

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 5 JULY 2020 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABRAHAM—JUST LIKE US

Physical public worship has restarted but on a restricted basis. To attend please book online with instructions in a separate email. We will also continue to worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366)

Password: 033643

Kid's Church is in recess during school holidays

SUNDAY 5 JULY

In-person worship resumes (limited to 35 people per service).

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Twilight Conversation—School holidays resumes 26 July

SUNDAY 12 JULY

In-person worship resumes (limited to 35 people per service).

8am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKJGJ>

10am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKJGJ>

Celebrant: Rev Connie Gerrity

Preacher:

The Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM

Twilight Conversation— resumes 26 July

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT

BSB: 062 907

A/C No: 802 588

Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

WOW! At first glance Abraham seems to have it all. Direct intervention in his life by God. Blessed with wealth beyond the wildest dreams of most men and women living on Struggle Street. He had everything produced on top of the ground, and under it. Agriculture – sheep and cattle. Mining – silver and gold. An abundance of hired help. And his transport fleet - the very latest models in camels and donkeys!!! More – the promise of a child (at a hundred years old) and descendants more numerous than the stars.

And that's not all. In Genesis 15: 6 we see Abraham written of in glowing terms, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Important note - here 'righteous' does not mean Abraham was holy, faultless or without sin, somehow superior to the rest of us. It means that God **considered** Abraham to be in a 'right relationship' with Himself. How come? It was because when God said something Abraham **believed** Him. And based on belief God **gifted him** with a right relationship with Himself. The gift was based on trust. Abraham did not earn it by good deeds.

All this, especially the personal attention Almighty God gives to Abraham can maybe leave us feeling a bit diminished, feeling we could not be the equal of this person – such an extraordinary man.

And yet... so very ordinary!

Abraham is found to be replete with human frailty. Reading Genesis we discover he declares his wife Sarah to be his sister when fearful for his life before Egypt's Pharaoh. Later, when God's promised child had not happened Abraham figured he should help God out by resorting to his own plan - and so Sarah's maidservant conceives a son.

All begins to sound just like the rest of us!

Paul takes up the theme of these, our human contradictions with, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

So does Jesus. Just as God did not waver from his promises to Abraham despite his frailties, in the midst of loads we find so heavy to carry in our own strength Jesus has the final word: "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Lindsay McDowell

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WORSHIP IN A COVID SAFE WORLD

This Sunday marks a return to in-person worship at church after 4 long months. It will be wonderful to be back yet it will not be the same as before.

The new format

The worship experience will be different through July as we learn to work with spatial distancing and new hygiene requirements. These changes are designed to reduce the risks of transmission. Of course, Zoom worship will continue to be offered for those who prefer to stay home.

We'll continue to use the Zoom format for in-person worship rather than doing the full service during July. We need to retain the slimmed down format for several reasons. Many of the changes are requests from the Diocese to reduce risks associated with incidental transmission. Most importantly, Zoom will allow those who need to stay home to continue participating in the service – either as readers or intercessors.

We also need to make things as straightforward for our AV team. Not all of our new video equipment has arrived, so they'll be improvising for a few more weeks. Managing sound checks, microphones, overheads and video feeds is not a stress-free task!

With only 35 people attending (not counting the sanctuary, music and AV teams) we need a signup system for Sundays to allow some space for guests to visit. Rest assured, no one will be checking tickets let alone chasing people away. This week, we're using Trybooking. This is to ensure that we can keep the government's spatial and contact tracing requirements.

What other changes will be there?

We'll all need to use sanitiser when we come into the worship centre. Masks will also be available to those who would like one. If you're feeling sick or a little

under the weather, it's better to stay home and join in through zoom.

The seats will be spread out. A lot. Those sharing the same household are encouraged to move the chairs and sit together.

The weekly bulletin will continue to come out on Fridays with the tracking sheets. Limited copies will be available at the door, usually large print copies for those who might find the screen hard to read. Our services will be displayed on the screen. Prayer and hymn books won't be available unless you bring your own copy.

The ACT government has approved choirs for performance and does not differentiate between them and congregational singing. As the Diocese equivocates on this matter, we'll need to limit the amount of singing in our services. Consequently, we'll have an opening and closing song with no sung responses during the service.

We'll also need to refrain from passing the collection plate. A retiring offering will be available. If you have an offering, it can be placed there any time during the service. Sharing God's peace during the service is another thing we'll need to refrain from for a season. I love all the hugs and handshakes so this is going to be hard. This includes at the conclusion of the 10am service.

Communion will feel different. Although we'll have the cup on the altar, communion will be shared in bread only. With the Spirit's presence, no one will miss out on anything. We do have small individual cups available. We can look introducing this option in August if there is sufficient interest as the common cup may not be available until 2021 or longer. Stations for prayer candles will be placed at either end of the communion rail. The chapel is too small for everyone to move through without causing unnecessary stress. This will leave the chapel available to anyone who needs a quiet space for prayer during the service.

Hot drinks and baked treats will be available at morning tea. However, hot fruit toast (always a favourite) will need to be suspended due to the risks associated with shared utensils.

We've all adjusting to new realities and routines. The outbreak of COVID-19 in Melbourne is a reminder that things are still a long way from normal. We understand that some may find the experience unsatisfying. Nevertheless, observing these changes is a way for us to care for each other during this unpredictable season.

Wayne



Warming hands by the lights in the sanctuary
Photo: Martin Lange



FINALLY JOS HAS A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Joselyn (Jos)* has longstanding trauma and addiction issues. In fact, she was born an addict.

Due to her mother being in and out of rehab, and Jos being in and out of care, her young life was very chaotic and disrupted. She went to several different schools, but even her time at school was hit and miss. She did not finish her year 10 certificate, but it remains a goal.

Jos fell pregnant for the first time at 13 to a much older guy who was a friend of her mother. It had just seemed like a normal part of life to her, and even though she lost the baby, she feels it prepared her for her next pregnancy at 14. Her daughter recently turned 6. Fortunately, she was able to travel to country NSW to visit her at her foster-care placement.

Jos has been homeless for about 8 months, which she describes as "terrifying", as she had been evicted from where she was living. There had been ongoing complaints from the neighbors about people coming and going, suspected drug use and frequent domestic violence and police visits.

During one DV incident, she was stabbed in the leg, and when I met up with her, her face was swollen and badly bruised. Although she was the more seriously injured person, Jos was charged with several offences.

The COVID supplement to Jos Centrelink payment has come at a good time. Hotels are also largely empty and have cut their rates to rock-bottom prices. The extra money meant she could afford a room for about four nights a week, wash her clothes and have a shower. She could even heat up a real meal.

Raw Potential has been working with Onelink to help Jos secure some permanent accommodation. The work has been intensive (sometimes daily) setting boundaries, goals, coaching, mentoring, listening and helping Jos to get some order in her life. We have attended court with her, advocated for sustainable bail conditions and supported her for some vital health care.

Raw Potential purchased a suitcase so that Jos could make the all-important trip to see her daughter for her 6th birthday. The suitcase brought a sense of dignity and of being (as she puts it), normal. We also purchased storage tubs so that she can store her few things securely in a safe place, rather than in garbage bags in a shopping trolley.

Most importantly, the intensive commitment to Jos by Raw Potential, and the engagement and effort from her, has hastened her long wait for a permanent address. Working together has seen support agencies prioritize her homeless situation and today she signed the lease on a new apartment.

When I meet up with Jos she took a deep breath, gave a huge sigh, and then she showed me a bath-bomb she'd bought herself for \$1.

Finally, she is home.

Kind regards,

Gabrielle Penn

Raw Potential

(St John's Care is the service provider for Raw Potential)

*not her real name

Items required: Full cream milk, pasta sauce, shampoo and conditioner

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (New Harvest Song Book 173)

The crispness and depth of the morning frost carpeted the ground in white and hung from the dew drops on the wire fence like tiny crystal balls. There is stillness. There is quiet and it is as if the day has frozen just so I could enjoy it a bit longer and it 'smacked' of those beautiful words from Psalm 46:10 'Be still and know that I am God.' We are living in changing, troubled and anxious times where for some, fear is very real but the one thing that never changes is God and his love for us. Steven Foster wrote: The unchanging Spirit, that indescribable force of love, is like a flower rising up from the secrecy of a small seed. One spirit, one heart, but only those who make peace with change will see it.'

May the Lord of Peace himself give you peace at all times and in all ways

Anne, servant of the Lord.

<https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



Stillness and peace

PARISH DINNER VIDEO

We're all counting our blessings these days.

We say a blessing over our food,
we ask for blessings with our relationships, blessings are
everywhere.

So for this parish dinner, we wanted to hear your **blessings**.

Please consider making a short video in response to three questions – they can be funny, serious or anything in between!

I feel blessed by God when...

I thank God for the blessing of my family / church when...

I pray that God will bless my wider community by....

Be sure to include your name and
how long you have been part of the Holy Covenant community,
leaving a gap between each response.

Upload your file to our Google Drive folder

by Friday 17 July

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EW1xol94uBIU8D_aCfFtGwPX8dNioB0?usp=sharing

If you'd like help recording a blessing,
please contact Wayne on 0407 408 333

MINISTRY REIMAGINED

The old joke used to go that life of a clergy person was a cushy one, who else gets to work one day a week? The reality is something different. I'm reimagining ministry because the world has changed because most people no longer know what the church is for. This reimagining involves shifting from being at the centre of a drama to become the catalyst of dynamic change in the world today.

Drama

Many people think of ministry in terms of standing at the centre of a dramatic triangle. Depending on the day, the minister would move from point to point.

Most days the minister would be the rescuer. Because of our access to God and wholesome lifestyle it would be our job to 'help' others. We'd be considerate but knowledgeable enough to fix any problem, either in the parish or people's lives.

Other days we feel like martyrs who were dependent on the parish for our sense of identity. If the parish grew, we were the hero who made it so. If the parish struggled, it was our fault for not being smart enough, brave enough or doctrinally correct enough to fix whatever was broken. In a changing world where no one is interested in religion, many of my colleagues feel hopeless, trapped and overwhelmed.

Some days, we'd play the prophet. Filled with our theological correctness, we'd bully and cajole people into seeing the truth about Jesus. This often meant telling people the rules they needed to follow so that they could be right with God and get to heaven. No wonder people want to defund the police.

Only rescuers wear out. Martyrs fade out. Prophets burn out. No wonder so many clergy become resentful, angry or disheartened when their ministry becomes a role to be performed rather than a lifestyle to be lived.

Dynamic

Ministers shouldn't be the dramatic centre of the church. This is because our job is to follow Jesus and encourage others to do likewise. We need to learn to work the angles of a different dynamic.

This means learning to be a coach. From this perspective, we stand with people and our parishes in order to discover their calling and capacity. We learn to listen deeply so that we can assist people to identify their gifts and passions from which God's Kingdom will grow, rather than out of a sense of obligation, duty and sticking to the rules.

It also means learning to be creative. We have all that we need to make the world a better place. But we never do it

by ourselves. We are always better together, because by working as a team we find fresh solutions by working through various options.

It means learning to be a challenger who calls out growth in others by never settling for what we've already got. Sometimes this means helping people and parishes to reflect on our choices and identifying the pathways that exist. Sometimes old unconscious frameworks will need to be deconstructed so that new and more robust processes, rhythms and outcomes can be achieved. It's not always easy to spark action because we need to be prepared to go into unfamiliar places and situations with people rather than leaving them to figure things out by themselves.

Learning to be a coach, a creative and a challenger is not easy. It involves taking responsibility for our perspectives and behaviour, to find opportunities rather than being the victim of others. While drama centred leaders work by circling the wagons, a dynamic approach to ministry enables everyone to build a new future.

What does this mean for our church?

When viewed from this perspective, Sundays become a gateway to new possibilities. They become a conduit for thinking about the choices we make in life.

Sundays are less about feeling sorry for ourselves and more about resting in Christ's work of redemption. They become less about frantic busyness and more about growing into God's peace and justice. They become less about putting on a good front and more about learning how to join with the Holy Spirit's work in making the world a better place.

Here at Holy Covenant we are building a new future together, one Sunday at a time. My prayer is that the ministry team will always be encouraging, continually creative, and constantly challenging as we seek for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Wayne

PARISH DINNER

Saturday
25 July, 6.30pm

Who would you like to come for dinner?
Planning has started for our evening together so book your calendar now!

Still not too late to be involved! To be involved please contact the office.

**TUESDAY MEDITATION
RESUMING ON 7 JULY 2020
NEW TIME 1PM**

Tuesday meditation will resume in the Chapel on Tuesday 7 July at the new time of 1pm. As the chapel can only seat 4 people at a time in the parish COVID plan, if you plan to attend please let Merri Bacon (6251 1110) or Sybille Kovacs (0438 843 016), know for numbers. If we have more than 4 in the current situation we could meet temporarily in the worship centre.

FRIDAY FILM NIGHTS

Come and join us for four fun Friday nights of films!

19 June ~~To Kill a Mockingbird~~
26 June ~~The King's Speech~~
3 July ~~Mamma Mia~~
10 July Beethoven (kid's movie about an enormous dog)

This final film is one for all ages, children and grandchildren most welcome. Start time 6.30pm. Wear something warm.

We will need to follow Diocesan protocols and maintain our social distances. The films will therefore be shown without an interval. We are limited to a maximum of 30 attendees.

Sign up is absolutely necessary, on a first come basis. For more information and to sign up please contact Libby at lib@warren.com.au

Come and join us for another great night!

SILENT AUCTION

As part of Holy Covenant's Parish Dinner, we are looking forward to holding a physically-distanced silent auction. Do you have any skills we could auction? Could you knit a scarf for someone? Do some gardening? Iron? Do you have any treasures you could donate? Or perhaps you have links to a local business that could donate...Whatever the prize, please let Carol Kubanek, carol.kubanek@gmail.com, know by Saturday 18 July.

Could the prize(s) please be taken to Holy Covenant Church Office by Wednesday 22 July. If you need help transporting the prize(s), please inform Carol or Wendy Robertson, warobertson4@gmail.com.

HCNM UPDATE

Our Covenant Care clients held their second Zoom get-together last Monday. It worked much better than the first one. We are now getting a program in place for each fortnightly get-together with entertainers, book reviews, quizzes and any other activities that work well on Zoom.

We are still delivering meals to our most vulnerable clients on a fortnightly basis and to other clients every few weeks. With restrictions easing, it is now possible to have a cup of tea with some clients as well as delivering the food.

Jennifer is working with several community clients to provide support and assist with decluttering.

We lost one of our former Covenant Care clients last week. Archdeacon Anne took part in her funeral service on Thursday.

Management Committee will meet on 15 July to review our current situation and consider a possible timeframe for returning to limited face-to-face contact and what would need to be done to achieve that.

Rhonda Thorpe Program Manager

FROM THE ACTING TREASURER

Dear friends

At the halfway point in June, income was on track to meet our budget. Most of this was from regular direct givings.

We are receiving the JobKeeper supplement via the Diocese and this certainly makes a big difference to our fortnightly payroll bill.

If you would like to make your offerings by a regular direct credit, the parish bank account is with the Commonwealth Bank at the Jamison Centre. The BSB is 062 -907 and account number is 00802588. Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

Blessings.

Paul Shelley

Warden and Acting Treasurer

COLLECTING FOR TIKONDANE, ZAMBIA

The Christensen's are putting together a gift parcel to send to Tikondane Community in Zambia.

They are asking for donations of MEN'S SOCKS (preferably new but secondhand excellent condition and clean are acceptable too).

Please leave the socks in a bag at the back of the church behind the Sound media table.

More information: Marg Christensen Mobile: 0477 882 882

THANK YOU

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ We pray for those weighed down by the hardships of daily life: for those who live in poverty, without adequate food or shelter; for those in places of war _ civilians, soldiers and refugees; and for those affected by the coronavirus.

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Bathurst
- ⇒ St Mark's National Theological Centre, Canberra
- ⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture Colloquium for Ageing Perspectives & Spirituality
- ⇒ All being prepared for ministries, both ordained and lay in the Diocese and beyond
- ⇒ Vocations to the sacred ministry (priesthood & diaconate), the process of selection of candidates. The clergy appointment selection process – Clergy Appointment Board chairs; and board members both parish and Diocesan.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations – 8am Sunday
- ⇒ Children's ministry (Wendy Robertson) pray that all the kids and parents have a great, restful school holidays and that we can come back to kid's church face to face soon
- ⇒ Parish Council/Wardens
- ⇒ Holistic Care Nursing Ministries (Rhonda Thorpe and Anne Ranse) - Pray for our clients, their carers and volunteers that are struggling with isolation. Pray for wisdom for staff and volunteers as we try to meet varied client and career needs at this time.
- ⇒ Rainbow Playgroup (Christine Mitchell)
- ⇒ Musica da Camera
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Merrie Hepworth; Beth Heyde; Andrew Hill; Phyl and Reg Holmes; Lucian, Joshua and Lulu Horciu; Nilantha Hulugalle and Dorothy and Neville Hurst.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Joh Sheehan, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Lexie Winders, Roger Hallows, Jenny Hall and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- Sunday:** Arthur William Ryan (d.1997)
- Wednesday:** Iris Hall (d.1996)
- Friday:** Grace Watson (d.2014)
- Saturday:** Doris Dudley (d.2006); John Singh (d.2014)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- ★ **Tuesday:** Tahli Robertson
- ★ **Thursday:** Elaine Dennis
- ★ **Saturday:** Carol Pogson

COLLECT FOR 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty God,
 your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
 that what we do for the least of his brothers
 and sisters
 we do also for him:
 give us the will to serve others
 as he was the servant of all,
 who gave up his life and died for us;
 yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy
 Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

READINGS

- Genesis 24.34-38, 24.42-49, 24.58-67
- Psalms 45.10-17
- Romans 7.14-25
- Matthew 11.15-19, 11.25-30

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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Youth Leadership Team

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Wardens

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