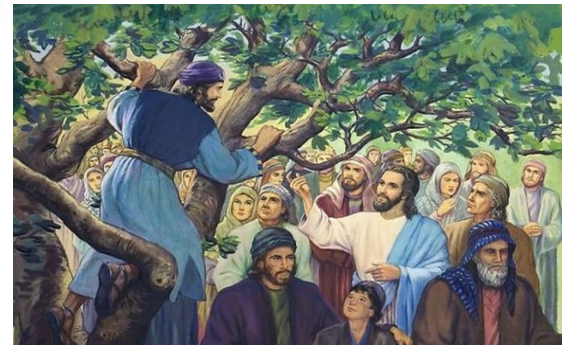


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 2022

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSEVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher :
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversations

WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service
and lunch

SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher :
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversations

Coming Up:

Fete 5 November

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth
Branch: Jamison Centre ACT
BSB 062 907
Account No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican
Church

KEEPING WATCH

(HABUKKUK 1.1-4, 2.1-4)

What image comes to mind when you think of a prophet? Maybe a wide-eyed maniac, hairy hermit or a rabble rouser getting ready for another protest?

One Scriptural image used to describe the role of a prophet among God's people is that of a watch-keeper. Watch-keepers kept a city safe at night. They were expected to think and act quickly in emergencies, such as a fire, or keep the peace in a world without police. Watch keepers needed to be people of integrity, reliability and courage.

Habukkuk described himself as God's watch-keeper albeit with a twist. The city he guards does rest in peace but is filled with violence and strife. The prophet is distressed at what is seen for the law is not only powerless and paralysed but justice never seems to arrive.

The prophet's call to God for justice, law and order seems to fall on deaf ears. When it comes, God's response seems worse than the disease. He sees only the Babylonians arriving to seize the city. The enemy is not godly at all.

Those who walk in the way of love are often confounded by such writings. Is God responsible for death and destruction? How is collective punishment fair? Can violence ever be justified?

Habukkuk is grappling with trauma and struggling for meaning. The evil that swirls is petty and absurd. While the prophet feels hopeless, they are not helpless. The righteous will live by faith.

Who are the righteous and how does faith help, we might ask? These words stand unexplained, as if to say, if you know then there is no need to ask. These words reach up to heaven while being planted upon the earth.

When we think of faith we often see it as a system of belief that's correct or not. From this perspective, it's easy to think that those who believe the right things can avoid life's troubles. When troubles arrive it creates a crisis as though the experience proves our error.

A better way might be to think of the righteous are those who live God's way, the way of love. Faith then becomes more of a pattern or lifestyle grounded in trust and loyalty than ideas that float around our cerebellum.

Faith for the righteous is anchored in their remembered identity. They used to be slaves but were set free by a God who cares for the lowly and who dreams of a fair, just and equitable world.

What matters is God's faithfulness to give birth to something new. New things emerge only when old things are gone. It is God's faithfulness that enables the righteous to live in solidarity through this liminal moment of uncertainty and confusion. God enables people to remain mindful of one another's humanity so that love is always possible even in the middle of heartbreak and disillusionment.

I wonder what do you watch for? Do you see only bad things swirling around? Can you see the good that lies just beneath the surface? God is always at work, helping new things to grow.

Wayne Brighton

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

FROM SLEEPING ROUGH TO A SAFE SPACE

Approximately four weeks ago, D presented at the St

John's Care Centre (SJC) seeking support. She advised me that she and her partner K had arrived in Canberra two days earlier from interstate. They were looking for work because their relationship of more than 30 years was breaking down and they had made the decision to relocate to Canberra. They wanted to put distance between themselves and their old life and make a fresh start.

Since arriving in Canberra, D had been to a job interview and wished to continue to look for work. In the meantime, they were sleeping in their car at a truck stop. When they arrived at our Centre the overnight temperatures were still below or near zero degrees and they hadn't been sleeping well as it was cold, uncomfortable and they did not feel very safe.

D told me the couple had no food and had not eaten for days. Additionally, neither had income as their Centrelink payments had been frozen and they were out of work. D was also worried that they had not been able to shower for some time and that this was not helpful in looking for work. She told me that they also experienced mental ill health and had a significant trauma history. At times, they felt like all hope was lost and they had experienced thoughts of self-harm.

D and I sat together to discuss their situation and explore what would help them the most at this time. We made a list of all the tasks that needed to happen and then D prioritised them. We decided that finding a bed to sleep in was the highest priority. Together we called OneLink, which is an organisation who links community members to supported accommodation services and they advised that there were no beds available. As a result, we formulated a plan for that night, which included providing non-perishable foods and warm blankets, as they had no other option than to sleep in their car. We then contacted Centrelink to seek support with D's financial situation and were able to re-start their payments, although not for nearly a fortnight.

OneLink contacted me the next day to advise that a temporary bed had become available for D and K, which was fantastic news. The pair were overjoyed when I told them.

Since then, I have been working closely with D to help get their lives back on track. I have helped her to apply for priority housing with ACT Housing. In the meantime, they have found transitional accommodation where they can reside whilst they wait for either an ACT Housing property or a private rental. SJC continues to support them with food assistance while they get themselves into a better financial situation.

I have also supported D emotionally as the move to Canberra and the dissolution of their relationship presents a big change for her. She has been linked in with a GP, as well as a support group for people experiencing the effects of mental illness. She has been able to find some sporadic employment opportunities which will help alleviate some of the financial stress. Both D and K still wish to gain full time employment and their goal is to work and become less dependent on social welfare services.

They have many strengths and attributes that will aid them in achieving their goals of securing stable employment, their own home and meeting people to form new relationships. Not only are they driven, persistent and hard-working but they are also kind and compassionate.

D and K are incredibly grateful for the support that SJC has been able to provide them in this challenging time. They once said to me that they didn't know what they would have done or who they would have turned to without SJC, and that they have always felt welcomed and supported here.

I look forward to continuing to work with D and K over the coming months in achieving these goals.

Social Work Student Belinda Ding

Pantry Items Required: tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned meat (Irish stew), pasta sauce, muesli bars

Items also required for Christmas Hampers:

Milo/Drinking Chocolate; Tea bags (50 pack); Coffee 100grams; Jam; 1 litre juice (golden circle); and Lollies

Congratulations to Geoff & Lorraine Buckland will celebrate their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 3rd November, 2022. They were married at St. Michael's Church, Wollongong.

Very best wishes for celebrating this wonderful milestone.



Wonder and mystery.

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love from which our birth over and around us lies. Lord of all, to the we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

(Christian hymn)

The gardens are full of wonder and mystery. There is colour and shape among the great variety of flowers, there is perfume, there are bees, there are butterflies, there are thousands of raindrops, tiny baubles bursting with life giving water and the bird bath is full much to the delight of the Rosellas, the Finches and the very busy Willy Wagtail. Birdsongs echo from the tree top and in their pauses, there is silence and I am filled with wonder at the mystery. It all reminds me of Louis Armstrong's song: What a Wonderful World. 'When we are filled with wonder it is as if we have encountered the world in all its beauty and mystery for the very first time.' (Sharon Blackie.)



Made by God

IT'S TIME TO *Dinner*



Southern Cross Club Jamison
6pm November 1st
RSVP to Hilary 6251 8166
Cup Day - fancy hats and
fascinators encouraged

'Floating' – Marking the 21st Anniversary – SIEV X Tragedy

early morning sunshine brightens
enlightening the wide expanse
bobbing gently up and down in calm waters,
a dead mother with umbilical cord
still attached to her baby

far, far away over the waves
in a totally foreign land
it is breakfast time as a politician
sips coffee and reaches for another piece of toast
certain that his decisions are right

Richard Scutter October 2022

READING THE BIBLE TODAY

*How do we read ancient stories faithfully
for spiritual growth and social change?*

AN ONLINE CONVERSATION
WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 7.30PM
Scripture, tradition, reason & experience

HOLY COVENANT'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

MONDAY 31 OCTOBER, 5-7PM

Halloween is a great chance to get to know the neighbours. Everyone can get dressed up and be in a safe space



As a church, we want to get to know people we wouldn't usually meet so we're having a party



We'd love it if you came along, dressed up with kids of course! There'll be a BBQ, treats and face painting too!



Why not carve a pumpkin with family and bring it along? Bake a scary pie or some terrifying treats?



Christians can worry about Halloween. As Jesus has risen from the grave, we can rejoice that death has lost its sting



Contact Wayne or Wendy for more information

Parish Fete - 5 November

Fête

November

5, 2022

9.30am -

1.30pm

This is the last week before the great event of our fete ! All is going according to plan.

A reminder. No electrical goods, bikes or large furniture for the T&T. Items can be dropped off Friday afternoon.

All books to be delivered before Saturday

Last minute opportunity to volunteer to assist - please sign up on the sign up sheets.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

All enquiries to Archdeacon Anne on 0406379599 or email anne.ranse@gmail.com

Book Stall:

Books (in good condition), DVDs & CDs can be left at church from Monday 31/10 after Covenant Care (4pm) to Friday 4/11 by 3pm. Clean shopping bags are useful too. **NO BOOKS ACCEPTED ON SATURDAY!**

HOW HOLY COVENANT WORKS: THE GIFT OF CARING



what gifts are there?

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are people through whom God's new world grows (Eph 4.11 - 13). These gifts are not confined by ordination but given to anyone open to walking God's way of love in the world.



how is caring a gift?

A pastor is someone who exercises the gift of caring for others. Caring is all about seeing people for who they are and encouraging their individuality without judgement. It also involves exercising stewardship for our environment, both natural and built.

why do we need carers?

Health and wellbeing flourish when people care about their community. The way of love is all about giving, sharing and being with others without needing to control them. Carers enable us to become our best self in partnership with others.



what differences does it make?



Carers pay attention to people's needs and are particularly sensitive to a community's social climate. They know where the gaps are and step forward to help. They help others to belong and make a contribution that helps everyone.

where can I use this gift?

Carers help us to grow and change, through good and tough times. They help with our Belonging and Caring program as well as Covenant Care. Hospitality, music and resources teams all thrive when people want to make a difference by loving one another in practical ways.



How Holy Covenant works, next week: the gift of evangelist

visit fivefoldsurvey.com to learn more

The Garden Refurbishment has begun!

Many thanks to all those who spent time working in the garden last Saturday. Many weeds were pulled, much mulch was spread, and the space is ready for the installation of our new Street Library. The pile of sticks waiting for the dog Stick Library is a nice touch.

A reminder that the new garden design is displayed on the wall near the entry to the kitchen.



If you are interested in joining in the next step of the garden refurbishment, or have any questions about the future garden planning, please chat with Joh Sheehan or Allison Cooper-Stanbury.

The October edition of Anglican News is now available on the Diocesan website: <http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

Check out the article about Covenant Care's 10th Anniversary!

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ The unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from the Ukraine.
- ⇒ Assistance to those suffering from famine in Somalia.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Those impacted by flooding
- ⇒ A just solution to the problems outlined in the federal budget.
- ⇒ Greater attention to the issues related to domestic violence against first nations women.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Mission Agencies
- ⇒ Missionary Work of the Church in Australia & Overseas
- ⇒ Deacons in their specialised ministries
- ⇒ Diocesan 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 Bob and Kath Arthur; Richard and Megan Arthur; Merri Bacon; Bruce and Beverley Barnes; Trish Barnes; David Barrott and Peter and Ann Bazeos.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Libby Warren; Margaret Martin and family; Phyl Holmes; Wendy Bloomfield and family; Glenys Wimmers; Helen Boulton, Anne & Peter Bazeos and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- Sunday: **Florence Olsen (d. 1995)**
Tuesday: **Arthur Olsen (d.2005)**
Saturday: **Paul Bruce Free (d. 2010)**

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Sunday: **Ian Matters**
Wednesday: **Raphael Wood**
Friday: **Tobias Nevile**

READINGS

- Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 119: 137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

COLLECT for 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Merciful God,
righteous Judge of all,
who sent Jesus among us to seek and to save those
who are lost:

grant that we may eagerly seek the Saviour,
and joyfully welcome him into our homes and
lives.

We ask this 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.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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