

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

To join us on Zoom, please use the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUtpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

Kids church and Young Adults will resume on 6 February 2022

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Preacher and Celebrant:
The Rev'd Dr Wayne
Brighton

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Preacher and Celebrant:
The Rev'd Dr Wayne
Brighton

5pm – Twilight Service

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT
BSB: 062 907
A/C No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

What is love?

(And let's be honest, every Gen X person just sang "Baby don't hurt me, don't hurt me, no-more".)

There are many answers to this question, particularly when we use this week's Bible readings as a lens to explore it.

Love is a verb—a doing word. Debie Thomas understands this well: "Love is not an emotion. It's not something we wait around for, or fall into. It is muscle, movement, sweat, action. Love acts patiently and kindly. Love acts against the impulses of envy, irritation, and arrogance. Love yields, love rejoices, love refrains, love endures.

In other words, love doesn't stand around waiting for warm fuzzies; love gets up and gets moving."

Love is both a 'yes' and a 'no'. When we "do" love, often we are doing work which distresses the comfortable and self-assured (the "no") even as it comforts the distressed (the "yes"). Everyone who parents or works with children under 5 knows this type of love. 'Why won't I let you watch YouTube videos all day? Because I love you, and I want your brain to develop with lots of crinkles, rather than be smooth.' In verse 10, Jeremiah is told that his message will not only build up but break

down: "See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Sometimes we need to be a part of breaking something down, so that it can be rebuilt in love. This is what drives liberation theology. As Oscar Romero put it: "A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" Change is hard, particularly when that change is required in something or someone that we hold dear. But whistleblowers like Bishop Greg Thompson and others have recognized that change is necessary for healing and growth in the church, and so have been agents of love and change.

In the movie *Dead Man Walking*, Sister Helen Prejean offered pastoral care to a murderer; an unrepentant, wretched man. Yet her faith in a loving God allowed her, moments before his execution, to say to him, "I want the last face you see in this world to be the face of love, so you look at me when they do this thing. I'll be the face of love for you."

What does it look like in the world when we are the face of love for others, or even for ourselves?

Megan Watts

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BROKEN PROMISES

Q is a middle-aged woman

with two young children, who has endured a prolonged financially and verbally abusive relationship.

Q recalls becoming concerned when she took her youngest child to a medical appointment and was unable to pay for it. Attempts to discuss this with her husband enraged him, and the relationship deteriorated. The marriage became increasingly unhealthy, and the pattern of financial abuse worsened. Q began the process of obtaining a divorce.

Since then, the pair have been in and out of court. Q's ex-husband continues to break commitments to financially contribute towards the family's bills, children's medical appointments and school fees.

Q, now only able to work part time, was in significant debt, and receiving late payment notices from housing. She had two outstanding utility bills, and her phone service was to be disconnected within weeks. Although she had a court date set for early February where she hoped to receive financial assistance from her ex-husband, she was struggling.

St John's Care was able to pay for her utility bills, phone bill, and late fees for her tenancy. The volunteers prepared a large family pack complete with fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and plenty of snacks for the children. I referred her to Care Financial, who helped her set up a feasible payment plan for the remainder of her housing bill. Additionally, we provided the children with some leftover Christmas gifts, as well as school supplies for the year, including a backpack, book pack, lunchbox, and drink bottles. Q was incredibly grateful for the support SJC was able to provide. We will continue to support Q and her family.

Items required: School supplies (backpack, lunch boxes, drink bottles, pens pencils and pencil cases) juice boxes, tinned vegetables, Vegemite, powdered milk.

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

COVID-19 Update

As advised last week, two members of the Parish have recently received COVID diagnoses. At the time of writing, both parishioners were not unwell, for which we give thanks.

The Parish Leadership team is closely monitoring the COVID situation. We have developed a risk mitigation plan for the continued provision of face to face services if the Sanctuary team or music team are heavily impacted by COVID. In the worst case scenario where the bulk of the Sanctuary team were to be unavailable at short notice, we will pivot to an online service and contact the congregation via email to advise of that change. So please keep an eye on your emails, particularly on Friday/Saturday. At this stage, morning tea will continue to be served, but please consume your food and drinks outside.

The previously discussed donation of air purifiers has increased from two to three Breville air purifiers. The first of the air purifiers was installed before the service on 23 January. The remaining two devices have been ordered, and will be installed shortly after they have been delivered. When combined with other safety measures such as ensuring air flow through the Worship Centre by opening the sliding doors and maintaining physical distancing, this will further reduce the risk of the spread of COVID at a service.

As always when managing COVID, please remember to check in using the CBR app, use the hand sanitizer, wear your mask and maintain appropriate physical distancing from people outside your usual social circle. Thank you all for your cooperation to date.

Joh Sheehan, Rector's Warden

*To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true.....
I will cling to the old rugged cross. (Hymn, The
Old Rugged Cross)*

It's such a blessing to have trees around my garden that bring shade, the colours of the seasons and are the homes of the chattering and nesting of my feathered friends that are the chorus background to my sacred space and the joy they bring when they strike up the chorus, bath in the birdbath and sunbake on the lawn. As I looked at the eucalyptus tree this morning in its self-decorated trunk of countless markings and cross like branches, I thought of the old hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross' and was reminded of that line in this hymn that reads, "where the dearest and best for a world of sinners was slain". With my hands warming around my cup of tea my heart too was warming around my love of Jesus and all he did for me and for you.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Self-decorated trunk.

Annual Report—Call for Submissions

The Annual General Meeting will be happening on 1 March, and the Annual Report needs to be available to the Parish by 20 February. Which means that the reports need to be lodged with the Office by **6 February**. That's only one week away!

Do you lead one of the Ministry Teams, or organise one of our regular groups/events? Do you have any photos of activities at Holy Covenant over the last year? If the answer to any of those questions is yes, then you have a valuable contribution to make to our new format Annual Report.

Please send your photos and/or reports to the Office sooner rather than later. (You don't want to make Megan chase you).

The gold star and chocolate prize for the first report lodged goes to Hilary. Well done!



DINNER CLUB

1st Tuesday of the Month

Meeting on 1 February at 6pm
Good Food! Good Company! Good Vibrations!
At the Southern Cross Club in Jamison
Please confirm attendance with Hilary 6251 8166

A pastor was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their Mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

Living Forward

Growing in wisdom and maturity



ANSD Quiet Day with Dr Heather Thomson

Saturday 19 February 2022

9.30am to 3pm

via Zoom

Our past may shape us, but it does not define us. No matter what our age or stage of life, we may yet grow beyond what we have been and live more whole-heartedly, freely and at peace. In living forward, we attend to our past and present in a way that allows fruitful growth in wisdom and maturity. This Quiet Day is about becoming less reactive and more honest and responsive to our daily relationships and circumstances. The day will consist of several input sessions, followed by periods of silent reflection.

Dr Heather Thomson is a regular ANSD presenter, theologian, retreat leader and member of Benedictus Contemplative Church in Canberra.

Please RSVP by Friday 11 February to ansdact@gmail.com

Zoom details will be emailed to those who register.

Cost: Payment of \$15 via electronic transfer to "Australian Network for Spiritual Direction" / BSB 032-719 / Account 301 994 / Reference: **SurnameQD**.

Enquiries: Annie Patterson, ANSD Convenor for Canberra & Region, 0450 488 278.



Zoom Chat Is Back!

THURSDAYS 10:30 in February. Feeling isolated or alone? Or just keen for a chat? Join in the fun on the below link and connect with your Holy Covenant community. Any problems with connecting, please call Wendy 0481 458 037

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09> Meeting ID: 882 096 2366 Passcode: 033643

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ The people of Ukraine, and all involved in working to ensure peace in that region
- ⇒ The people of Tonga, as they work to rebuild while keeping their nation COVID free

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Australians of the year: Dylan Alcott, Val Dempsey, Dr Daniel Nour & Shanna Whan—that their missions and actions may change our nation
- ⇒ Firefighters and first responders—that they have the training, equipment and support needed
- ⇒ Teachers, students and parents as school returns

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Mission Agencies
- ⇒ Missionary Work of the Church in Australia & Overseas
- ⇒ Deacons in their specialised ministries
- ⇒ Diocesan Clergy: Clergy currently on Long Service Leave, Study Leave or Exchange
- ⇒ Retired Diocesan Clergy
- ⇒ Clergy widows and widowers
- ⇒ Pray for: Vocations to missional service both at home and overseas.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Anne, Martin and Jenny Lange; Clare Lawlor; Resa Le; Chris Lee; Penny and Ted Lilley; and Theodore and Gwilym Lucas.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Brianna Smith, Claire Whelband and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- Sunday: **Juliette Bowie (d. 2002)**
Friday: **Dorothy Beryl Daniels (d. 2016)**
Saturday: **Colin Buxton (d. 1985)**

COLLECT for 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Righteous God,
you confound the world's wisdom
by giving your blessing to the lowly and pure in heart:
give us such a hunger and thirst for justice
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that in our words and deeds
the world may see the promise of your kingdom,
which has been revealed in 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

Jeremiah 1.4-10

Psalm 71.1-6

1 Corinthians 13.1-13

Luke 4.21-30

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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Youth Leadership Team

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Wardens

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Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday: **Russell Judd, Dorothy Hurst**

Wednesday: **Emma Judd**

