



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Lent 4
10 March 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal



Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well.

Sr Joan Chittister writes:

A peaceful heart

"There can be no real peace without justice. And without resistance, there will be no justice," writes Arundhati Roy.

Peace, in a world bent on war and intent on drawing the rest of us into it, is a precious commodity. But not an easy one to achieve.

Do anything you can to avoid war—personal or public. Do everything you can to make peace real. But remember that peace can never come from either fear or threat. Both of those must be dispelled before the trust that is of the essence of peace can possibly break out.

Peace is not the acceptance of evil. On the contrary, real peace requires resistance to evil. But not in evil ways. This kind of peacemaking requires courage, not power, a kind of strength that uses love rather than force to change the world.

It is possible for one person to refuse to make war, but it is not possible for one person to make peace. To make real peace takes two. To solve an impasse with the other, I need to ask myself what it is in me that is feeding the war.

At the basis of peace is respect for the traditions, cultures, gifts, and good intentions of the other. Anything else is either patronizing or arrogant. The greatest instrument of peace is language. When our words are kind—however difficult the message may be—peace is possible. When our words are hurtful, the peace between us will never be real.

To bring people to reconciliation, to avoid what is damaging to the other, to bring love where pain has been, to open our arms to the world—these make

the Christian message real. It is time to stop defining peace as the absence of war and start defining it as the presence of God.

[Aspects of the Heart: The Many Paths to a Good Life, by Joan Chittister (Twenty-Third Publications)]



Rowland Croucher writes:

Cross-less Christianity is 'the go' in some quarters of Christendom today. We are seduced by many gods. The god of *ease* woos us in the form of shorter working hours, long weekends and holidays, electronic and mechanised technology in the workplace, numerous household appliances, and countless aids to leisure. These are but some of its attractions. The god of *comfort* like wise makes its appeal to middle class Westerners, through air conditioned homes and cars, soothing stereo music, spa baths, elegant furniture and home décor. Consider, too, the god of *convenience*, clamouring individual rights, set daily routines, priority times for self and so on.

It's not that the 'good life' does not have virtue and legitimacy. Rather, it has become an idol to many Christians, so that when the call for availability, personal sacrifice, commitment, reliability and service goes out, the gods of comfort, ease and convenience are under threat.

Wait a minute! Didn't Jesus say something about taking up a cross? Wasn't discipleship meant to be a daily death to self and resurrection newness of life in him? Isn't the nub of salvation deliverance from the claims of self and its tyranny? Or is a cushion, rather than a cross, the central symbol of the gospel? Could it be that we have stressed too much the good news of what God has done, still does, and is yet to do for me, and too little about the 'bad news' of what I am required to do for him? The unwelcome tidings of confession of and repentance from sin, and the surrender of my life to Christ's new management as Lord are just the beginning of authentic discipleship.

In one of his works, Soren Keirkegaard likes many Christians to train passengers travelling through a threatening terrain of hostile people and wildlife. There is a tendency to dip into the Bible to enjoy its 'scenery', comforts and novelties, in order to console or titillate our lives, but an unwillingness to step out of the security of being biblical passengers and spectators with the comfortable 'carriages' of cross-less Christianity, to become involved in the dangers and challenges of the 'countryside' around. Cynical perhaps, but uncomfortably close to the truth as well.

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Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for Registry Office;
- For Sherry Barber (Suzy Callaghan's sister) – battling cancer;
- For all who are grieving;
- For generosity this Lenten journey;
- For a STOP to war around the globe; and for all brokering peace;
- For the people of Pakistan; Haiti; Syria;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger for God's Word; for those who thirst for God's Spirit; for those who seek God's mercy and consolation;
- For those facing exploitation and trafficking to ensure we have Easter eggs on our supermarket shelves;
- For our respective Lenten journey's – wherever they may take us;
- For the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham; for Bev and all the volunteers;
- For the Boys' Shed Project;
- For our Catering team and gratitude for a wonderful luncheon atmosphere;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For PEACE in heart, mind and soul;
- For our neighbour;
- For new Parish Centre blinds and generosity of donor;

Years Mind: John Menzel, Murray Moloney, Sybil Flett, Marjorie Sherwell, Idwen Harries, Stephen Jeffrey

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

Service Times Feb/March

Lent 4 – 10 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal
12.00pm Lunch in Parish Centre

Tuesday 12 March

5.00pm Phase II Conversation in Rectory

Lent 5 – 17 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

Passion Sunday – 24 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Tuesday 26 March

5.00pm - Eucharist
7.00 for 7.30pm - Parish Council

Maundy Thursday – 28 March

6.00pm for 6.30pm – Warracknabeal

Good Friday – 29 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Easter Sunday – 31 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Easter 2 – 07 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

Easter 3 – 14 April

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Hi, I am Del Taite.

I arrived in the area in November 2023. I am a qualified Counsellor who is continuing studies and providing free counselling to clients at this time.

If you would like more information contact me:

vibrancycounselling@gmail.com

TODAY'S READINGS

LENT 4

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!' Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 148

Response: *Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting*

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: for his loving mercy is for ever. Let the Lord's redeemed say so: whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, and gathered in from every land, from the east and from the west: from the north and from the south. **(R)**
2. Fools were far gone in transgression: and because of their sins were afflicted. They sickened at any food: and had come to the gates of death. **(R)**

3. Then they cried to the Lord in their distress: and he took them out of their trouble. He sent his word and healed them: and saved their life from the Pit. **(R)**
4. Let them thank the Lord for his goodness: and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam; Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving: and tell what he has done with shouts of joy. **(R)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son: so that whoever might believe in him will have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel:

John 3:14-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.' For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Collect: Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

James 1:1-7

Salutation

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the dispersion:
Greetings.

Faith and Wisdom

2 My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. **6** But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. **7,8** For the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

James 5:7-11

Patience in Suffering

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.^[b] **9** Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Indeed, we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about, for the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

This is God's Word

Thanks be to God!

(continued from page 2)

Growing, mature Christians are those who will dare, by contrast, to pay any price, tackle any task, check out any challenge, and attempt any availability in the service of him who has grasped and called them his own. To parody the words of the late John F. Kennedy, they ask not what Christ and his church can do for them; rather, they ask what they can do for him, his church and the world.

When such a counter culture becomes established in every community, people will be impressed by the difference in the lives of Christians, and then begin to ask from where that difference comes. Until that uniqueness is evident, non-Christians will feel like the philosopher who once observed: 'I cannot believe in the Christians' saviour until the Christians look more saved.'

If the cross was the way the Master went, should not his servants tread it still?

The story of Zinzendorf's conversion is worth recounting. The proud and wealthy nobleman once strode into an art gallery where, after perusing a number of paintings, he came upon a scene of the crucifixion. He stood transfixed before its pathos and challenge. The words of the caption beneath the scene shook him to the core... 'All this I did for you. What have you done for me?'

From that moment, Zinzendorf resolved to live solely for Christ, and to use his wealth and power to found the great Moravian missionary movement of the eighteenth century.

How do I respond to challenge?

What call of Christ have I left unanswered?

What must I now do or become in order to die to self and rise to newness of life in Christ?

[Rowland Croucher 1991 © *Rivers in the Desert*. Albatross: Aust]



**Christ be with you, Christ within you,
Christ behind you, Christ before you,
Christ beside you, Christ to win you,
Christ to comfort and restore you,
Christ beneath you, Christ above you,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

St Patrick's Breastplate (adapted)