

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024
FOURTH 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 10 MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

12 Midday Communion Service and
Lunch

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

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

Coming soon:

Working Bee: 16 March

Parish Picnic: 17 March from midday

Holy Week Services:

Maudy Thursday 28 March,

Good Friday 29 March 8 & 10am,

Easter Day 31 March 6, 8 & 10am

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth

Branch: Jamison Centre ACT

BSB 062 907

Account No: 802588

Name: Holy Covenant Anglican
Church

On being lifted up

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up (Jn 3:14).

These words are part of Jesus' response to Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews who visited Jesus by night to check him out. He got more than he bargained for when Jesus used images and metaphors that seemed to confound him.

I recall an occasion when I was sitting at my computer trying to complete a thesis on the role of the wilderness metaphor in the bible. I found myself writing, 'Jesus is the metaphor of God'. *These words found me.* And my response was one of adoration and praise. It was something about his humanity also being his divinity, and in loving his humanity I could also love mine. All from being given a metaphor that somehow enabled an experience of what Julian of Norwich might have called 'oneing' love.

Today's metaphors of the serpent

in the wilderness and Jesus lifted on the cross suggest a profound reconciliation of opposites. By raising a brazen serpent on a pole so that all who gazed on it would be healed, the poison becomes the remedy. The serpent of the Fall and instrument of punishment in the wilderness is recruited for healing and redemption, not by being destroyed, but by transformation.

We, and our world, need to be lifted up. How might we live from this place of healing and reconciliation? James Finley grounds this for us. He writes from his lived experience of reconciling with God's love the abuse done to him through family and other violence: '*If we are absolutely grounded in the absolute love of God that protects us from nothing even as it sustains us in all things, then we can face all things with courage and tenderness and touch the hurting places in others and in ourselves with love.*' What connects you with God's love?

Frances MacKay

Reaching Out

During the Christmas period I met T. T spoke about a long experience of ill health, starting with COVID and many hospital procedures. The toll of this medical journey was tiredness, frustration and despair. T explained considerable financial strain now they could no longer work and support the family. Their life now revolved around hospital appointments, procedures, and trying new medications. Physical weakness and the dependence T now had on the medical system, their partner and child eroded all self-esteem and hope.

St John's Care (SJC) took the time to listen to T and these medical, financial, and psychosocial struggles. SJC has supported T with counselling, pharmaceutical support, referrals to support agencies including Roundabout for a new car seat, clothing, toys, books, and school uniform supplies. SJC also liaised with Canberra Hospital, supporting T with essential medical equipment. A Canberra Hospital allied health professional stated, *"I can speak on behalf of Dr L and myself in that we are incredibly grateful for the support of St John's Care in assisting T financially with medications. This treatment will be incredibly beneficial to T...anything you can assist with will make such a difference in the life of this patient."*

SJC volunteers and donors support are hope bearers for this family. T and family continue to visit SJC for emergency relief, case management support, community lunches and morning teas. We have seen the huge improvement in health and the hope that T and the family now have.

Wendy Case Manager

Items needed: powdered milk, tomato sauce, toothpaste, baby wipes, sultanas for lunch boxes, tissues

Star gazing

The practice of going outside before bed to gaze at the heavens and all the stars in the sky has been with me for many years. The stars are so bright and fresh, some sparkling and winking, seemingly just hanging there. Somehow it has a settling effect and speaks of the greatness and magnitude of our God and his presence. I stay a while in the quiet and peace. I think of the Magi, and how they saw the bright star in the east and followed it until they found Jesus. Star gazing at night draws me to Jesus, to reflect, to be nearer.

Mane Nobiscum Domine—Remain with us Lord.

Anne, Servant of the Lord.



Draw closer

Wanted: Easter Eggs

The Children's Easter celebration is happening at 4pm on Easter Saturday. Donations of Easter eggs for the egg hunt are very welcome. Please place your donations in the basket near the kitchen servery.

Women's Afternoon Tea—23 March

The wheels are rolling for our afternoon tea on 23 March! We will meet in the church from 2pm until 4pm.

Come along and enjoy some fellowship and a catered afternoon tea together. No need to bring along a plate (happy sigh), just bring along \$5 to pay for an entertaining afternoon, including tasty morsels!



Positions Vacant

Office Manager

Permanent Part time (15 hours per week)

Holy Covenant is a vibrant Anglican Church in Cook. It is an inclusive and diverse community that values treating everyone with respect and dignity. We are seeking a manager who will organise and operate our church office by managing its business operations and supporting the ministry team.

Duties: The office manager will assist the rector to grow and develop Holy Covenant's ministry by:

1. Managing daily operations including
 - reception duties, responding to enquiries, maintaining the filing system, general correspondence and desktop IT systems
 - maintaining calendars, rostering and bookings
 - ordering supplies and resources
 - building and developing relationships within the congregations and community
2. Managing parish communications by creating bulletins, flyers, posters, social media content and event promotion
3. Coordinating and encouraging volunteers
4. Overseeing church facilities
5. Developing effective systems for administration
6. Developing and delivering special projects identified by Parish Council

Applicants should supply a CV, contact details of two referees and a one-page summary of what they bring to the role.

Closing 25 March 2024. Applications should be emailed to rector@holycovenant.org.au.

Contact the Revd Dr Wayne Brighton on 0407 408 333 for more information.

Further information about the Covenant Care Program Manager position will be available next week.

HOLY COVENANT
ANGLICAN CHURCH
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HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY

28 MARCH
6PM FOOTWASHING SERVICE

GOOD FRIDAY

29 MARCH
8 & 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

EASTER SATURDAY

30 MARCH
4PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE
5PM YOUTH EASTER FEAST

EASTER DAY

31 MARCH
6, 8 & 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

Rainbow Centre Final Pack Up

16 March 2024

The start of renovation works at the Rainbow Centre is inching ever closer. Many thanks to the wonderful people who have been working hard to clear out the building!

The garage is now full to bursting with equipment that the Youth and Children's ministries need to be able to access, and there are still more boxes and items of furniture to store. There is now a storage container on site where the Anglicare bins used to be.

We need volunteers for the final push to empty the Rainbow Centre into the container, and take obsolete furniture to the Green Shed. As well as our eternal gratitude, we will provide drinks and snacks for the workers on the day.

Please email office@holycovenant.org.au if you can be part of the pack up team.

Book Launch—21 March 2024

Dr Heather Thomson—No Sense of Entitlement

Join the team at St Marks as they raise a glass to celebrate the release of feminist theologian Dr Heather Thomson's important new book.

How might we keep alive the interests and concerns of protest theologies and the constructive contributions they make? Feminist, liberation, and postcolonial theologies offer guiding questions for this task:

- What is the purpose of theology?
- Whose interests are being served?
- What might be the public effects of this theology?

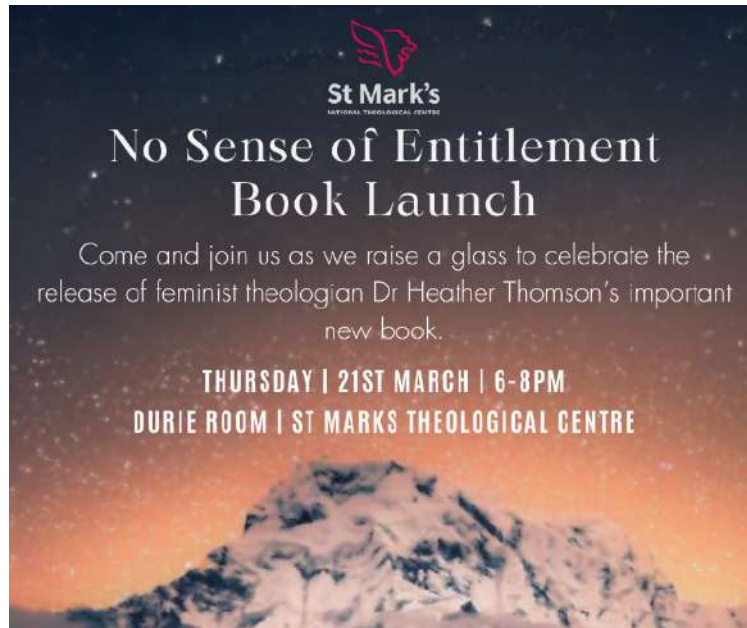
This book attends to these questions through a collection of publications over the lifetime of one

feminist theologian. Growing up in Australia as these new protest theologies were emerging, Thomson recalls the influences that went into forming her as the theologian she became.

When: Thursday 21 March, 6-8pm

Where: Durie Room, St Mark's Theological Centre

More Information and Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/no-sense-of-entitlement-book-launch-tickets-846782127137>



Palm Sunday Rally

When: 1pm Sunday 24 March

Where: Garema Place

Watch Bishop Mark's video here: https://youtu.be/X_JONfBGuJY?list=UU5H14doEOSbT6bJhW3Z_a3g

**JUSTICE FOR
REFUGEES
PERMANENT VISAS NOW**

Lenten study update

The Lenten study 'Understanding Moses' is happening online at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings. If you can't commit to every week, just come along when you can!

You can access the study on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and Palestine, and an end to occupation
- ⇒ A reduction of tensions in the South China Sea
- ⇒ Safety for shipping in the Red Sea

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Strengthening ties with other countries in our region
- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians
- ⇒ The new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner
- ⇒ The introduction of laws around coercive control
- ⇒ Continued progress in meeting Closing the Gap targets

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Bishop to the Defence Force
- ⇒ Defence Force Chaplains: Regular - Full Time: 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 Jenny Tomkins; Anthony, Susan, Elizabeth and Michael Troy; Hugo Walker; Peter and Wendy Ward; Susan Webb; and Prue and Ken Wedgwood.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Bev Barnes; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers; Bob and Kath Arthur, Neville Hurst and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

11 Mar Nell Pain (d. 2014)

BIRTHDAYS

10 Mar Barry Button
11 Mar Lacey Smale
12 Mar Trish Barnes, Phil Trigge
13 Mar Mandy Squair
15 Mar Margaret Martin, Rob Maron

BIBLE READINGS

Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2: 1-10
John 3.14-21

COLLECT

Everlasting God
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in
you:
give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,
no weakness prevent us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
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
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Assistant Minister

The Reverend Dr Bili Malek
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Youth Coordinator

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Wardens

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Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Children & Families Worker

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Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur
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Covenant Care Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

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The Revd Connie Gerrity
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