surf Club. Please bring a camp chair if you can as this allows the group to social distance while gathering together. All welcome!

CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
26 JULY 2020
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship:

As we enter God’s holy presence,
are you ready to hear again about God’s kingdom?
Come, open your hearts and minds
to see the kingdom around us and within us.
Come, and worship the living God.
Amen.

Hymn: God, Your Glory We Have Seen

All Sing Refrain: God, your glory we have seen in your Son,
full of truth, full of heavenly grace;
in Christ make us live, his love shine on our face,
and the nations will see in us the triumph you have won.

Choir: In the fields of this world his good news he has sown.
and sends us out to reap till the harvest is done.

All Sing Refrain

Choir: In his love like a fire that consumes he passed by,
the flame has touched our lips: let us shout, “Here am I!”

All Sing Refrain

Choir: He was broken for us, God-forsaken his cry,
and still the bread he breaks: to ourselves we must die.

All Sing Refrain

Choir: He has trampled the grapes of new life on his cross;
now drink the cup and live: he has filled it for us.

All Sing Refrain

Choir: He has founded a kingdom that none shall destroy;
the corner-stone is laid: go work, build with joy!

All Sing Refrain

Didier Rimaud (1922 -)
TIS 461

Gathering Prayer:

Lord God, as we gather in many different places,
we thank you for your presence, here with us, making us one.
Thank you, Lord, that each one of us is unique,
yet we share a common bond in you.
We are one body,
but we all learn and experience things in different ways.

We thank you for your amazing word
that gives us so many pictures of your kingdom.
Something for everyone,
something to feed our hearts and minds.
Be with us, Lord,
and bless us richly as we call upon your name.
Amen

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.

Romans 8: 38 - 39

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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen** .

Readings:

Psalm 105: 1-11

O give thanks to the Lord, call the holy name aloud,
and tell the deeds of the Lord to all the people.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

Sing your songs to God, O sing praises to the Lord,
and make known to all the world the Lord's great wonders.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

O be glad in the Lord; glory in the holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

Turn to God, your strength; seek the presence of the Lord,
and remember: God does wonders and is just.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

Heirs of Abraham, Jacob's offspring, chosen ones,
God is ruler and authority for ever.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

God's own promise is sure, a covenant that lasts;
a thousand generations hence it will be true.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

The word to Abraham and the oath God swore to Jacob,
yes, for Israel a covenant for ever:

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

‘I will give you a land; Canaan fair shall be your country,
it will be your home, a land for my own people.

***Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord.***

Hal H. Hopson (1933 -)
TIS 66

Romans 8: 26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that 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.

Hymn: The Great Love of God

The great love of God:
is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth
to redeem every one.

That love, like a stream
flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart
that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world,
every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low,
and the mountains it shakes.

It’s yours, it is ours,
O how lavishly giv’n!
the pearl of great price,
and the treasure of heav’n.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles (1908 - 70)

**All sing: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Jacques Berthier (1923 – 94)
TIS 702

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. ⁵⁴ He came to his hometown and began to teach the people^[a] in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?” ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house.” ⁵⁸ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

Matthew 13: 44-58 (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:

Source of all wisdom, we pray for the leaders of the nations as they face the increasing spread of COVID-19, and the effects that the virus is having on all human life. Help us to find our wisdom in you, that the longings of our hearts may be satisfied.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of all salvation, we pray for your church, as it encounters new challenges in proclaiming your gospel because of COVID-19. We give thanks for modern technology which is enabling worship to enter our living rooms. We give thanks for those who are producing Couch Church, and we give thanks that both our parish centres are now reopening for worship. When we feel no need for you, when our lives are devoid of meaning, help us to find our salvation in you, that the longings of our hearts may be satisfied.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of all forgiveness, we pray for our communities, for all who are forgotten or unwanted. We pray for those whom we have harmed, and we pray for those who have caused us pain. When we are self-centred and indifferent to others, when we are filled with guilt, help us to find forgiveness in you, that the longings of our hearts may be satisfied.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of all comfort, we pray for all in need of comfort, for the broken hearted, for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who have life-threatening illnesses. We give thanks for all who are placing their own health at risk, as they care for the victims of COVID-19. May they be issued with adequate protective equipment, and may they be supported in the trauma and stress that they face. When we are overwhelmed with grief, when we have no one to turn to, help us to find comfort in you, that the longings of our hearts may be satisfied.

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.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Source of all longing, we give thanks for all who have found peace in you, like your servant, the social reformer William Wilberforce. Help us to grow in understanding, that we may distinguish fleeting pleasures from those things of everlasting worth and, with your saints of every age, give all we have to find in you our eternal treasure.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **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 God, sometimes I feel so set in my ways.
I'm not always ready to give something up
to gain the thing of value that you promise.
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.

I want to keep my treasures locked up
in a storeroom, safe from prying eyes.
Sometimes I just expect things on a plate.
I'm not always ready to work for something
that you call me to do.
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.
I do want to be the yeast in my world;
but I'm not always ready to be pummelled,
or to give up my easy life.
Sometimes I take my eyes off you and feel so lost.
Bring me back, please, Lord.
Forgive me, Lord, as I open my heart to you.
Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Stand Up and Bless the Lord.

Stand up and bless the Lord,
you people of his choice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart, and soul, and voice.

Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear his holy name,
and praise and magnify?

O for the living flame
from his own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought!

God is our strength and song,
and his salvation ours;
then be his love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed powers.

Stand up and bless the Lord,
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless his glorious name,
henceforth for evermore.

James Montgomery (1771 - 1854)
TIS 449

Blessing

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