



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 9
21 July 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal



What kind of power do you want to be known for?

There were two old monks who lived together for many years and they had never quarreled. Now one of them said: "Let us try to quarrel once just like other people do." And the other replied, "I don't know how a quarrel happens." Then the first one said: "Look, I put a brick between us and I say, 'This is mine,' and you say, 'No, it's mine,' and after that the quarrel begins." So they placed a brick between them, and one of them said: "This is mine," and the other said, "No, it's mine." And he replied: "Indeed, it's all yours, so take it away with you!" And they were unable to fight with each other.

In this story of the experience of two Desert Monastics, four simple and basic spiritual principles emerge in an attempt to teach what it takes to become a pacifist presence in the life of the early Christian community. In the first scene, the situation is clear: Peace must be taught. The two old men, wisdom figures of the monastic community, after having lived years together, simply do not know how to argue. Having lived together where the character of the environment around them had been peaceful did not prepare them to use either force or litigation.

In the second scene, what history has proved as the essence of most arguments is defused. One old man simply refuses to lay claim to what is not his. He knew that he himself had no right to contend for the brick. And he didn't. To refuse to argue, to refuse to pick sides—no matter who tries to fan the fire or wants to make a case where no case exists—disarms the world. In the third scene, the science of warfare is embarrassingly obvious: conflict is not necessary if no one wants to fight. Fighting is something we choose to do; it is not something we must do. Finally, the old men teach, struggle can be stopped. In the very midst of the situation, we can just turn the stakes over to the other who claims them and choose another way to pursue the matter. In quiet, secret ways, the powerless have another kind of power.

The Desert Monastics are strikingly strong here. What is certain is that violence is not necessary and that nonviolence is never really powerless. The question is: What kind of world do you want to build? What kind of power do you want to be known for? What kind of power will you yield? *[In God's Holy Light, by Joan Chittister- adapted]*

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for various Diocesan functions (posters in church Foyer);
- For our First Nations Peoples – the Land, Air and Sea of our Great Southern Land;
- For all who have returned to school – for opportunity to learn and mentor and inspire;
- For Light in the face of darkness; for Hope in the face of despair; for Love in the face of hatred and discord;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- For our Boys' Shed Project – we are SO close to getting a Building Surveyor;
- For the people of Ukraine and Palestine;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water; for those seeking shelter around the globe;
- For our neighbour/s;
- For all grieving – through death, grief, disappointment, failed expectations;
- For The Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham – for all who seek assistance for food, financial pressure and roof over their head;
- For Peace in our hearts and homes;
- For our small acts of kindness and Christian witness in word and deed;
- For all in our Aged Care Facilities; all known to us in hospital; for those known to us who are unwell;
- For our town and regions Interest groups and those who offer leadership;

Years Mind: Peter Boyle, Robert Oulton, Stephen Lewis, Clarence Edmonds, Terry Schulz, Edward Fish

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

Service Times July/August

Pentecost 9 – 21 July

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 10 – 28 July

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church – Parish Centre

Pentecost 11 – 04 August

10.30am Warracknabeal (One service only)

11.30am – AGM – Soup & Sandwich Lunch

Tuesday Healing Service – 06 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 12 – 11 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 13 – 18 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 14 – 25 August

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church – Parish Centre

Parish AGM – 04th August

10.30am Eucharist

**11.30am in Parish Centre:
Soup & sandwich lunch –
please bring a plate to
share!**

AGM Report now available.

**Nomination Forms for
Parish Council at back of
church.**

A letter of gratitude from Christian Emergency Food Centre for recent donation of \$730.00 & food goods is posted in the church foyer.

TODAY'S READINGS

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

A reading from the second book of Samuel

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.' Nathan replied to the king, 'Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.' But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: 'Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord says: are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" 'Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them any more, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: when your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up

your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 23

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want*

1. The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters. **(R)**
2. He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me. **(R)**
3. You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.
Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **(R)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called

'uncircumcised' by those who call themselves 'the circumcision' (which is done in the body by human hands) – remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried those who were ill on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went – into villages, towns or countryside – they placed those who were ill in the market-places. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: As he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Collect: Eternal God, author of our life and end of our pilgrimage: guide us by your word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations that we may not wander from your way, but may run our course in safety until we come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**