

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 2023
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplaj05YTXFCN0N4MGRlSEVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

8am & 10am: Holy Communion
Celebrant: Rev Wendy Robertson
Preacher: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

8am & 10am: Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Coming soon:

Fri 1 Sept: Pizza Night

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Reversals of fortune

Last week's Old Testament story saw Joseph's position in his family completely reversed by his brothers' betrayal. They sold him into slavery, exploiting his powerlessness. He lost all but his life. This week's story jumps forward around 22 years, requiring some gap filling to appreciate today's reading.

After 13 years of slavery, Joseph's power is restored when he is promoted to the second highest position in Egypt. The success of his policies to store food during 7 years of plenty, and to release it in the years of famine, consolidate Joseph's favour with Pharaoh.

When famine bites hard in Canaan, Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy food. Joseph recognises them but they do not recognise him. Power relationships within the family are again utterly reversed.

Not ready for reconciliation, Joseph uses his power to secure knowledge from his brothers of his father and brother Benjamin, and to scheme to see Benjamin again. Joseph's actions and words deeply unsettle the brothers. They are fearful. Their sense of powerlessness recalls their own merciless behaviour to Joseph.

Fear also seizes Jacob on hearing of the events on their return. He has to relinquish Benjamin to Judah's care so they can return to Egypt to buy food. Though moved on seeing Benjamin, Joseph continues to toy with the brothers, who are at his mercy. His scheming sees him separate Benjamin from the others on a false charge. The brothers plead on bended knees before Joseph for Benjamin's release. Judah tells of Jacob's grief over Joseph's supposed death and his love for Benjamin. And Judah offers to sacrifice his freedom for Benjamin's because of Judah's love and concern for Jacob. Judah's words finally move Joseph to reveal his identity, effecting reconciliation. Joseph recognises that in all their dysfunctionality God has been with them, preserving many lives through him. Jacob is brought to Egypt to live in safety and plenty.

Yet no Israelite tribal lands are named for Joseph. Rather, Joseph's legacy is recognised centuries later, when the land is settled, through his part-Egyptian sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Somehow, through all of this, God's promises to Abraham unfold.

Meryl Clark

Turning dreams into action

Jesus began his ministry with an announcement that the kingdom had drawn near and a call for people to repent and believe (Mark 1.14-15).

Generations of Christians have spiritualised both the declaration and the challenge associated with it. We miss how the call to 'repent' is about shifting our mindset. We think 'believe' is about doctrine rather than putting new priorities into action.

Being a great neighbour requires both. It means shifting our mindset towards the community around us and making decisions about how we engage in ways that are most appropriate to our life circumstances.

The temptation is to swing from inaction to overaction, to think that everything is up to you. This leads quickly to feeling overwhelmed and becoming exhausted.

This week you'll receive a response sheet for our parish dream. This is for your fridge, desk or prayer journal. It is an opportunity to think about how you might explore your dream with us.

Here's how it might work. Maybe you feel the need to join a small group or pray more. Why not share that thought with someone? Maybe ask someone to come along? Maybe host such a group in your home? Maybe you'd like to make a financial gift, saying let's do something about prayer?

God's Spirit is at work in you. Who knows what dream might yet emerge as we shift and engage afresh?

Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

BEING GREAT NEIGHBOURS

Our Parish Dream 2023-2026

At Holy Covenant, we believe in abundance and sharing God's faith, hope, and love with others. Our inclusive and compassionate approach sets us apart.

Below are some ways you could support our mission.

Take a moment to consider each area and make a note for yourself about how you could respond.

STEP 1

talk about your dreams

Share with someone what you might like to see happen at church. Sharing our hopes and dreams allows abundance to grow.

I hope to see:



STEP 2

get involved

Take a moment to observe what's going on in the church community and how it makes you feel. Where might your hands help and make a difference?

I could help by:

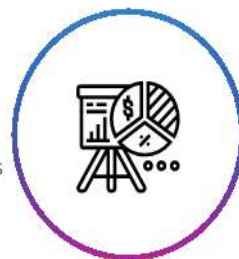


STEP 3

make a contribution

Think about your financial giving and consider a regular bank transfer. Such support ensures continuity and reduces uncertainty week to week.

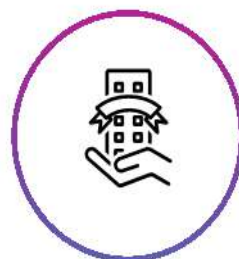
I could give each week:



STEP 4

look long-term

Your generosity over the next 10-20 years can make a lasting impact, whether through a bequest or an interest-free loan. Why not talk to the Treasurer about some possible options?



my main action will be:

FDV Survivor

Q attended the St John's Care Centre (SJC) highly distressed having fled her home due to domestic violence. Her ex-partner had become increasingly violent after losing his job around 12-months ago.

Q explained to me that she had been in contact with the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) and placed in emergency hotel accommodation two days ago, but she had not heard from her DVCS case worker since. She did not have any food or clothing, and had received no guidance about what will happen next. Q was afraid that she would be forced to go back to her home or face homelessness if she refused to return.

Q needed space to vent her emotions in a safe place. We then looked at her situation and considered her options. She was receiving a Centrelink pension, so already had a linkage to income support. We applied to Centrelink for a crisis payment so that she would have some funds to tide her over until her next payment. We also provided her with a referral to Thread Together, as well as several items of clothing that we had on site so that she had a change of clothing.

Additionally, we contacted OneLink, and registered her for supported accommodation. We also discussed safety planning, including a Personal Protection Order and precautionary measures for when leaving her temporary accommodation and being out in the community. Q expressed her gratitude to me for the support that she received from SJC.

There is strong research in the sector that links domestic and family violence to economic stress and financial insecurity. Those affected are primarily women who feel less able to leave home. . SJC operates in a unique space in that we can 'fill the gaps' where other services may not have the resources or capacity to provide emergency relief functions such as food, clothing, and referrals.

For Q, we were able to provide her with material aid and guidance until the (incredibly busy) DVCS service was able to meet with her to commence their case management process. This work is life-changing for women like Q who, with no financial resources, would otherwise not have had access to these essential items. Without such support many victims of domestic violence choose to, or are forced to stay in, or return to a violent situation.

Belinda Ding Senior Case Manager

Items needed: Shaving items, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, sanitary items

Born anew

I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25.

It feels unseasonably like spring. The bulbs are up. The daffodils, the jonquils, the tulips, the snowdrops, all those that have seemingly died and laid under the soil all winter now spring back to life in all their glory. How much I ponder this miracle of our creator God. Why do some doubt so much that we too will rest awhile in our seeming death yet rise again in glory? Oh, how much we can learn from nature, the miracle of nature, that tells us nothing really dies. It's no wonder we call this season 'Spring' because that's what it does, it springs nature back into life.

May the beauty of God fill your life every single day.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Beautiful Creation

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

Coming Soon: Youth Camp

Camp is at the Shearer's Quarters in Wee Jasper, from the 22nd -25th of September. Prayer for camp preparations, the organising team and those attending is welcomed. Any fully licensed adults interested in assisting with driving or anyone able to provide home-made snacks for the campers, please speak with Tobias Nevile.



Christian Leaders: Nadia Bolz-Weber

"God, please help me not to be an asshole, is about as common a prayer as I pray in my life."

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor, founder of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, Colorado, the creator and host of 'The Confessional' and the author of three NYT bestselling memoirs: *Pastrix; The Cranky, Beautiful Faith Of A Sinner & Saint* (2013 and re-released in 2021), *Accidental Saints; Finding God In All The Wrong People* (2015) and *SHAMELESS; A Sexual Reformation* (2019).

She writes and speaks about personal failings,

recovery, grace, and faith. She always sits in the corner with the other weirdoes.

Bolz-Weber began to acquire tattoos in 1986 at age 17. The ones on her arms mark the liturgical year and the story of the Gospel. A drug user and alcoholic, Bolz-Weber has been sober for over 30 years.

One third of her church is part of the LGBT community, and she also has a "Minister of Fabulousness", Stuart, who is a drag queen. Her church is also very welcoming to people with drug addiction, depression, and even those who are not believers of her faith.

"It happens to all of us, I concluded that Easter Sunday morning. God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over."

You can follow Bolz-Weber on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram & Youtube. You can also subscribe to her regular newsletter 'The Corners' at <https://thecorners.substack.com/about>

Megan Arthur

Nungalinya News

'Faith and Family Wellbeing' is in its third year in 2023. Partnering with Tearfund, the course covers some of those hard topics: cycles of trauma, grief and mourning, and domestic violence. However, through a well-being lens, there is always hope for healing through the mercies of God which are new every morning!

Nungalinya staff travelled to Numbulwar and Ngukurr in June as part of the Faith and Family

Wellbeing course. They had the opportunity to share some time with students and their families, support church leaders, attend a funeral and support a graduation for Nungalinya



Season of Creation—September

Across September, we will be celebrating the joys of God's creation in some different ways. Our series on Christian leaders will focus on people working in the environmental/science fields. Sunday 3 September will be our Creation Sunday service.

The Creation Sunday service at 10am will be led by the children and young people. They would like to encourage those attending to wear green, bring along a pot plant (if you have one) and be prepared for a more interactive than usual service.



Anyone interested in providing an article for the Christian leaders series is most welcome. Please email your contribution to office@holycovenant.org.au

tearfund

Update | August

Restoring hope: tackling waste

Heather Rayside, who works in Tearfund's international programs team, was confronted by the impact of human trafficking and exploitation she witnessed in Vietnam.

"I was horrified that in our day and age there were over 40 million people caught up in it. That figure has now risen to 50 million."

Heather is celebrating women's empowerment and prioritising creation care through her online business. Along with her work with Tearfund, Heather runs an online boutique of giftware, fashion accessories and homewares. Most of the collection is created by women who have been affected by trafficking and exploitation across Asia.

"I source products from social enterprises that are known as freedom businesses, being specifically established to tackle the longer-term issue of rescued people being at high risk of being re-trafficked," she explains. "Simply put, my business enables these freedom businesses, along with some fair trade certified manufacturers, to sell their products to Aussies and New Zealanders who want to contribute to the end of human trafficking when they shop."

Heather says her Christian faith is central to what she is doing through her business.



If you don't know... why not find out?

Learn a little about history
from an Aboriginal point of view

Women that step out

Lynette Glendinning was our guest speaker at the Women in Leadership breakfast in celebration of Mary Magdalene's apostleship that was held on Saturday 12 August.

Lynette shared three insights about her journey as a psychologist, executive coach, leadership counsellor, Anglicare chairperson, partner and parent.

'Competence is overrated', Lynette said. 'Too many women hold back while men push in, even when they don't know what they're doing. Leadership is about a relationship, especially when you're asking people to change. Stepping out into leadership is always an act of faith and we need to trust that the Holy Spirit will meet us there, especially when we don't feel fully confident or competent.'

The second thing Lynette shared was how leaders need to stand for something and have perspective. 'The church often gives us very passive roles, where women wait to be noticed. Learning to be heard, seen and valued is hard,' she explained.

'Growing up, my world was the personal and domestic,' Lynette shared. 'Leaders need to have a wider view. Running an organisation isn't about keeping meetings to time but connecting us with what's happening in our world. If I'm not thoughtful about economics, politics and social change, how do I help lead this organisation forward?'

Perhaps the greatest challenge for Lynette was learning to 'balance being authoritative with being vulnerable. It's easy to be consumed by our private

lives. Yet the wounds we carry make us better leaders because we are more able to see and trust in the grace of God, who takes us forward,' she added.

Our dream as Holy Covenant is see a new generation of women lead the church and make a difference to our world. The breakfast is one way of encouraging people to consider how they can support women and those who are gender diverse to step into the unknown, meet God and be the change they long for.

Many thanks to Revd Lynda McMinn & Revd Wendy



Robertson for organising the Women in Leadership Breakfast. Even more thanks to Revd Wayne and his team in the kitchen, who ensured that all attending enjoyed their meal.

Change of plan

The Trivia Night that was originally scheduled for 26 August has been rescheduled to October 21st. Thank you to all of those who had already booked. Megan will be in touch to find out whether you wish to transfer your booking to the new date.

Offering dedication

From Sunday 27 August at Sunday services, the bowl will be brought up to the sanctuary during the final verse of the offering hymn. If you are making a cash offering, please ensure that your offering is in the bowl in time.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Women and girls in Afghanistan, after 2 years of Taliban rule
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ The impact of extreme heat in the Northern hemisphere
- ⇒ An end to religious tensions in Pakistan

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Preparations for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians
- ⇒ A positive legacy from the Football Women's World Cup for players, team members and supporters
- ⇒ Preparations for the upcoming fire season

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Riverina
- ⇒ Parishes of Cootamundra, Temora & Junee
- ⇒ Junee Correctional Centre
- ⇒ Those who work in the justice system.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Chris Lee; Penny Lilley; Lorna Loadman; Luiza Luppi.; and Colin Lyons.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Ewan Garside; Bob and Kath Arthur, Cathryn Whelband and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

COLLECT for 12th Sunday after Pentecost

God of freedom,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your
service,
that all people may know the glorious liberty of the
children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

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The Revd Lynda McMinn

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Resources Team

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BIRTHDAYS

26 August Graham Bonnett

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11:13-32

Matthew 15:21-28