

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 14 MAY 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MOTHERS DAY

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplajQ5YXFCN0N4MGRlSEVIRllOZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 14 MAY

8am & 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Revd Wendy Robertson

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch.

SUNDAY 21 MAY

8am & 10am Holy Communion

Celebrant : The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher: Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM

Coming soon:

Sat 20 May: Working Bee

Fri 26 May: The Stones Cry Out—
Movie and Q&A

Sat 27 May: Planning Day &
Women's Afternoon Tea

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth

Branch: Jamison Centre ACT

BSB 062 907

Account No: 802588

Name: Holy Covenant Anglican

Acts 17:26—a tool for racism?

Are you ever shocked by the use of the Bible to promote division, hatred and fear? It seems completely bizarre to me that a collection of books about love can be misinterpreted in such ways. And yet, this week's reading from Acts contains one of the key verses used to justify racism and segregation: *"From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live"* (Acts 17:26).

In the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, this verse was used to justify Apartheid. God created cultures and nations and peoples and that was part of the structure and order of human existence. So it would be ungodly to mix what God set up to be separate. This was the basis for segregating races of people in Apartheid era South Africa, and almost certainly influenced the policies of the Australian government as well.

From the 1860s until the 1960s, governments across Australia

denied permission for black/white marriages (to prevent miscegenation), or denied permission for black/black marriages, to reduce the numbers of Indigenous people. These actions were fuelled by a belief in the God-given superiority of white people and the need to follow the 'order' and 'structure' set out in Bible verses like Acts 17:26.

Fortunately, we can read this passage differently. Paul is telling his readers that we are all descended from "one ancestor", and so we are siblings to all people. This verse is not about ethnic pride, but reinforces a belief in our common humanity. It's actually an argument for multiculturalism—we are one big human family.

In a world filled with conflict between nations and the building of emotional walls between people, we who are "God's offspring" (v.29) must promote the bonds that link humanity together, and directly challenge those advocating for ethnic purity and segregation. We can do this, relationship by relationship, through our brother Jesus Christ.

Megan Arthur

Last week, Anglicare Australia held a press

conference here at St John's Care to discuss their annual Rental Affordability Snapshot report. The Rental Affordability Snapshot surveys the internet for all online property listings and indicates what percentage of properties are affordable to those on income support payments, and those who earn the minimum wage. Each year the statistics and figures that come from the report are alarming, and yet each year they get worse.

The executive director of Anglicare Kasy Chambers, spoke about the national figures and Anglicare's CEO Brandon Howard spoke about the ACT's figures more specifically. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to speak about the housing issues that so many of our clients are facing and advocate systemic change to address the challenging housing landscape.

In the ACT and Queanbeyan area, a total of 1533 private rentals were advertised when the snapshot was taken on March 18th 2023. Of the 1533 listings only 1% (approximately 15 listings) were affordable for households on income support payments, and 2% (approximately 31 listings) for households on minimum wage. There are over 3000 Canberrans on the list for public housing, and the simple truth is, there are nowhere near enough dwellings to meet the growing demand. The disparity between the supply and the demand for housing in the ACT means there are people waiting years before being given a home.

So, what do members of our community do when there isn't enough public housing available, and they cannot afford to rent privately? Find alternative methods of housing, however unconventional they may be.

We are seeing an increase in the number of our clients who are sleeping in their cars, couch surfing with friends or family, or sleeping in tents and swags outside, and there is a real sense of desperation for a lot of people.

Many are forced to decide between paying for rent, or basic essentials and this has placed a significant reliance on organisations like SJC to provide support with food, utility bills, transport and healthcare. Last month we supported 362 households, and that support directly reached 832 people. These are record numbers for the month of March, and almost a 200% increase from 2 years ago.

There must be a thorough review of the income support and housing systems which are adding to the sense of disadvantage and vulnerability of so many.

Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager

Items needed: Olive oil, toilet paper, biscuits, 1 litre UHT full cream milk

Confirmation Classes Coming Soon

7 REASONS FOR CONFIRMATION

COMING IN JULY
SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

Helps us to grow in faith, understanding and wise living



An opportunity to ask the minister tricky and awkward questions



To make a fresh start by having another go



Work out what's important



A chance to change your mind



Learn how to read the Bible wisely



Discover more about Jesus' life, work, death and resurrection



Wayne will be running a group for young adults (12-18 years) and another for older people (19-95 years).
Email for more information



tearfund

Mothering in South Sudan

Growing up during the civil war in South Sudan, life was not easy for Elizabeth, and when it came time to deliver her twins, she was up against another challenge. South Sudan has the highest rate globally of women dying in child-birth, and the eighth highest infant mortality rate in the world. With the added risk of a multiple birth, her survival – and that of her babies – was under threat.

But despite facing the challenges of pregnancy, birth and motherhood in a country where the stats were stacked against her, Elizabeth and her twins are enjoying the chance to live lives full of health and hope. And many others in her community are too – thanks to the presence of Tearfund’s partner ACROSS.

The morning her babies were born, Elizabeth was able to make it to the ACROSS-supported health facility – the closest such facility to her village. The facility is remarkably basic compared to the average birth ward of an Australian hospital, but Elizabeth can speak to the impact this simple facility, and its caring health workers, had on the safe delivery of her babies:

“The situation was going to be very bad, if there was no nearby health facility,” she said. “I formerly got antenatal care, vaccinations, received health education and now gave birth successfully with assistance of maternal and child health workers from ACROSS. They saved my life.”



Have you seen God today?

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

Psalm 95:2

One of the greatest, most powerful, most humbling experiences we can have with God are those occasions when we find ourselves and Him alone together and he whispers, “Here is a gift for you.” Those moments can come in a flash—be it a feather of stunning colours; a brilliant autumn leaf lying at your feet; a very busy Wattle bird in the Grevilia bush filling itself with delight, or an autumn fog weaving itself through the naked, undressed trees. Gods moments. Gifts from God as he stands there with you handing them out one by one. Gifts that linger and stay in your memory.

I love these gifts. It’s like having something special in your pocket; you put your hand in and pull it out again being blessed every time. When we are gifted with the awesomeness of God’s presence we savour every moment of it. We let God hold us and carry us as the sea holds and carries the boat.

Mane nobiscum Domine - Stay with us Lord.

Anne, servant of the Lord



A gift for you

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

Garden Redesign

Parish Council is interested in progressing the next stage of our garden redesign project. We will focus on the eastern side of the grounds to expand the children's play area, put in a pizza oven and a desire path. (Desire paths are informal pathways created by pedestrians, bikers, and animals that carve out routes considered more desirable to travelers.)

We would like to submit an application for the ACT Government Community Gardens Program. To do this we need to determine the materials we wish to use and obtain quotes. Do you have a passion or interest in our grounds, skills in landscaping or contacts with people who have expertise in these areas? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please speak with Joh, Wayne or Wendy.



Name Tags

Are you a newcomer to the Holy Covenant family? Or maybe you are someone who has worshipped with us for a while, and you've put your name tag in a very safe place, never to be seen again?

Wearing a name tag is a great way to help people talk to you by name. It's fantastic for those of us who deal with many, many people over the course of a week, and/or have a dreadful memory for names. Wearing a name tag also helps people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Please add your name to the list on the noticeboard near the office if you would like your very own Holy Covenant name tag.

The Hidden Language of Nature— ANSD Quiet Day

"When the monks had found their homes, they not only settled there ... but they sank their roots into the ground and fell in love with their woods"
The Waters of Siloe, by Thomas Merton (1915 - 1968) American Trappist monk, writer and theologian.



Drawing on Thomas Merton's nature writings, this Quiet Day hopes to grow our capacity for listening to the earth. How are we to enable human reawakening to the natural world as a primary manifestation of the Divine?

Please wear/bring clothing for the outdoors, including the possibility of sitting around a fire, (weather permitting).

Date: Saturday 20 May

Time: 9.30am-3pm

Venue: Chambers Pavilion, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall St, Barton, Canberra (off Kings Ave, with accessible parking).

Cost: Payment of \$30 via electronic transfer to "Australian Network for Spiritual Direction" / BSB 032-719 / Account 301 994 / Reference: Surnam-eQD. Cash only on the day

RSVP: ASAP to ansdact@gmail.com

St Saviour's Cathedral Restoration Appeal

A letter from Bishop Mark and details of how to donate to the appeal are available on the noticeboard nearest the PA desk in the Worship Centre

Archdeacon Anne's Anniversary



On 21 May this year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Archdeacon Anne's ordination. What an important milestone!

While there will be cake, and a card for people to sign, we are also putting together a collection of photos and other memorabilia of Anne's 21 years as a Deacon. If you have something that you would like to add to that display, please send/bring it in to the office.



Neville Tomkins— CEO Sleepout

The CEO Sleepout raises funds to support homeless people and the most vulnerable in our local community.

As described in the St John's Care article on p.2, COVID and the cost of living crisis has resulted in more homeless people in Canberra needing these services. If you would like to sponsor Neville Tomkins, who is participating in the annual Sleepout for his 12th year, you can go to:

<https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/neville-tomkins-scouts-australia/act>

Changes at Holistic Care Nursing Ministries (HCNM)

Those who have been following along may remember that HCNM is working towards becoming a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). Part of that journey is having a constitution approved by the Diocese, and the ACNC. In working through the establishment of the constitution, it has become apparent that a change of name is needed. After much conversation among the Management Committee, the final decision is a rebranding to:

Covenant Care

The Holistic Care Program of the Anglican Parish of Holy Covenant, Jamison

The rebranding has almost no impact on the day to day functioning of the organisation, once we deal with changing our letterhead, business cards and policy documents. We anticipate the name change will ease the passage of the ACNC registration process.

There are no changes to the functioning of the various subprograms of the organisation. There is a flow on name change though, as what was known as Covenant Care (CC) becomes the Covenant Care Day Hospice (CCDH).

Please keep an eye open for the Covenant Care volunteers as we continue our work to build the profile of the organisation. We have a stall at Belconnen Mall on May 18th, and at the Volunteering Expo at Campbell High School on May 20th.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering with us is most welcome to contact me.

Megan Arthur



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ An end to ethnic tensions in India

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Speedy implementation of the federal budget's cost-of-living support measures for vulnerable people
- ⇒ Mothers, fathers who mother, those who mother other people's children, people estranged from their mothers, people mourning their mothers
- ⇒ Willingness to listen to Australia's First Peoples and a successful outcome in the Voice referendum
- ⇒ People impacted by COVID and influenza

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Good Shepherd, Curtin & Cross Cultural Ministry
- ⇒ Fred Ward Gardens RSL Lifecare
- ⇒ St Peter's Weston
- ⇒ Organisations offering counselling, care and support to families and individuals
- ⇒ Support for refugees and asylum seekers

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Marilyn Tolano; Jenny Tomkins; Anthony, Susan, Elizabeth and Michael Troy; Hugo Walker; Peter and Wendy Ward; and Susan Webb.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers, Anne Drummond, Gracie Bonnett, Lou Daniels, Geoffrey Ross and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 12 May | May Barrington (d. 1991)
Joan Eva Williams (d. 2019) |
| 13 May | Jill Montgomery (d.2002) |
| 16 May | William Donald Roberts (d. 1989) |

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 8 May | David Clark, Clayton Gumbrell |
| 12 May | Gwen Hallows |
| 14 May | Audrey Dargan |
| 16 May | John Christensen |

BIBLE READINGS

- Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:7-19
1 Peter 3:8-22
John 14:15-21

COLLECT for 6th Sunday of Easter

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson
0481 458 037 hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile youth@holycovenant.org.au
0468 969 372

Wardens

Joh Sheehan 6251 7151
Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009 kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore holycovenantkids@gmail.com
0411 338 361

Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur
0487 945 615 nurse@holycovenant.org.au

Covenant Care Program Director and Chaplain

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

Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739 annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity
0429 423 725 connie@gerrity.id.au

Resources Team

0419 255 002