

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2024

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

[https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?
pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSF
VIRlI0Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER
8am Holy Communion
Celebrant : Revd Lynda McMinn
Preacher: Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER
12 Midday Communion Service

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER
8am and 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Coming soon:

Working Bee—23 November

Bank details for direct debit:

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

The Cost of Returning Home

**Have you ever wondered what happens when we turn around and go back?
Has it ever happened to you?**

Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem and were not embraced as returning heroes. Life was hard and harsh; otherwise, Ruth would not have offered to go to walk behind the reapers and collect the leavings. Likely, they had no clear means of supporting themselves. There were restrictions to how two women could support themselves whilst retaining their reputations. With limited options, Ruth offered to glean in the fields behind the reapers, knowing she was putting herself at risk as an unprotected woman.

She was at risk in the same way all who are in need or dire straits are at risk. To what end does desperation drive us? What would we be prepared to do for our own family and loved ones? How generous are we to the foreigners at our gates, and how easily do we apply first-world morality to what we are reading?

Boaz, while a kinsman of Elimelek, was not the senior kinsman. Nevertheless, he noticed Ruth and put her under his protection. He instructed the men to leave her unmolested and ensure she had water and food. He noticed her character, loyalty, and care for Naomi. Lastly, he generously instructed his reapers to increase what she may collect so she had plenty to gather in safety.

The actual kinsman redeemer did not want the girl with the land. He did not want Ruth and her Moabite heritage even to acquire the land. Boaz stepped in, and offered a traditional gesture for the exchange of land. Perhaps Ruth, when she went and offered herself to Boaz, hoped to have him sire a child in Elimelek's bloodline. Maybe she saw him as her kinsman-redeemer and her saviour.

Who is our kinsman redeemer, who accepts the widow's gestures, protects the vulnerable girl, and steps in when others have refused care and responsibility? A kinsman redeemer who not only takes on our debts but our entire inheritance—our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Revd Dr Bili Malek

WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

Holy Covenant is a diverse community and inclusive church in the Anglican tradition. This means that we seek to help people become all they were created to be. When we can be our true selves, we are then able to help the world become a better place for everybody.

We believe in a restorative Gospel, where God has come to heal and renew all of creation. This means we strive to make the world better rather than simply waiting around for heaven to arrive.

Our vision is to be a place for everyone, where people get to become the person they were always meant to be.

We value what Jesus valued: inclusion, diversity, compassion, justice and freedom. This means we encourage participation by people regardless of their background, heritage, gender, age, disability or orientation.

Children at Holy Covenant are welcome to participate in Kids' Church and/or Youth Group, but are also welcome to stay with their caregivers.

Communion is open to everyone, regardless of your denominational background or baptismal status. We are all invited and welcome to engage with God in this way.

Please stay for morning tea after our service and maybe get to know some other members of the congregation. We'd love to see you back next week.

Lost in Wonder

Who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:4

I was always fascinated by the bark on some trees and wonder what God had in mind when he planted that species. Who did he invite to joining in the creation with him? Is it just a pattern on the tree trunk or did he have the assistance of a tiny creature? I think when we look closely at just about anything we can be asking similar questions that steer our minds and thoughts to God. Like the beauty of the rose bud that blossoms into a flower from the inside out. Or an acorn that grows into a huge oak tree, or the small ants that make huge nests. God gave us so much to see, to treasure, to draw us into his presence in wonder and delight. Jean-Pierre de Caussade said: *'If one looks long enough to almost anything, looks with absolute attention at a flower, a stone, the bark on a tree, grass, snow, a cloud - something like revelation takes place. Something is 'given' and perhaps that something is always a reality outside of self.'*

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne, servant of the Lord.



Fascinated by the bark on this tree.

Recently, we received a referral for a new client from one of the community organisations we partner with. Let's call her T. T is a survivor of domestic violence, a single mother of two, and currently not working. When T came to SJC, she shared that she was emotionally exhausted due to her financial struggles and the stress of ongoing court proceedings related to her family violence case. I listened compassionately as T explained the difficult circumstances she was facing and the support she was receiving from other organisations during this challenging time.

T sought assistance from SJC for several urgent needs, including emergency food, medical support for one of her children who has a serious medical condition, and help with a large gas bill. I asked if receiving regular food support could help alleviate some of her financial stress, particularly in terms of reducing her debt. T acknowledged that it would be a big help and agreed to receive food support every fortnight through the end of 2024, with the goal of getting back on track financially. This arrangement would allow her to direct the money she would have spent on food toward paying down her gas and car debts.

In addition to food support, we were able to assist T with her child's medical prescriptions, which brought her great relief. T also received help with her ACTEWAGL bill through the company's voucher program, allowing her to stay on track with her payment plan. We referred T and her children to Thread Together, a program providing seasonally appropriate new clothing, and to Roundabout, which helps families access children's clothes, toys, and schoolbooks. T registered for a Christmas hamper and will also attend our Christmas Day lunch. Thanks to the support from SJC, she and her family will now receive gifts and a festive meal.

T expressed her deep gratitude to St John's Care and to the generous donors who make this support possible. She shared that, after her first meeting with us, all her immediate financial concerns had been addressed, bringing her a sense of relief and hope for the future. Thank you for your ongoing generosity, love, and compassion toward the Canberra community. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the community organisations we work with in partnership, whose collaboration is vital to providing the support that makes a real difference in people's lives.

Lisa, Case Manager

Items required: Peanut butter, tinned fish large, UHT Milk 1 litre and Christmas puddings.

Christmas gift ideas for SJC clients: Gift cards for teenagers; Lego; Sports equipment; Cars/Dolls/Figurines; Board Games; Books; Arts and Crafts; stocking fillers.



TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—20 NOV

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honours the memory of the trans lives lost to acts of transphobia and discrimination.

On November 20, we hold a day of gathering, togetherness, and community solidarity. We remember those we've lost, celebrate our strength in the face of adversity, and commit to fighting transphobia to create a better, safer, and more inclusive world for everyone. (TGV, <https://www.tgv.org.au/transmonth>)

If you'd like to attend an online vigil on Wednesday evening, from 5:45-7pm you can register here:

<https://www.tgv.org.au/transmonth#tdor-event-near-me>

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms for Parish Council are available for those who would like to join in 2025.

The election will take place on Sunday, 15 December. Why not consider how to help the parish become the best place it can be in the year to come.

HOLY COVENANT FETE

Thank you! Many thanks to all those who made the fete possible!! Carol Kubanek for coordinating the whole shebang and also, all of the stall coordinators; volunteers; bakers; gardeners; those who donated items and those who attended on the day.

COVENANT CARE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

On Thursday evening, Covenant Care held a Volunteer Appreciation Night, with about 40 people attending. Guests received newly designed Covenant Care bags. The evening was a great success, with Leanne and Anne McDowell emphasising their gratitude for all the volunteers, in whichever capacity they help. Covenant Care would not be able to function without its volunteers. Thank you!

WANNA HELP IN '25?

GOD



NEIGHBOUR SELF



Church is where we learn to love - God, neighbour and ourselves

Everything at Holy Covenant is about learning to love in world where many feel isolated, lonely, anxious and depressed

WHY NOT JOIN OUR:



worship team - a doorway to learn how to pray, read Scripture, or lead worship

music band - a chance to practice that instrument, sing in public, share songs

parish council - a place that explores ways to grow and develop ministry

hospitality crew - a gang that organises events and serve snacks

welcoming - meeting guests and visitors with a smile and coffee

kids and youth - helping padawans learn the art of faith, hope and love

AV mob - creatives that prepare slides, videos and run the camera systems

playgroup - meeting families in our neighbourhood

Covenant Care - helping carers by looking after loved ones on Mondays or outings



why not talk to a staff member today?

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ For the US as a new administration is formed with vaccine sceptics and climate change denial.
- ⇒ For women in Afghanistan as they lose their voice and presence in the world.
- ⇒ For women in Ukraine and Russia, experiencing violence and grief.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ For public service workers who experience violence on the job.
- ⇒ For decision makers as Trump-inspired policy calls emerge.
- ⇒ For 2025 Australians of the Year– Megan Gilmore, Marilyn and Peter Ralston AM (Seniors), David Bartholomaeus (Young), Vanessa Brettell and Hannah Costello (Local Heroes).

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of North Queensland
- ⇒ Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church
- ⇒ Community of Celebration and Mary's Place
- ⇒ Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre
- ⇒ The Anglican School Googong
- ⇒ Pray for: Work amongst needy, unemployed and homeless people of all ages.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Beth Heyde; Phyl and Reg Holmes; Neville Hurst.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers; Kath Arthur, Joh Sheehan, Celeste Sandstrom, Bruce Barnes, Megan McKay, Bob & Hilary Harris, Joshua Salske, Ian Matters, Bea and Alan Duncan, James Collier and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- 18 Nov **Bruce Manning Pratt (d. 2010)**
22 Nov **Adele Laura Carr (d. 2020)**

BIRTHDAYS

- 17 Nov **Tony Willis**
18 Nov **Oliver Feitz**
19 Nov **Reg Holmes**

BIBLE READINGS

- 1 Samuel 1: 4-20
Song or Hannah (APBA p.429)
Hebrews 10: 11-14, 19-25
Mark 13: 1-11

COLLECT

O God,
welcoming refuge for the outcast,
and upholder of justice for the oppressed:
maintain the hope of the poor,
so that the time may soon come
when no one need want for food and shelter,
and all will learn to share freely
following the example of your Son, who gave his very
self;
who now lives and reigns with you and 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

The Reverend Dr Bili Malek
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Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Resources Team

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