

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Physical public worship has restarted but on a restricted basis. Please use the URLs below so that we can manage attendance and contact information. Registration available from Monday. We will also continue to worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.

[https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?
pwd=YUpja05YTXFCNON4MGRISFVRIlloZz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCNON4MGRISFVRIlloZz09)

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCNON4MGRISFVRIlloZz09)

Password: 033643

Kid's Church is in recess during school holidays

SUNDAY 12 JULY

Seating limited to 35 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

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

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant: Rev Connie Gerrity

Preacher:

The Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM

Twilight Conversation— resumes 26 July

SUNDAY 19 JULY

Seating limited to 35 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

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

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

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

In today's readings the Apostle Paul makes the claim, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8.1

This claim made me think about the human heart where questions sometimes rage that can create turmoil within, especially when we are suffering and vulnerable. This can bring havoc to our lives. Paul's words reminded me that we are daily confronted by a host of contrasts. That they are real is plain – condemnation and freedom, good and evil, love and hate, night and day, law and grace ... on we can go.

Paul's assurances took me back to a past conversation – a man challenging me about my Christian faith. He was genuine. Confused, hurting, he was just trying to make sense of conflicting things. He demanded to know just how I or anybody could be confident we have peace with God. To him, I seemed presumptuous, arrogant.

I felt deeply moved, recognising what lay behind his challenge – it was a cry for help.

At a suitable moment I ventured the basic claim Scripture makes about Jesus having paid our penalty in our place, and in doing so set us free. A look of scorn crossed his face, "Nah,

that's just rubbish. It's too easy – it's just a cop out!

Then, in the blink of an eye, sheer dismay filled his eyes, "NO, wait a minute. It's harder. It's a LOT harder!!!" I remember the awe I felt as I watched God do what neither I nor anyone else could do. In a moment of Holy Spirit revelation, God began to reveal the Kingdom of Heaven to that man.

Briefly, God was showing him the contrast between law and grace – both being real. If we break a law we can perhaps feel a bit detached from that. It is somewhat external to us and we may not be touched by it all that much. But grace is driven by love. If someone shows love to us, to disappoint, deceive or even betray that person – the pain within can tear us to shreds. A LOT harder indeed!

This is just **one** of the costs of discipleship.

And love? The Apostles Peter and John, both reinforcing Paul, say of Jesus: "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree..." 1 Peter 2.24 "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4.19

Lindsay McDowell

RECTOR: The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, rector@holycovenant.org.au

OFFICE: 6251 6100, office@holycovenant.org.au

WEBSITE: <https://www.holycovenant.org.au>

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

The ACT moved to Stage 3 on 10 July which allows for larger indoor gatherings. At the time of printing, the implication of these changes for ministry at Holy Covenant are still being explored.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

This week a donor came into the Centre to give a donation for our St John's Care Winter Appeal.

He asked, "How do we use the money to support our clients?" I said that it was a very good question and suggested that I would share this information with you all.

Here is a list of the different ways we supported our clients in 2019:

- Assistance provided to families and individuals: 5930
- Scripts given out: 897
- Support with utility bills: 127
- Actew Vouchers: 86
- Telstra Vouchers: 14,000
- MyWay tickets: 92
- Bus Tickets: 659
- Christmas Lunch: 250
- Christmas Hampers and Present Room: 452
- Homeless packs: 198
- Clients supported with complex needs seen with referrals and support provided ongoing: 1339
- Community Lunches: 11
- Those attended: 1009
- Season of Growth Support Groups: 2 with a total of 12 participants
- Financial Assistance with School activities: 7

SJC and our clients cannot thank you enough for your generosity and ongoing support.

This week, Frank (not his real name), came into St John's Care asking for support. He had received assistance from SJC for many months now, after he lost his job following a horse-riding accident.

He was struggling and unable to make ends meet. Previously he had never been in a position of being unable to provide for himself and his two children.

Frank was ashamed and embarrassed and never thought that he would have to rely on support from others.

Consequently, he came to SJC reluctantly because he did want his children to go hungry. He had under \$20 in his bank account and had no idea what to do next.

Frank received assistance with groceries and financial support to cover some of his medication costs. He was given some extra food as school holidays are approaching and his kids will be home. We also assisted with an internet bill because his children have been home schooling.

He left knowing that he was not alone and that he could return on the understanding that SJC would be able to assist him while things were sorted out.

Kind regards

Jason Haines
Programs and Fundraising Manager

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

WALKING PATHS

This way, his way, is perfect. Psalm 18:30

Walking paths all hold many mysteries regardless of where the path is. Perhaps it's a bush track filled with the smell of the eucalyptus trees and dry tinder undergrowth with tiny pink orchids peeping out from near a twist of dry bark or a mossy rock. Perhaps it is a pine forest with the deep smell of the sap of pine trees, a carpet of fallen needles and clusters of different shape and sized pine cones eagerly gathering a few for a dried arrangement when I get back home or perhaps it's on the edge of a field where the ground is hard and stony yet a tiny blue wildflower is flourishing and the 'shimmer grass' is shaking itself in the gentle breeze. Perhaps it's in suburbia on a concrete path with the beauty seen in passing gardens, autumn trees or pink blossoms and other travellers on the way. There are many signs from God along life's path. His word, his church, wonders of nature, godly parents and loved ones, joys and sorrows. It's what we see and observe on the way that enriches and encourages us, that fills us especially when our way, our path is walking with God. Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



A tiny blue flower is flourishing

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/1EWlxol94uBIU8D_aCFtGwPX8dNioB0?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

NEW TIME 1PM

Tuesday meditation has resumed in the Chapel. It is now on every Tuesday 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.

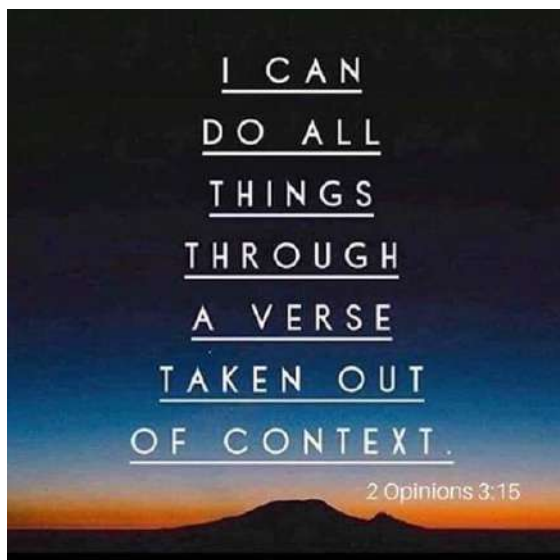


WORKING BEE

There will be working bee on Saturday 18th July from 9 to 12.

Working together not only makes the place look great it also builds

strong friendships. No experience necessary.



KID'S CHURCH TERM 3

To kick off the term, kid's church is having a BYO picnic next week. Please meet at the arboretum playground on Sunday July 19 at 12. All welcome.

Any inquiries: warobertson4@gmail.com

ANGLICAN NEWS—JULY EDITION

The Anglican News for July is now available.

To the page:

<http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

Or straight to the pdf (smaller size):

<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-July-2020.pdf>

OUR LABYRINTH

- Are you looking for ways to keep connected with God over the COVID period?
- We have a wonderful resource in our beautiful Labyrinth that would be well worth taking the time to enjoy on these beautiful winter days.
- Enter the Labyrinth from the Redfern street corner nearest the office.
- The Labyrinth can be walked with a prayer or in silence.
- Take your time and allow God to speak to you. Take some time in the centre of the Labyrinth to give thanks for the good things in your life or lay your burden down in the centre.
- Follow the path out with prayer for our pathway out of COVID 19.



PRAYER LISTS

We all need prayer from time to time. There are many in the congregation who would love to pray for you. Asking for prayer is simple:

Prayer vine - is an opportunity to pray for sudden and immediate needs, such as for an accident, or anything unexpected. To request prayer, simply contact Rosemary Kennemore at 6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au

Special needs - this often for those living with chronic conditions or experiencing long-term challenges. To go on this list or be removed from this list please contact the office 6251 6100, office@holycovenant.org.au

Members of the parish family - using our parish contact list, we uplift everyone in our congregation from week to week. If your name doesn't appear, please let the office know.

Commemorations - this is where we remember loved ones of members from our congregation on the anniversary of their death and the new life they have entered.

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.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ Pray for wisdom for the leaders of nations as they grapple with the coronavirus; We pray for those oppressed by harsh government; those who live under foreign rule; for those in countries destroyed by war and for the dispossessed.

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ As we seek again to reduce the coronavirus spread especially in Victoria, we pray for patience and wisdom for all placed in lockdown; for wisdom for those changing the restrictions and wisdom for the doctors dealing with any affected by the coronavirus.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Grafton
- ⇒ Christ Church, Hawker
- ⇒ Clare Holland House (ACT Hospice), Barton: St John's Canberra
- ⇒ Coral Park/ Bill McKenzie Gardens
- ⇒ St James', Holt
- ⇒ Anglicare activities in caring for and supporting older people in both in home and out of home care including nursing homes, hostels, independent living units and in the general community; for staff; and volunteers.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations – 10am Sunday
- ⇒ Young adults ministry (Celeste, Remus, Sarah, and Tobias)
- ⇒ Shovel Community Garden (Joh Sheehan) pray that God would grow a vision for our community garden that it can be a place of fun, fellowship and healthy food
- ⇒ Resources group (Paul Shelley) for a successful working bee next Saturday
- ⇒ Tai Chi -Give thanks for being able to resume; Pray for safety for all over the holidays and thanks that 2 of the group are willing to be added to the 4 who do sitting Tai Chi for CC
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Deranie and Phoebe Jackson; Gareth, Jo, Hannah, Isobel and Elanor James; Russell, Jayne, Aidan and Emma Judd; and Rosemary and David Kennemore.
- ⇒ 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:** Gerard Bacon (d. 2015)
Monday: Laurie G Alexander (d. 2001)

COLLECT FOR 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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, for ever and ever. Amen

READINGS

- Genesis 25.19-34
- Psalm 119.105-112
- Romans 8.1-11
- Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson
children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leadership Team

Sarah, Celeste, Remus, and Tobias.
youth@holycovenant.org.au

Wardens

Paul Shelley 6251 1568
Joh Sheehan 6251 7151

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au

Belonging and Caring

Joh Sheehan
6251 7151; Johann@sheehan.id.au

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager

Rhonda Thorpe
0487 945 615 ; nurse@holycovenant.org.au

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
0406 379 599; anne.ranse@gmail.com

Honorary Priests

Reverend Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739; annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

Reverend Connie Gerrity

0429 423 725; connie@gerrity.id.au

Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- ★ **Monday:** Elizabeth Troy
- ★ **Tuesday:** Quentin Grafton
- ★ **Wednesday:** Jayne Murray, Neville Hurst
- ★ **Thursday:** Frances Mackay
- ★ **Saturday:** Samuel Gumbrell