

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 2

05 December 2021

Hello Everyone! I hope that I find you in good spirits.

I've been asking the question on a Sunday morning - and there is a very strong chance I will ask it again: "If you were arrested for being a Christian this week, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

Following in the footsteps of Jesus was always going to be a tough gig. However, I feel that we've got used to 'power' and 'privilege' and 'side-stepping' our baptismal conviction through apathy, convenience, disempowerment throughout the centuries and basically - we the church - the people of God, are in danger of becoming impotent. We can 'pretend' that people have given us authority to speak into the world and it's issues, but alas - I feel that too much water has passed under the bridge.

The prophetic word. The healing touch. The conversion to faith.

Who will do these things - if we do not?

Who are we waiting for to act on our behalf - if we choose not to act, speak, inspire, transform?

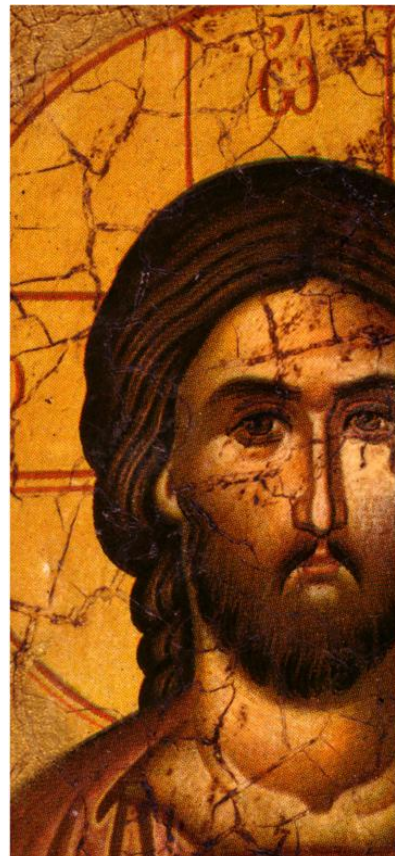
The next incumbent, Bishop, Synod committee representative?

What are the stumbling blocks - that need to be removed to pave a bolder path of faith? What barriers do we need to let fall for the Spirit to enter the hearts and lives of those we love, and those of our neighbour's? Will we help direct others to the fountain of forgiveness and reconciliation and freedom - in God's name?

Get arrested! Get convicted!

Merry Christmas!

Rev James



Where did I say that you should buy so much stuff to celebrate my birthday!?

www.buynothingchristmas.org



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Southern Deanery;
- Synod preparations – 11 December;
- For the people of Solomon Islands, South Africa, all migrants;
- Doreen Taylor;
- For those grieving loved ones;

Community:

- For our farmers and their families;
- For all itinerant workers on farms, silos, agricultural businesses;
- For all those feeling overwhelmed, confused, discombobulated;
- All COVID consequences;

Years Mind: Louisa Henderson, Nancy Meredith, Gladys Schriever, Frank Mitchell, Annie Parker, Bonnie Butler, Melva Jackson, Valda Fisher, Lois Bibby, Annie Muller

THE PROPER

Sentence: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Collect: God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin: keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Service Times December

Advent 2 – 05 December

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)
 11.00am Areegra (non-Vacc status)
 5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)
 6.00pm SHINE Youth Group
(last one for the year)

Advent 3 – 12 December

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)
 5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)
 8.30am-12.30pm Coffee Van
(last one for the year)

Advent 4 – 19 December

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)
 5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)
 From 6.00pm - Community Carols

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Lessons & Carols – Areegra

Weds 22nd Dec – 6.00pm

Christmas Eve – 24 Dec

8.30pm Refreshments & fellowship
 10.00pm – Lessons & Carols & HC

Christmas Day – 25 Dec

9.30am – Christmas Celebration & HC

Christmas 1 – 26 Dec

10.30am – Carols & HC

Epiphany – 02 Jan 2022

10.30am – HC

Baptism of Our Lord – 09 Jan 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
 11.00am Areegra

Epiphany 2 – 16 Jan 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warrack

TODAY'S READINGS

ADVENT 2

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-14

A reading from the prophet Malachi

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. 'So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,' says the Lord Almighty. 'I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty. 'But you ask, "How are we to return?" 'Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. 'But you ask, "How are we robbing you?" 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room

enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the Lord Almighty. 'Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,' says the Lord Almighty. 'You have spoken arrogantly against me,' says the Lord. 'Yet you ask, "What have we said against you?" 'You have said, "It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel: who has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

born of the house of his servant David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

To set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear:

holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation:

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon
us,

**To shine on those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of
peace.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:1-11

***A reading from the of Paul to the
Philippians***

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths: all flesh shall see
the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

***A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke***

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.'"

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

