



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Christ the King
26 November 2023

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal



Hello Everyone.

I hope that you've had a good week!

Tis the season to be 'Jolly', 'Generous', 'Compassionate' ...

Tis the season not to be a 'goat' but rather a 'sheep' - according to Matthew's Gospel this week.

Tis the season to be God's People - sharing Light not darkness, Hope not despair and Goodwill not difficulty or dis-ease.

Are you feeling in the mood?

Are you and I able to change the 'rhetoric' of the season - from one of BUSY-ness to OPEN-ness: from one of financial PRESSURE to financial GENEROSITY: from one of EXPECTATIONS placed upon us (*by society, family or friends*) to EXPECTING God to do some amazing work in our life?

I invite each of us to reflect strongly on being able to offer a 'counter cultural' response to the 'reason for the season' - that Christ the King is not a 'king' of conquering and victory and waiting until we're all dead to feast with the angels and the saints. But rather, Christ the King is the KING of the here and now, the KING of ordinary people doing small (*or large*) acts of kindness that actually instigate real and lasting change in another person's life, the KING of genuine PEACE - that comes from wrestling with the difficulties of life rather than apathy or disinterest, surrendering to walk a mile in another's shoe not judging another's circumstance, and offering gratitude rather than demanding 'want.'

When all is said and done - which 'Christ the King' would we like to welcome to our homes and hearts? Then be like him! We are all 'courtiers' of faith ... let our thoughts, words and actions represent the vision that God has for ALL people - whether we think 'they' (*or we*) deserve God's Love and Grace and Peace or not.

Every Blessing for the week ahead. Rev James

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Anglicare Staff and Support;
- For the people of Haiti; Myanmar; Pakistan; Afghanistan; Pacific Islands;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger and thirst; for those seeking asylum; those displaced;
- For those known to us facing difficulty, disease, discombobulation, despair;
- For all who are lonely & isolated;
- For our farmers and smooth working of machinery; for seasonal weather;
- Our friends and families – near and far;
- For the Emergency Food Centre;
- For genuine world peace; for those brokering peace; for lasting peace;

Years Mind: Helen Patterson, Lindsay Westerland, Kenneth Newell, Clifford Fernandes

Working Bee

10.00am Thursday 30th November
to Spring Clean the Church and Polish the Brass.

Please bring polishing cloths and polish. Many hands make light work.

We will be asking for a plate (sandwiches, cakes, slices) for the Prelude to Christmas on Sunday 3rd December. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Cheers Sandra

Donations of grain - of any quantity can be made using the Church's NGR number: NGR 12439740

Services – Nov/Dec

Christ the King – 26 November

9.30am Eucharist – Warracknabeal

12.00pm Lunch at Creekside

5.00pm Café Church - Warracknabeal

Advent 1 – 03 December

9.30am – Warracknabeal

11.00am - St Mark's Areegra

6.00pm - PRELUDE to Christmas

Healing Service – 05 December

Tuesday at 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Advent 2 – 10 December

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

Advent 3 - 17 Dec

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Community Carols from 5.00pm

Advent 4 – 24 December

10.30am – Areegra

Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm - Refreshments

10.00pm – HC Warracknabeal

Christmas Day – 25 December

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

Christian Emergency Food Centre

Once again this year, the CEFC will be distributing Christmas Hampers to people in our region. Each hamper is packed with Christmas goodies that are practical and nourishing for those less fortunate. Each hamper costs approximately \$30.00.

Would you like to SPONSOR or part-SPONSOR a hamper?

For the next three weeks – place your financial contribution in an envelope clearly marked CEFC or Christian Emergency Food Centre in the offertory – and we'll forward to them.

Food items continue to be received as per normal. Thanks for your generosity.

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRIST THE KING

First Reading : Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from the book of Ezekiel

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and make them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord . I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: see, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm: 100

Response: We are his people: the sheep of his flock

1. O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his face with songs of joy. **(R)**
2. Know that the Lord he is God: it is he who has made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. **(R)**
3. Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: give thanks to him, and bless his holy name. **(R)**
4. For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever: his faithfulness throughout all generations. **(R)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the

present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 25:31-46

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

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ‘Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” ‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?” ‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

‘Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.” ‘They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?” ‘He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” ‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

THE PROPERS

Sentence: O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

Collect: God of power and love, who raised your Son Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation: free the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love. Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

