

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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 26 MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 2 APRIL

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

Coming up:

2 April, Palm Sunday rally, Garema Place, 12.30pm
6 April, Maundy Thursday, 6pm
7 April, Good Friday, 8 and 10am

Bank details for direct debit:

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

The Raising of Lazarus

Life can only be understood backwards; it has to be lived forwards. (Søren Kierkegaard)

So why does Jesus delay when Mary and Martha send for him? Perhaps part of us is tempted to join the chorus: 'If you had been here, he would not have died'. We may be somewhat unnerved by a Jesus who is willing to put his friends through so much heartache to perform a more convincing miracle.

But John isn't *primarily* concerned with the humanity of Jesus. That anguished prayer at Gethsemane and the gut-wrenching cry of abandonment from the cross do not appear in John's gospel. John's Jesus is secure in his divine identity and the healings and miracles are primarily 'signs' of this for others. Yet the compassion is there. Though not foregrounded, the more 'human' Jesus does emerge in the story – he is deeply moved and disturbed when he sees Mary and friends of the family weeping.

Perhaps it helps to think of this story not just as another teaching opportunity to support Jesus's

claim to having been sent by God, or to prepare his disciples for his own death and resurrection. These are both obvious readings, but Jesus has been encouraging us to go beyond the obvious (the literal) in this month's readings. Still written from a post-resurrection perspective, what if this story is pointing to the inevitable suffering and death that we all must undergo if we are to experience resurrection and fruitfulness? And I am not just talking about physical death and an afterlife!

In the midst of tough times it may help to remember the story hasn't ended yet. Often as we look back we can see in periods of difficulty and loss the seeds of new life that only become apparent later. Can you think of such times? Perhaps there were others who helped release you at that time, just as those nearby were asked to release Lazarus. What might need to be released in us at this time if we are to engage more in the abundance of life God is offering us – with all its ups and downs?

Frances MacKay

Application for home

I first met R in the middle of winter last year, on a cold, windy and rainy Canberra day. I looked out from inside the Centre and saw a man walking up the driveway drenched in the horrible weather outside. I invited R inside, and we sat down to have a chat over a nice warm coffee.

I learned that R was in his late 30's and had lived in Canberra his whole life. At an early age, R was diagnosed with an intellectual disability that impacted his ability to retain information.

Shortly before his 18th birthday, his relationship with his family broke down and he was forced to live on the streets. R was exposed to crime, drugs, and violence from an early age, but managed to steer clear of those things by pursuing his love for hiking, and the outdoors.

At the age of 25, R finished college and received his year 12 certificate. While sleeping in the bush, R worked at a series of short-term cash in hand jobs, before retreating to his campsite for several months. Although he was not entirely cut off from society, he had no desire to engage with the family he felt had abandoned him and was content with being on his own.

In winter of 2022 R was attacked while sleeping in his swag. He attended the police station to report the crime and was given a list of support services to visit, one of which was St John's Care. Fearing for his long-term health and safety, I asked R whether he had considered applying for government housing in Canberra. He seemed apprehensive, although by the time our conversation ended he said, 'Why not, I don't think someone like me will get a house anyways.'

Fast forward nine months and R has visited St John's Care regularly for food support, a warm meal, clothing, and someone to have a chat to. We provided him with a phone, and some credit and had helped him set up a new email address and complete his application for housing.

Last week a volunteer came to my office and said that R was out the front wanting to have a chat with me. As I walked outside R hugged me with tears pooling in the corner of his eyes, "I found out today that I have a home. I am so happy I don't know what to do with myself", he said.

Finding a home for someone who has experienced homelessness for a long period of time is hard for me to articulate. I am so grateful to be in a position to have a positive influence on members of the community who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager

Items required: Thick 'n' Chunky tinned meat, peanut butter, Vegemite, washing powder, 1 litre full cream UHT milk, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, breakfast cereal

LENT AS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Lent is a time when we make more room for God by discovering the freedom, hope and healing that lies at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Why not take the journey with us?



WEEK
1



TEMPTATION (Matt 4.1-11)

Jesus was tempted through hunger, insecurity and powerlessness. Where are you vulnerable in life?



WEEK
2



DIRECTION (John 3.1-17)

People without a sense or direction or purpose can find themselves in trouble. Do you know where you are going in life?



WEEK
3



ISOLATION (John 4.5-42)

Shame weakens our sense of self and connection with others. God overcomes our shame by being with us. How might shame be holding you back?



WEEK
4



BLINDNESS (John 9.1-41)

We all have blindspots or things that we can't or won't see about ourselves. How might God help you to see yourself better?



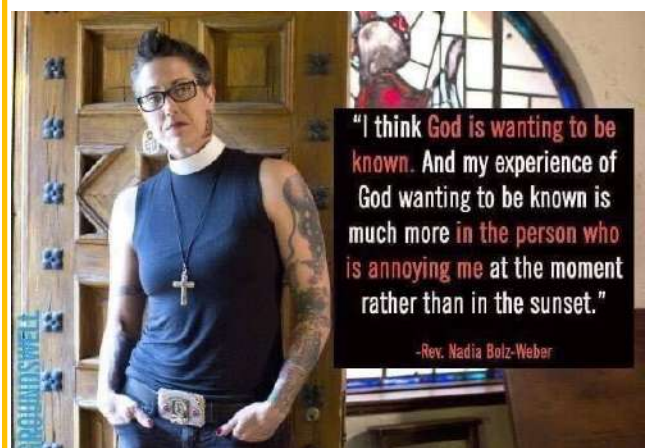
WEEK
5



LETTING GO (John 11.1-45)

People get stuck when they can't let go of the things, places or people they love. Where might your feel stuck in life?

We never have to deal with temptation, restlessness, isolation, blindspots or being stuck by ourselves. God came to be with us in the person of Jesus. A new chapter in our lives can always be written with God's help.



"I think God is wanting to be known. And my experience of God wanting to be known is much more in the person who is annoying me at the moment rather than in the sunset."

-Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

Meditation Opportunities

Christian meditation comes in many forms. The first form focuses on specific phrases or a single word from Scripture in order to allow God to speak to you about that word or phrase and affect a change in your heart through that word or phrase. The end goal in Christian meditation is not that you would transcend the physical, but that God would draw you closer to Himself and transform your life (2 Corinthians 5:18). A second form involves self-emptying and invitation. By becoming aware of our presence and letting go of all the distractions, judgements and noise that fill our minds and hearts we are able to become more present to what is and so more able to invite God's presence into our lives. Holy Covenant offers two opportunities for Christian meditation each week.

Tuesdays 12.45-1.30pm (during school terms) in the chapel. This group meets face to face, use the first form of meditation and is linked to the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). Readings provided by WCCM to guide the meditation. Contact Merri on 6251 1110 for more information.

Wednesdays 6-7pm. This group meets via Zoom. They use the second form of meditation, begin with a relaxation wind down, which is followed by a time of silence. Each session finishes with prayers and The Grace. Contact Heather on 6253 9650 or Rob on 0422 074 667 for more information.



The two doves on a chalice is the WCCM's symbol. It is a universal expression of the union of contemplation and action.

The version of the two doves on a chalice pictured here is an extract from a mosaic found in an early Christian church in Ravenna, Italy.

Christ in the heart

Standing before the Grevilia bush had me in awe at how, within seemingly dead brown branches, the bright, deep red of a flower was a delight.....deep, deep red amidst the brown bush.

'He heard things which cannot be put in words.'

2 Corinthians 12:4

This verse drew me to reflect on what it is that we 'hear in our hearts' and cannot put into words. The magnificent scenery in a special place. The reflection on a pond. The peal of a church bell. The chorus of morning birds when all else is asleep. Time and history etched on the face of the elderly. The perfume of the Jasmine. The quiet spaces. The reaching out of hands for the sacrament. These and more may cause a small voice in our mind to say 'Ahhh' and sense the presence of God that can't be described.

Matthew Henry said: The ground of our hope is Christ in the world, but the evidence of our hope is Christ in the heart.

Jehovah, shalom. The Lord is peace.

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



A quiet place -peace, and Ahhh, the presence of God.

Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone involved in the Working Bee last Saturday. A particular shout out to all those people who dug holes, pre-watered, planted and mulched the new plants in the SW corner of the garden.



Send a message of hope

Sometimes it feels like there's nothing we can do to alleviate the suffering in the world. Here's an opportunity to answer hunger with hope by uploading a short video message to those impacted by the global food crisis. Your encouragement and support can mean the world to someone facing unthinkable hardships.

Go to <https://answerhunger.compassion.au/> to record your message of hope, and use your voice to amplify the need of those impacted by the global food process.



Palm Sunday Refugee Rally

On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, churches will be joining other organisations in a rally in Garema Place to seek permanent protection for the thousands of asylum seekers who have been held in various forms of detention for up to 10 years. Speakers at

the rally include Anglican chaplain at Radford College, the Rev. Dr Katherine Rainger, as well as Senator David Pocock and Zahra Hashemi Barat.

The rally starts at 1.00 but faith-based attendees are meeting at 12.30 at the merry-go-round in Petrie Plaza to walk as a group to the rally.

REFUGEES

**PALM SUNDAY RALLY
1PM SUNDAY 2 APRIL
GAREMA PLACE**

**PERMANENT
PROTECTION
FOR ALL!**

Volunteers needed

Embracing Ministries needs your help! We cannot run our programs without the help of our valuable volunteers. Prior experience or training is not needed as we provide our Volunteers with training in Disability Inclusion and Safe Ministries. The next program we are running will be a holiday program called Little Treasures. Little Treasures is a three-day Christian Holiday Program for primary school-age children including those with special needs.

'Celebrating Easter' is the program theme, with a different part of the Easter story told each day.

The program will operate over three half days from 12th-14th April and volunteers will need to be available from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. We will also have a get-to-know-you orientation day on the 11th of April between 10 am and 3 pm.

We are looking for Volunteers to provide support in the Preschool – Year 1 room, Year 2 – Year 6 room, as well as two people to drive Vans provided to pick up and drop off selected children who are attending.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any more questions, please phone Andrea on 0404 256 714 or email

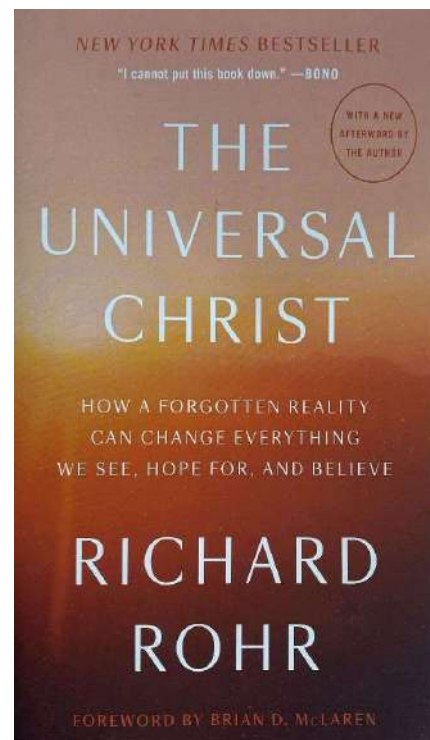
Embracingministries@gmail.com .

Lenten Study

Lightning in a bottle is one way of thinking about how the divine presence was contained within the person of Jesus. Another way, is to see Jesus as reconnecting us with the majesty of love, which is God's presence within you, me and the entire cosmos.

Join us for a six week tour with Richard Rohr as we read together, *The Universal Christ*.

Meeting over Zoom on Wednesdays from 7.30pm.



Autumn Community Lunch

13 April 2023 at 12 midday

Our first Community Lunch for 2023 is happening on 13 April. All are welcome, including friends, neighbours and family members. Russell Rollason AM, will be speaking on the topic *Listening to the Voice. Understanding the Uluru Statement*.

If you would like to do some letter boxing in your street, there's flyers on the table next to the Weekly Bulletins.

There's a sign up sheet for attendance on the noticeboard at church, or you can email

office@holycovenant.org.au to RSVP. To assist us

with catering, RSVPs should be in by **6 April 2023**.

If you are able to help out on the day, either in the kitchen plating food, or serving, or you can provide a contribution for dessert, there's a separate sign up sheet for that.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine, the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ Muslims around the world through Ramadan
- ⇒ Action by governments, businesses and individuals on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ The outcome of the NSW election
- ⇒ Action against the glorification of Nazism

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Wangaratta
- ⇒ Anglicare South East, Eden
- ⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican Church, St John's Bega
- ⇒ Bimbimie Park/ Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula; Sanananda Park/ Hugh Cunningham Gardens, Tura Beach and Ross Wotton Gardens, Eden
- ⇒ Wambiri Youth and Conference Centre
- ⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican College
- ⇒ The Church's ministry in holiday resorts, and the work of evangelism in every parish and institution throughout the Diocese.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Di, Melanie, Ella and Lilly Mutch/Cantwell; Maurice Nevile; Tobias Nevile; Chris Olsson; Sue Paice; John and Gillian Painter; and Thomas Parkes.
- ⇒ 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; Maggie Watts; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers, Anne Drummond, Gracie Bonnett and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 29 Mar—Norman Kennett (d. 2005)
20 Mar—Yvonne Greening (d.2005)
1 Apr— Jessie Henderson (d. 2001)
Bob Rose (d. 2005)

COLLECT for 5th Sunday in Lent

Gracious God,
out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and one another:
call forth our penitence and acts of love,
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
so that we may look with confidence for your
salvation;
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

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 rkmore@grapevine.com.au

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

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager

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

Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 29 Mar James Collier, Merri Bacon
1 Apr Sandra Ross, Elaine Gifford

BIBLE READINGS

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45