

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2023
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

8am: Holy Communion
Celebrant: Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher: Revd Connie Gerrity
10am: Holy Communion
Celebrant: Revd Anne Dudzinski
Preacher: Revd Connie Gerrity

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

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

Coming soon:

Sat 16 Sept: Working Bee & Gardening Workshop

Thurs 28 Sept: Community Lunch

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Sitting with Uncomfortable Texts

I have spent quite a while mulling over this week's readings. While I can say a hearty "Amen" to parts of each, there is something in each reading that I find problematic. In Romans, the injunction to submit to the authorities as they have been appointed by God has been used to oppress so many people over centuries. In Matthew, the instructions on handling discipline in the church have led to many being ostracised or outcast.

Psalm 149 begins joyously enough *"Sing a new song to the Lord"* urging us to praise with music and dancing. But halfway through verse 6 it gets quite disturbing: *"May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands to inflict vengeance on the nations...to carry out the sentence against them. This is the glory of all his saints."*

What might be helpful as we sit with these texts?

Good biblical scholarship tells us to look at the context, the history of the time. My problem is that these verses have been used to incite and justify war against those deemed to be the enemies of God down to the present day. Even the current war against Ukraine was described like this by Russian Orthodox leaders. Something in me resists these verses, but how can I hold these disparate parts together? For me, it's a matter of looking for an organising principle. Matthew 18:14 offers me that in the picture of God as the shepherd who searches for the lost sheep and rejoices when it is found. God is not willing that any be lost. This is the radical picture of God that Jesus presented to us. Is the way I respond or use these scriptures consistent with this image of God? I encourage you to pay attention to what you might resist in a reading and let that be the beginning of a deeper encounter with the God whom Jesus came to reveal.

Sue Dunbar

New St John's Care Team Member!

Hello, my name is Wendy. I have the privilege of joining

the St John's Care (SJC) team as the new Senior Case Manager.

I am an accredited AASW Social Worker with a background in Psychology and Counselling and Advanced Pastoral Care. Many years ago, I was a TAFE Teacher in the United Kingdom (UK), teaching business administration, basic IT and communication skills, particularly to young people excused from school, businesses, colleges & universities, and working in administration and training in mental health and rehabilitation within the National Health Service. I have worked as a Children's and Youth Worker for churches in the UK.

Here in Canberra, I was part of the Gungahlin Schools Ministry, utilising my large storytelling and sing and sign skills. I am part of the Gungahlin Anglican Church congregation. More recently I have worked for the Gideons International office here in Canberra; the Canberra, and North Canberra Hospitals and most lately in crisis care for OneLink and Housing ACT Complaints and Compensation.

I am passionate about collaborative, client-centred, trauma-informed work. Recognising the importance of inviting, acknowledging, and honouring individual lived experience, encouraging self-determination, looking to a client's strengths, and building social capacity through illustrating unconditional positive regard and respect. Recognising oppression, inequality, power imbalances and the challenges our clients face. How quick are we to judge others that are not like us? Many of our clients will have numerous barriers to inclusion and a deficit of daily living skills. SJC continues to be very busy each day!

Through the years I have been a part of many amazing groups and teams of people who are willing to walk with others as they make their way through the maze of life. I am very thankful to now be a part of another fantastic group of staff and volunteers who follow their faith or personal belief system to give their time, energy, prayers, hospitality skills ... the list goes on, but I heartfully thank you, for whatever way you contribute to enable SJC to continue to be a part of the Canberra community. Together, we can work towards our mission of bridging the gap and breaking the cycle of disadvantage to nurture and expand an individual's capacity.

Wendy Newman-Gerwen Senior Case Manager

Items needed: Spreads, tinned fruit, cooking oil, biscuits.

Gild the sky

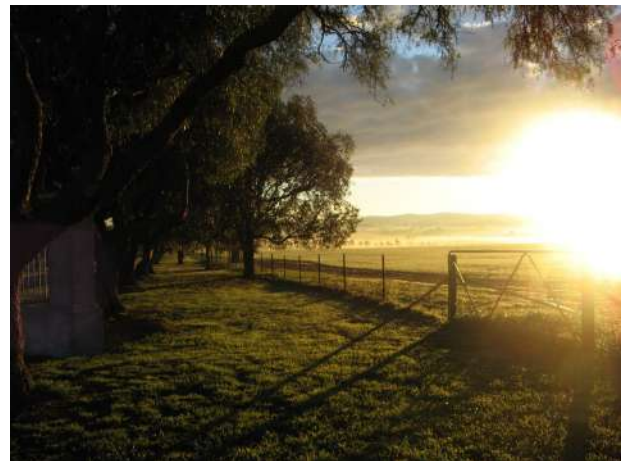
*When morning gilds the skies, my heart
awakening cries, may Jesus Christ be praised.
TIS 227*

Words of a timeless melody. One of those old favourites that hangs about forever. But, oh how true it is! When morning gilds the skies our thoughts go to God.

I saw in the sunrise a magnificent sight that I could not put into words. The words that did come forth were in gratitude, appreciation and worship to a faithful God who never fails us, morning by morning. During the week the same breath-taking blessings crossed my lips as I watched the moon fade away into the sunrise. In the interim the soft mist hovered over the ground, magically weaving its way between the trees with ghost-like moves. I thought "and there it hangs, the morning mist, moon-light bathed and sunrise kissed. God is in his house." *'O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder...'*

With his grace and presence, go into your day having been blessed at its beginning.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Morning glory

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

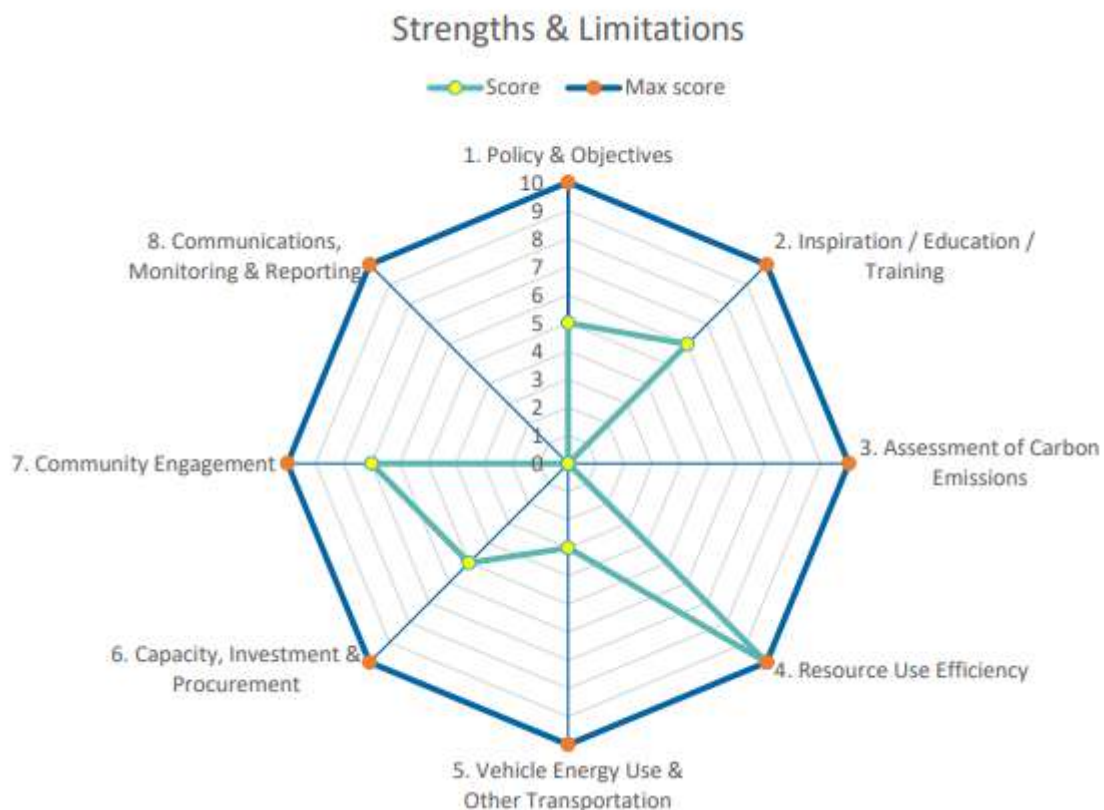
Changing Parishes Changing Climate?

In May 2023, the parish was surveyed by a steering committee tasked with helping our Diocese move towards net zero emissions by 2040. A map of our results are below. The survey asked a series of questions about 8 action areas. These included:

- developing policy settings, actions and volunteers to drive change
- helping our people to understand climate change through discussion groups, prayer or liturgical engagement
- assessment of carbon emissions
- action to improve energy and water efficiency
- vehicle energy use such as using hybrid or electric vehicles
- including energy and water efficiency in building renovations or appliance replacement
- engagement with other groups concerning climate resilience

- reporting or communicating on climate change actions annually.

When our parish had solar panels and electric air conditioning installed more than a decade ago it broke much new ground. We were able to be leaders because we had a climate group that was active and engaged. Over the last few years our progress has plateaued as our policies and strategies have not been updated as the tools and technologies have changed. Our voice for environmental stewardship has slowly fallen silent. Throughout September, the parish will explore the Season of Creation by drawing on resources developed by The Episcopal Church. The goal is to help us reflect a little more on our part in creation and how God's salvation story reaches both everyone and every living thing too. If you'd like to see more happen in the parish, why not consider joining a new group to help us all become better stewards in this critical time for all Creation?



Kohtuus—moderation & balance

This week's Christian leader is Tapio Luoma, the Primate of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Archbishop Luoma's doctorate explores the relationship between theology and the natural sciences

There's an interesting video from Archbishop Luoma available through the Interfaith Centre for Sustainable Development, which you can watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7WS6l198BQ&t=256s>. In the video Luoma challenges his listeners to apply the Finnish word 'kohtuus', which translates to equity, moderation, unselfishness or balance. In terms of care for the environment, he talks about the need for a change of heart **and** concrete goals, describing what the Finnish Lutheran Church is doing to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Luoma closes the video with this prayer:

"Lord, teach us to learn the language of the earth. To hear the sigh of the earth. To find the depth of our connection with it, with all living things, and the joy beyond words that springs from it. Christ, upon unto us a hidden way near Thee, that we may have such a mind as Thou hast, the peace and the power of the Kingdom of Heaven within us now. Holy Spirit of connection, encourage us in the middle of this confusing time, inspire us to take risks when it is time to love all living things, each other, and the people of the future. This we

pray in a spirit of devotion, service and praise. Amen."



Spring Community Lunch

The sign-up sheet for the Spring Community lunch is on the back wall of the Worship Centre. Rod Menzies is our guest speaker, talking about his work at the Ginninderra wetlands. All are welcome—if cost is an issue please contact Revd Wayne.



What's happening at Synod?

Our Diocesan synod is meeting in Canberra from Friday 8 until Sunday 10 September. Wayne Brighton, Anne Ranse, Lynda McMinn, Merri Bacon, Belinda Moss and Russell Rollason will be present on our behalf.

Synod is an opportunity for the ministry units and agencies of the diocese to meet, listen and make decisions beneficial for our life together. We will hear from the bishop and agency leaders about future directions and challenges. There will be opportunities to ask questions and to discuss matters of importance to us all.

Lynda, Russell and Wayne are members of the Public Issues Commission. They have flagged two issues for consideration, concerning the Voice to Parliament and high levels of poverty. They would appreciate your prayers as they lead these conversations with care and compassion.

22.6 NM/6 Public Issues Commission (PIC) – The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Motion: That this Synod:

1. affirms that the First Nations people have a 60,000 year connection with country that is unbroken and undiminished;
2. recognises the injustice and poverty experienced by First Peoples since settlement is manifested in the painful legacy of gaps in health, education, housing and legal outcomes;
3. believes that Australians are generous people well able to hear the needs, dreams, knowledge, wisdom and desires of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples expressed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart;
4. affirms the fundamental principle that better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities requires more substantive involvement by First Nations people in policy formation and decision-making through local, regional and national processes for listening and consultation;
5. recognises that General Synod Standing

Committee of the Anglican Church of Australia welcomed the invitation expressed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and urged “all Australians to give generous consideration to the case to vote ‘Yes’ in the upcoming referendum concerning constitutional recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution” (SC2023/1/55, 8 June 2023);

6. supports the creation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution as a vital step in walking together with First Nations people towards reconciliation.

Mover: The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton – Chair, PIC (Jamison) **Second:** Archdeacon Steve Clarke – Member PIC (Ex-officio)

22.7 NM/7 Public Issues Commission (PIC) - Poverty in Australia

Motion: That this Synod:

1. expresses alarm at the high rate of poverty in Australia where one in eight people including one in six children live below the poverty line (ACOSS, Poverty in Australia 2023) that has resulted in a sharp rise in homelessness and more people seeking food and help from caring agencies;
2. reaffirms that ‘the Lord requires us do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God’ (Micah 6:8) and confesses that too often we have ‘neglected justice and the love of God’ (Luke 11:42);
3. welcomes the Government’s commitment to major tax reform to ensure adequate public funding for health, housing, education, aged and disability care, welfare support and overseas aid and urges it not to diminish revenue through reductions that benefit Australia’s highest income earners;
4. requests the Bishop to convey this resolution to the Prime Minister with a copy to the Federal Treasurer.

Mover: Mr Russell Rollason AM – Member, PIC (Jamison) **Second:** The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton – Chair, PIC (Jamison)

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ The impact of extreme weather
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ Recent increases in COVID-19 hospitalisations in the Northern Hemisphere

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Preparations for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Bishop to the Defence Force
- ⇒ Defence Force Chaplains: Regular - Full Time: and Reserve – Part Time
- ⇒ Service Chaplains from this Diocese serving elsewhere
- ⇒ St Philip's O'Connor
- ⇒ Churchwardens; members of Parish Councils; and Lay Leaders

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Margaret McCaw; Anne and Lindsay McDowell; Bryan McGuinness; David and Margaret Meggs; Rod and Ann Menzies; and Christine Mitchell.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Ewan Garside; Bob and Kath Arthur and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 11 September David Frew Durie (d. 1999)
Thomas winters (d. 2016)

COLLECT for 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Go before us, O Lord,
with your most gracious favour
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended
in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy,
obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

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Covenant Care Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

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The Revd Connie Gerrity
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The Revd Lynda McMinn
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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Sept John Dau
12 Sept George Gerrity, William Wood
13 Sept Chris Olsson
14 Sept Bruce Barnes

BIBLE READINGS

- Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:1-10
Matthew 18:10-20