

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



COMING UP

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=YUcja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

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

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversations

SUNDAY 7 MARCH

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

Sign in using Check In CBR App required

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

3pm Rainbow Fellowship

5pm Twilight Conversations

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

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GOING DEEPER INTO THE WILDERNESS (MARK 8:31-38)

I find today's gospel challenging, even disturbing in its demands, but reminding myself of the context seems like a helpful place to start. This passage follows the feeding of the five thousand and the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida. Both events might well have contributed to the Wonder Worker image that Jesus is anxious to avoid, but which probably played a significant part in Peter's recognition of him as the Messiah. Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death – not to mention his resurrection – does not fit with Peter's image of a Messiah. He doesn't understand what Jesus means at this point. How could he? And let's face it, there's a residual hankering after the this archetype in both secular and religious culture even today.

Last week I suggested that one way of looking at repentance is to see it as an invitation to reflect on, and to recalibrate our lives. This is not a self-improvement or self-acceptance exercise (except in the most profound sense). If anything, we might find ourselves, like Peter, stripped of some of our illusions about who we are and who God is. Is that part of what Jesus means when he says that we must lose our lives if we are to find them? In Peter's case, it will take a profound failure in loyalty and courage – the very qualities he prided himself on – for

him to be ready to be commissioned by Jesus (Jn 21).

Peter's story reminds me of Paul's suggestion that we have a 'sane estimate' of ourselves (Romans 12), and that we remember that 'we have this treasure in earthen vessels' (2 Cor. 4:7). Somehow, we need to find a balance between overvaluing and undervaluing ourselves; between holding ourselves to account and beating ourselves up for not meeting the high standards suggested by today's gospel. I think it is called humility.

Lent is an invitation to learn humility – to face the truth of who we are and what our life is, and to say yes to that. Perhaps that is what Jesus means when he says we must take up our cross daily. To carry what is ours to carry – the joy and the pain, the beauty and the ugliness, the light and the shadow – within us and within the world around us. Along the way we may learn that sin and failure are not only inevitable, but necessary parts of our transformation into Christ. Have you ever heard yourself or someone else say, 'I wouldn't have chosen to have this (referring to some failure, loss or trauma) in my life, but I couldn't be what I am today without it'? It pays to take the long view and to keep on showing up.

Frances MacKay

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CHANGES TO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The ACT Government recently changed the requirements for churches to record details of attenders of activities held on their premises. Paper records and online registration processes like Trybooking will no longer be acceptable from Saturday 6 March 2021.

Attenders over the age of 16 of *any meeting or event* held in either Worship Centre, Rainbow Centre or garden will need to register using the Check-in CBR app on their phones. This includes people attending groups who use our facility. So if you go to any group, please register and encourage your companions to do so too.

Those who don't have a phone or access to the app can be signed in by another person. Copies of the QR code will be placed in each room of the Worship and Rainbow Centres and on the name tag board.

From next Sunday 7 March 2021, sidespeople will be requesting all attenders aged over 16 to register using the app. If you do not have access to the app you may request help from a sidesperson or anybody else in the congregation.

To register by using the app



1. Make sure you have a compatible phone or tablet device and your internet connection is switched on.
2. Download the Check In CBR App from [Google Play Store](#) or the [Apple App Store](#).
3. Register your details (required for the first time only).
4. Open the app, select 'Check In Now' and hover your smartphone over the displayed QR code.
5. Add in any additional people - those who are with you without their own device or app.
6. When the check-in is complete, show sides person the app successful check in screen.

To register a guest

There are two ways to register another person.

First, you may add them as a frequent guest by simply checking in additional people. This is great for family members and friends.

Second, you may add them using *the business profile*. It's easy to switch between the *personal* and *business profiles*. Registering someone requires their first and last name, along with their phone number and email address (if they don't have one put down the church's).

To add someone using the *business profile*, simply

1. Open the app
2. Select the menu in the top left-hand corner of the

screen (it looks like 3 horizontal lines)

3. Select 'Profile'
4. Select 'Change to Business Profile' at the bottom of the screen
5. Select yes then the 'are you sure?' pop-up appears (this only happens the first time)
6. Scan your venue's QR code to get started. You will then need to add their first and last name along with a phone number and email address.

Why do I have to register this way?

Registering is important for rapid contact tracing purposes should a COVID outbreak occur. As it is a health direction we are obligated to comply as with any other law. Failure to follow this direction can result in the individual being fined \$1,000 and the venue fined \$1,000 also. Health Officers are doing spot checks on churches. So if 20 people failed to register one Sunday, this could result in those individuals being fined \$1,000 each and the church being fined \$20,000 or a total of \$40,000 so it pays to be responsible.

For more information about the app - visit

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/check-in-cbr/information-for-customers>

 play.google.com

[Check In CBR - Apps on Google Play](#)

Quickly and securely check in to a business in Canberra, Australia to support COVID-19 contact tracing. Simply scan the QR code displayed at the business, and you're done! Your personal details are saved securely with ACT Government Health Directorate for the sole purpose of contact tracing. (105 kB)



 [App Store](#)

[Check In CBR](#)

Quickly and securely check in to a Canberra business to support COVID-19 contact tracing. Simply scan the QR code displayed at the business, and you're done! Your personal details are securely saved directly with ACT Health for the sole purpose of contact tracing. (168 kB)



COVID-19

[Information for customers](#)

Information for customers

COMMUNITY GARDEN (SHOVEL)

The Community Garden is an outreach ministry to our local community. Those who lack the space; resource; or knowledge and those who would just like to garden with others, are invited to grow a shared sense of community; knowledge of gardening; and healthy, nutritious produce. We meet on the second and fourth Sunday's of the month to:

- swap knowledge and tips about gardening
- share nutritious meals
- having fun, gardening and harvesting the produce of our labours.

Anyone with an interest in growing sustainable produce is welcome to join us.

You can get involved by:

- joining us when we meet – our next gathering is 3:00 pm Sunday 28 Feb
- encouraging members by sharing your knowledge and expertise
- helping us grow the garden through donations of seeds, cuttings, plants.

Joh Sheehan and Allison Cooper-Stanbury lead this ministry. To find out more contact Joh on 0418 644 282 or Johann@sheehan.id.au or Allison on 0410 506 231 or allison@cooperstanbury.com.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Ever wondered what Christian faith is about? Ever thought why Anglicans do things the way we do?

We are looking to start groups to help you know a little more about what it means to follow Jesus in the world today.

Baptism is the doorway into discovering faith, as much for children as for adults. Baptism is available to everyone irrespective of their age.

Confirmation provides a window for those who were baptised as children to make a deeper discovery of faith as adults.

Why not contact Wayne on 0407 408 333 for details.

DINNER GROUP AT SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB

The "First Tuesday of the Month" dinner is meeting this month on Tuesday 2 March at 6 pm.

Please confirm that you are coming so I can let the Southern Cross Club Jamison know our numbers.

Thank you Hilary 6251 8166



I JUST WANT MY CHILDREN TO BE LIKE EVERY OTHER CHILD AT SCHOOL.

I received a call from a Canberra primary school psychologist a week ago. He told me about a family he is working with and asking what possible assistance we could provide. I invited him to come to St John's Care so we could show him what we do. In the meantime, I gave him a quick rundown of the ways we could potentially support this family.

CM is a single mother of four primary school age children (twins and two others) who lost her income 6 months ago (she was working as a cleaner in a hospitality industry). She thought that her savings would be enough to see them through tough times until she gets another job. Unfortunately, she still can't get a job as it's hard to get the hours she needs as she is single parent.

CM told me that all her expenses are mounting up, and that she doesn't have money to pay their car registration. She recently stopped her children from going to school due to lack of funds to buy school uniforms and book packs.

CM told me that she hit rock bottom when, two weeks ago, they didn't have enough food at home to make sandwiches.

That's when the school psychologist became concerned and called SJC.

We invited CM to come and see us at the St John's Care Centre to talk. CM did not feel comfortable reaching out for help. She told us she did not mind if she went without

food, but not her children.

We sat together and I listened as she spoke. Together we were able to formulate a plan.

We gave her four school bags full of supplies and assisted her with the purchase of school uniforms. She explained that she wanted her children to look like every other child at their school, so they did not look different. We then gave her enough food and school snacks for two weeks.

We also supported her with her phone and electricity bill to lessen the burden. She was connected with Centrelink and an employment agency (who hires specialist cleaners) to assist her journey.

Although CM is still looking for work, she said she feels that life moving forward has become more optimistic and is particularly relieved that her children have school lunches every day.

When CM left the Centre, she was overcome with joy!

Kind regards,

Nailia, SJC Case Manager

Items required: school lunch snacks, juice poppers, small boxes of sultanas, savory biscuits and tinned meats.

Frontals made by Ruth Hingston

Frontals capture the changing fabric of church life

Local textile artist Ruth Hingston has made several sets of the embroidered cloths that decorate Holy Covenant at diverse times of the year. These altar, pulpit and lectern coverings are contemporary and vibrant, reflecting our identity as an inclusive and engaged community.

Walking the steps on the Christian path

Ruth's purple set is the latest in our collection. Her striking design features a pathway of 40 silver stones, shining against a dark background.

The focus is on the spiritual journeys we make in the leadup to Christmas and Easter. While the mood varies with the season, both Advent and Lent are periods

of waiting. They allow us to reflect and grow in faith as we anticipate the religious calendar's most important events.

"Lent is a solemn time of introspection," Ruth says. "I was thinking about walking a path, step by step. It's a serious search."

She points out that the steps on the pathway are not always even and smooth. Instead, they can be rough or slippery.

"You may have taken a step and you didn't even know it," she adds.

On a symbolic level, this suggests how "sometimes it feels like we don't always know where we're going". But Ruth strives not to be "too prescriptive" and her subject matter is open to more than one interpretation.

"There's room for the congregation to bring their own life experience and imagination to the work," she says. "Viewers may relate to different things in it."

Crossing between inner and outer worlds

For the purple set, Ruth has drawn on images that connect with the pebbled labyrinth on the other side of the church's glass windows. This movement between interior and exterior spaces enhances the sense of flow between the building's architecture and its surrounds.

The links between setting and materials run deep. The Daniels family gifted the frontals in memory of their parents, Beryl and Jack. Ruth was pleased to hear that Jack Daniels had been a stonemason. She was further

delighted to learn that Beryl had loved patchwork.

Ruth has called on the craft's techniques, incorporating little leaves, flowers and ladybirds into her scenes. Textural detail comes from crystals she picked up at op shops as well as sequins, beads and sparkling buttons. They catch people's attention and provide something for them to contemplate.

"I chose this deep violet velveteen because the light is absorbed into the fabric," Ruth explains.

To relieve the darkness, she used silver materials to outline the pathway that snakes through the trio of hangings. The metallic sheen contrasts with the sombre colours of Advent and Lent.

Getting the design right was not

straightforward. Ruth knew it had to be expressive without dominating the busy area.

"It's a very challenging sanctuary with that backlight," she admits.

Picturing the word of God

Ruth did her first-year New Testament studies at St Mark's around three decades ago. From the start, she was striving for a deeper understanding of the gospel. This has helped her to represent the various liturgical seasons in a meaningful way.

She recalls the early influence of Bishop Ian George. When he was rector of St John's in Reid, he decided to move away from traditional symbols, opting for church frontals that were new and modern.

"That's where it all began," says Ruth. "I was interested in how to depict the Christian faith in an Australian context."

Landscape is a dominant theme in our culture and the natural realm fascinates Ruth. The Hallelujah series, which honours the life of Tamara Batterham, shows Belconnen's hills and unique roadmap. This white set comes out when we celebrate Christmas and Easter.

Ruth stitches familiar sights into her pieces. The recognisable lines of the Brindabellas, the rugged terrain of Mount Painter and the stars that twinkle in the southern sky become part of our spiritual landscape.



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY - WEEK 2

Lent is the period of 40 days leading up to Easter. As we saw last week, the way of love begins by TURNING towards and LEARNING from Jesus. It's about breaking out of ruts and stepping out into a new life with God.

So what comes next?

The next step on the way of love is PRAYER.

To most people, prayer is simply talking to God. Sometimes it can be like an arrow - 'help God!' Other times it can be more like a shopping list of wants, needs and worries. The good thing is that there is no right or wrong way to pray any more than there is a right or wrong way to talk with mum or dad over a cuppa. Sometimes what we can get so focussed on what to say that we forget that prayer also involves listening to God. We listen when we begin to tune into the rhythm of God's heartbeat and let it fill our lives.

There are many ways to pray. One popular method goes by the acronym ACTS. *adoration* or praise; *confession* or admitting your flaws and asking for forgiveness; *thanksgiving* for expressing our gratitude; and *supplication* or bringing our requests to God for ourselves and others.

Another pattern is intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayer focusses on the needs of others, not just what is now but what might yet become with God's help. A simple calendar or diary is a good way to shape this

approach. We might chose to pray for our family members on Monday and our friends on Tuesday. Praying about our finances, not simply about our needs but how God might use us might be the focus for Wednesday. The church's mission can draw our attention for Thursday and the wellbeing of our co-workers, colleagues and employees might be our Friday focus. We can pray for those who are sick and carers on Saturday and for the world's needs on Sunday be it for creativity in government, honesty in business, integrity in law enforcement and justice for those marginalised by discrimination.

Perhaps the most unrecognised dimension about prayer is how it changes us. Prayer can be like a trellis, giving shape to our lives especially at times when we feel messy, out of control or anxious. The form, structure and rhythm of prayer can bring calm, peace and healing. Prayer can also be fuel in our lives. It can change what we see or notice around us, shift our priorities and give us the energy to join with God in making the world as it was always meant to be.

So rather than fasting this Lent why not explore how prayer can fit in your daily routine?

There are many people around the parish who can help. There are several meditation groups that can help us learn the rhythms. There is also the Monastery of the Heart or MOTH group which can help people learn to listen to God's voice in your life. Grow Groups are another way where we can turn and learn the way of love. So why not make a start this Lent?

Wayne



EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS (EFM)

FIND OUT MORE

Are you looking to take your faith journey deeper?

Come and hear from past participants who have done and are currently doing EFM and see what the program has to offer.

We learn together in community, read scripture and explore how our faith and theology intersects with the world around us as we look at different theological tools which help us reflect on our traditions, culture, experience and positions and discern where our own interests and passions dovetail with the work of faith.

For more details go to <https://www.efmaustralia.org/>

Information evening will be held on

7:30pm Thurs 4 March

Red room, Rainbow Centre

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021

Pray for Vanuatu

Date 5 March 2021 Time: 11am

Location: Canberra Baptist Church

Currie Crescent

Kingston ACT

PARISH DIRECTORY

A new Parish Directory is available. Please contact Phil in the Office to get one.

PEARLY SHELLS

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers: the moon and the stars which you have set in order. What are we, that you should be mindful of us: what are we that you should care for us? Psalm 8:4-5

All the grains of the sand – all the stars in the sky – all the beauty of the earth: We can't count it, we can't grasp its fullness and we stand in awe of its magnitude and beauty. Yet God says we are his greatest creation. Can you grasp that? When you look at things of beauty such as the bold yet soft and beautiful fire red leaves of the maple tree in autumn that takes your breath away, do you realise you are more beautiful in God's eyes. He gave us a world of wonderful creation for our joy and pleasure because he loves us. *O Lord, our Governor, how glorious is your name in all the earth. (v10)*

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



Even more beautiful than the pearly shells

