

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LAST WORDS - JOSHUA 24.1-25

In-person 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://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRII0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

Kid's church will be meeting in the Rainbow Centre.

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Seating limited to 50 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

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

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversation

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER

Seating limited to 50 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant :

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher: Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse

OAM

5pm Twilight Conversation

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

Joshua's last speech is challenging to read. Like most ancient leaders, he conveyed the things he believed to be of utmost importance to the people of Israel before he died.

To modern listeners, the way Joshua spoke about God can make us feel uncomfortable because of the way it depicts God's involvement in the conquest of Canaan.

Joshua was a man born into slavery. He led the people during the occupation of what would become the land of Israel. From Joshua's perspective, God is first and foremost a tribal warrior king. God's credibility depends on sustaining Israel during difficulty and overcoming all its external enemies.

While the lectionary reading omits the story of conquest (v.4-13) Joshua makes it plain that God had given the land, filled with vineyards and olive trees, to a people who did not deserve it. The land was a gift to those who lacked the power, might and capacity to seize it by themselves.

Yet the land was not empty. It was not free. The gift was inhabited by others. Although Israel might have enjoyed safety and protection from God, the inhabitants were to endure violence, suffer displacement and experience invisibility. This free gift came at a terrible price.

Joshua challenged the people at Shechem, the place where Abraham received God's promise, are you going to respect and serve God or not? He urged the people to throw out all their ancestral gods and those they'd picked up along the way. The people proclaimed their loyalty to God loudly but never committed themselves to taking the next step by discarding their old practices.

To Joshua, God was someone who

demanded absolute and unwavering fealty. To his mind, the transaction was simple. Be loyal and so keep the gift, don't and God would give the vineyards and olive groves to someone else. God's generosity seemed conditional on Israel's loyalty.

This story has played out for centuries. Europeans saw the new world as God's gift to be received or rather taken from others. Many Christians still think of God as a warrior king who allocates spoil based on their professed loyalties.

Only God has arrived as a servant king in the person of Jesus. The difference between Joshua's experience and Jesus arrival is important. It is the difference between a story of retribution and the gospel of redemption. Retribution scours our souls, stirs our fears and highlights all our flaws and failures. Redemption calls out the best, looks to what's possible so that we might participate in Christ's mission of compassion, justice and peace in whatever way we can.

The gift that Christ brings comes at a terrible cost. The price is paid not by people who are replaced but by God's own self. God experiences violence, displacement and invisibility at the hands of Abraham's children. While Joshua's story of retribution ends in disappointment, the gospel of redemption renews all things. God works nevertheless with whomever is available to create a new people who are not bound by place, space or time. This new people creates vineyards and olive groves wherever they go so that all might grow and prosper.

Wayne

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Providing a helping hand

Last week we received a call from a lady named Susanna (not her real name) who needed some food for her dog Benson. Susanna was reluctant to seek help but agreed to come into St John's Care as she had no way of feeding him.

Upon arriving at the Centre, we provided Susanna with some dog food, fresh fruit and vegetables and a hot meal to warm her up. While taking the food to her car, I noticed that she appeared to be living in her car. We gave her some warm blankets and some pillows which she gratefully accepted. Her smile was infectious, and her dog seemed to share the same excitement.

Susanna remembered the names of the volunteers and staff members who had assisted her. She came back to the Centre the following day to thank them for providing her with some emergency relief in the form of food, and for putting a smile on her face.

We began to chat about the months leading up to her visit to St John's Care. Susanna had served in the Australian Army for over 10 years and had been posted to Afghanistan for 2 years. Her work in the army had exposed her to several traumatic situations, which had built up significantly over time.

She came from a family who were fortunate enough to provide her with an education and a roof over her head. Recently, she had fallen on tough times when she was unfairly dismissed from her position in the public service.

Susanna was currently going through the lengthy and expensive process of appealing her dismissal and was no longer able to afford to rent her house. The stress this had caused her was immense, and this was the reason she decided to seek help for herself and Benson.

We referred her to One Link, an organisation that helps to provide homeless people with accommodation. We also gave her contact details for a separate organisation, which aims to provide legal assistance for people who are otherwise unable to afford it.

Susanna is a perfect example of someone needing the support of organisations like St John's Care to help her to get back on her feet.

SJC endeavors to provide continued support for Susanna. Hopefully, this will enable her to find a suitable home, continue to source food for herself and Benson and successfully fight her legal case.

When you support organisations such as St John's Care, you're not only helping people's physical needs – but you're also supporting the whole person at one of the most difficult times of their lives.

Kind regards,

Robbie, Programs Coordinator

Items Required: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, sweet biscuits

Christmas items required: Christmas cake/pudding, 85gm Jelly

WOO ME TO YOUR WORLD

Listen to me for I have excellent things to tell you.

Proverbs 8:6

There is nothing better than getting out into the countryside. It's like all the cobwebs are blown away and for a few hours you are in a different world, a world that delights and invigorates both body and spirit.

And on this day God was dressed in all his glory of colour and slender, in red and yellow and orange flowers striped with black and dotted in paler shades that lined the country road and even those among the dead branches on the ground still shone their brightness. And I see God had even more fun with his painting pallet, scribbling on the tree trunks and painting the hills purple with Salvation Jane and ahhh, the quiet and peace....

In our changing world that coops us up, the freedom of a country drive is life giving.

Joan Chittister wrote: Blessings are the life breath of those who believe in the sacredness of space and place, all things and life.

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

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



God has been painting his glory



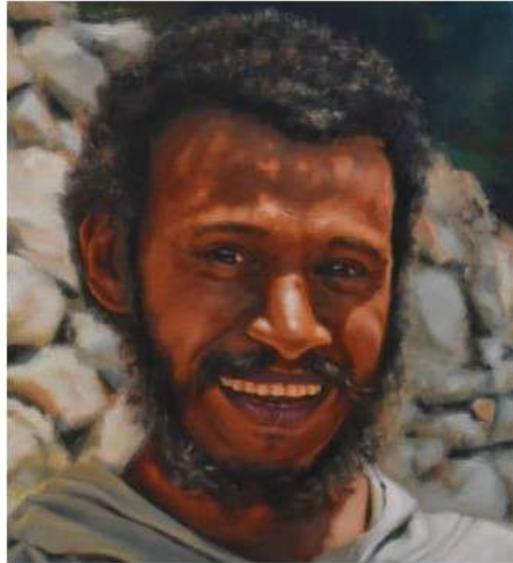
**READING SCRIPTURE
FINDING FREEDOM**

**Thursday evenings
beginning 5 November
From 7pm**

Contact Wayne at
rector@holycovenant.org.au
for more info

Jesus Laughing and Loving exhibition

"This exhibition is a step towards liberating the person of Jesus from the traditional other-worldly image so that his power and relevance for modern living might be rediscovered and enjoyed."
Reverend Tim Costello AO



Mairi Karl Feeger, *The Labourer*, acrylic on canvas

The works have travelled the world, were exhibited at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival and are from 34 artists, representing 17 countries across four continents.

12 November - 5 December 2020
10.30am - 3.30pm

The Chapel
Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
15 Blackall Street, Barton

Parking available - P2 carpark

[Links to two articles from Engage](#)



COFFEE POD RECYCLING

Do you have a coffee pod machine and wonder what to do with them afterwards? The parish now has a brown box where the aluminum is recycled in Nowra and the coffee used for compost.

To find out more visit:

<https://www.nespresso.com/au/en/how-to-recycle-coffee-capsules>

CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS

These are available on the book case to purchase, made by the Crafty Crew working from home



zoom

CHANGE OF SETTINGS

When you join the parish Zoom room on Sunday you might notice one small change.

Your camera will be off. This means if you want people to see you, be sure to switch the camera on from the controls at the bottom of your screen.

This change has been made to ensure everyone's privacy.

HCNM News

Over the last six weeks, our programs have been returning to a new COVID normal. On Monday, 2 November we were able to have all our Covenant Care clients together as one group. It was wonderful to see everyone as we celebrated Millie's 99th birthday and enjoyed a pre-Melbourne Cup soiree!

On 6 October, Graham Bonnett organised our first outing since COVID descended. Six clients and four volunteers enjoyed morning tea at Armadillos Café in Gold Creek Village. Not only was it great for our clients and a celebration of Anne Ranse's birthday but the café really appreciated the patronage. On Melbourne Cup Day, 9 clients and three volunteers enjoyed afternoon tea at Canberra Southern Cross Club, Jamison. CSCC is a significant sponsor of our programs and our patronage helps them in return.

On 28 October, we recommenced our monthly morning teas in the Rainbow Centre. Eight clients attended, including two new clients who were friends

of an existing client.

We will shortly be holding an evening get-together to thank our wonderful staff, volunteers and supporters who have gone above and beyond to support our clients and each other through a challenging year.

Rhonda Thorpe, Program Manager



Outing Armadillos Café

What is PARISH COUNCIL?

In Anglican life, parishes are administered by **councils** who are responsible for the development of mission and ministry in their locality. This cooperative model distinguishes it from most other dioceses.

Our **Council** is comprised of the rector, wardens and councilors elected and appointed by the rector.

Wardens are responsible for the provision of all things necessary for public worship. They help the rector to think through opportunities and challenges to help our church grow.

Councilors play a leadership role by enabling everything to work well. This means listening to needs and watching for opportunities that can help those engaged in ministry.

Holy Covenant has a team-based approach which aims to help everyone be involved.

We are looking for new members to come on the team. Like to know more? Why not talk with a current team member?

Nominations open 8 November

Elections will be held on

6 December 2020

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL - OCTOBER

Parish Council meets on the 4th Thursday each month. A summary of business discussed by Parish Council is provided below. A copy of draft minutes are available on the bulletin board. Items of note include:

- Each month, the Council evaluates an aspect of parish life with the relevant section from the Diocesan Code of Good Practice. In October the focus was on electronic communication.
- A stewardship campaign will be held in late November
- A strategic planning session was held on September 26. The vision for 2021 is likely to focus on 'creating communities for compassion, justice and peace.'
- Many groups have resumed in-person meeting. Youth Group reports up to 10 participants at their sessions.
- Parish elections will be held on December 6.

ST MARK'S
**OPEN
DAY
2020**
9AM-12PM



JOIN US at our annual Open Day on campus in Canberra and online on **21 November 2020.**

Chat to our lecturers about your study goals and learn more

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ O God of all people, grant us open eyes, minds, and hearts: for all that we can learn during this uncertain time, for new understanding, for abundant generosity, and for more love, that we may learn to truly be Your beloved community

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ We pray in thanksgiving for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the land here in our parish that we call home.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Bunbury
- ⇒ St John's Canberra; St John's Care
- ⇒ Sutton Road Mission District
- ⇒ Australian National University
- ⇒ Holy Cross, Hackett
- ⇒ Brindabella Court Self Care Units, Downer
- ⇒ Radford College
- ⇒ Dinka Community
- ⇒ Anglican Schools Commission
- ⇒ Pray for: The work of Christian education in all schools, and for the continuing development of accessible schools in the Diocese. Ministry to post-secondary students.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations—8 am Sunday
- ⇒ Children's ministry—that going back to kid's church in person runs smoothly
- ⇒ Parish Council/Wardens—for vision and energy for Parish Council and two new Wardens in 2021
- ⇒ Holistic Care Nursing Ministries—Please pray for continued safe socialising for our community and Covenant Care clients. Give thanks for the outings and morning tea which have been well attended and the return of Covenant Care as one group each week
- ⇒ Rainbow Playgroup
- ⇒ Musica da Camera
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Lou Daniels; Steve Daniels; Audrey Dargan; John Dau; Evelyn, Jey, Hannah, Sarah, Elizabeth and Mary David-Hoole; and Elaine and Brian Dennis.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Jenny Hall, Bev Barnes, John Blue, Anne and Peter Bazeos, Violet Hart, Belinda Moss and Lucia Horciu and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Monday: Margit Alice Halsey (d. 2010); Alma Featherstone (d. 2013)

COLLECT FOR ALL SAINTS

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

READINGS

Joshua 24.1-3a, 24.14-25
Psalm 78.1-7
1 Thessalonians 4.9-18
Matthew 25.1-13

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson
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Youth Leadership Team

Celeste, Remus, Sarah and Tobias
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Wardens

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Joh Sheehan 6251 7151

Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

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Honorary Priests

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday: Wendy Elkhuizen

Friday: Joh Sheehan