



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Lent 2

25 February 2024

Sunday Services: 10.30am - Warracknabeal
 12.00pm - Mission Lunch
 5.00pm - Café Church



Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well.

First, apologies for the late edition of the pew sheet this week. Too much going on this week to fit it all into the normal schedule. Oh, how we love a normal schedule!

This afternoon as I write (Sat) - I am dumfounded by another local tragedy, and there is a 'pall of sorrow' that lies over all who are grieving - which I know many of you are. The incomprehensible nature of death alone - can be too much to bear sometimes; but the incomprehensible events that lead to tragedy for people who 'don't seem to deserve it' - what do we do? How do we make sense of all that does not seem to do so? We can ask "Why?" a thousand times and still our lament seems to fall on 'deaf ears.'

Grief - in my opinion is the most insidious of our emotions. Not because it is 'bad' but because it doesn't care when it comes to visit us. Among friends - everything going well - and then 'knock, knock, knock - on our heart or mind' ... "just me!" says grief, "thought I'd pop in and say hello!" Out in the garden, the sun is shining and all is well - until it is not. Half way through the night - boooooom! Grief comes in beside us - and doesn't take the hint to "GO!" Grief can be inconsolable.

From my experience - the worst thing we can do - in the face of the reality of grief - is ignore it. We can try. Only the bravest can handle it - but normally, 'grief' will just get louder and louder. My only advice is to LISTEN to it.

I know - crazy right! Grief wants to be heard. That's all. Too simple? I invite you to try it. When grief comes to visit - the best thing you can do is listen to it. There are three main options (although there are probably many more):

Option 1: talk to it right there and then. What does it want? Why did it come to visit? What does it want to say to you? As a human emotion it is real, and it doesn't want to destroy us (even though sometimes it feels like it).

Talk to it - and understand what is the disappointment or the 'death' it is wanting us to take seriously, and how can we learn from it, and move forward.

Option 2: Simply tell it that it is not the right time to talk now! You still want to enjoy the party, you need to really sleep until the sun rises, you've got an important task that needs your undivided attention.

However, it is important to 'book an appointment' with grief at a time that suits you, so that you can listen to what it has to say. Book a time; maybe book a place; place some boundaries around it - so that you can manage and control how much time and energy it will require to deal with its message. And then you can banish it until the appointed time.

Option 3: Talk to someone.

Anyone? Yes - it can be anyone. A good friend may have a little more empathy, but really it can be anyone. Have a time limit or go for hours. Talking about the way grief affects our lives gives us a chance to understand its character and purpose - and eventually its benefits as we negotiate all that life throws at us.

Where is our God in all of this?

RIGHT HERE BESIDE US. I believe in a God who absolutely gets it - who completely understands the incomprehensibility of grief and the opportunity that grief presents in our lives: the rude interruptions and the inconsolable nature of how certain things get under our skin, or into our hearts and especially how grief gets into the thought patterns that keep us awake and distracted for hours at a time.

I feel that God gives 'kudos' to a really good lament ... when someone has reached their limit and cries out to God from that deep place of care, empathy or compassion. It's not applauded by our society because most people don't want to deal with it. But God does, and CAN and will guide us through the trickiest situations. We are invited to trust and surrender to God's mysterious and incomprehensible ways from time to time. Not for the faint hearted.

Take courage: **Rev James**

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

Mission Lunch - TODAY! - 12.00pm

Proceeds will be shared between
ABM (Australian Bush Mission) and
Oncology Unit at Wimmera Base
Hospital. Thank you!

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

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for West Wimmera Deanery;
- For Sherry Barber (Suzy Callaghan's sister) – battling cancer;
- For all who are dealing with fire danger;
- For ALL CFA & Fire Brigade members across the State – for pilots of water bombers, and ground co-ordinators;
- For our local community – as we deal with tragedy, death and all that seems unfair and incomprehensible;
- For all of life's mysteries;
- For a STOP to war around the globe; and for all brokering peace;
- 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 those who are grieving;
- 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 Mission Lunch & Catering team;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For PEACE in heart, mind and soul;
- For our neighbour;

Years Mind:

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

Service Times Feb/March

Lent 2 – 25 February 2024

10.30am – Warracknabeal

12.00 – Mission Lunch

5.00pm Café Church

Lent 3 – 03 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Lent 4 – 10 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

12.00pm Lunch in Parish Centre

Lent 5 – 17 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

Passion Sunday – 24 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Maundy Thursday – 28 March

6.00pm for 6.30pm – Warracknabeal

Good Friday – 29 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Easter Sunday – 31 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Parish Council meets Tuesday night

27th Feb - 7.00pm refreshments

followed by 7.30pm meeting.

THE PROPERS

Sentence: If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.

Collect: God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life: grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

TODAY'S READINGS

LENT 2

First Reading:

Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from the book of Genesis

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty,^[a] walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram,^[b] but your name shall be Abraham,^[c] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding, and I will be their God." ⁹ God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. ¹³ Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your

money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." ¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

22:24-32

Response: *O Praise the Lord, all you who fear our God.*

1. For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. **(R)**
2. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. **(R)**
3. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. **(R)**
4. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it. **(R)**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,^[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already^[b] as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe^[c] in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that proceeds out of
the mouth of God

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

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

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come^[a] after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^[b] will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[c] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

World Day of Prayer 2024

Palestine



Date & Time: 01 March 2024

Location: 2.00pm
Anglican Church

Contact person: Jenny Taylor – 0417 109 732

Lent 2024

Difficult text series:

During Lent, I will be embarking on a 'difficult text series' to help our Lenten journey and deepen our understanding of how God works in our lives.

Sometimes, I believe, facing 'difficulty' rather than avoiding it allows us to understand God's influence in our lives with a new perspective - especially as we wrestle with God in honesty and trust (faith) - as we seek healing and try to liberate ourselves from texts written in a very different context than our own.

Below are an outline of what the themes will be for each week.

- Lent 1:** 18th February - Testing of Faith and Covenant with God
Genesis 22 - The binding of Isaac
- Lent 2:** 25th February - Confronting Genocide
Joshua 6 & Joshua 10 (selected verses)
- Lent 3:** 03 March - Sexual Violence: Law and Lore
Genesis 34: The Rape of Dinah & 2 Samuel 13: Ammon & Tamar
- Lent 4:** 10 March - Refining Fire
James 1:2-4; James 5:7-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7
- Lent 5:** 17 March - The Mysterious Nature of God
Isaiah 55:8-9 (John 12:20-33); 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Retreat in Daily Life - 10th-17th March:

In addition, I am planning to provide an opportunity for parishioners to conduct a 'Retreat in Daily Life' again this year. I had some good feedback from those who engaged last year - and I hope you will find that this particular week enhances your prayer and praise and faithful Lenten journey.

More details will follow, as I work out what this week may look like and provide an opportunity for people to meet for fellowship and/or maybe have a Q&A style gathering during the week.

Confession:

During Lent, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please get in touch with Rev. Not an obligation but rather an opportunity - should you feel the need or have a secret psychological desire to do so.

Get in touch if you want more information.

Joshua 6 & Joshua 10 (*selected verses*)

Jericho Taken and Destroyed – Chapter 6 Now Jericho was shut up inside and out because of the Israelites; no one came out, and no one went in. ²The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have handed Jericho over to you, along with its king and soldiers. ³You shall march around the city, all the warriors circling the city once. Thus you shall do for six days, ⁴with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and all the people shall charge straight ahead." ⁶So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark of the LORD." ⁷To the people he said, "Go forward and march around the city; have the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD."

¹⁵On the seventh day they rose early, at dawn, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city. ¹⁷The city and all that is in it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction... ²⁰So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it. ²¹Then they devoted to destruction by the edge of the sword all in the city, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.

Five Kings Defeated – Chapter 10 ⁶And the Gibeonites sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who live in the hill country are gathered against us." ⁷So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the fighting force with him, all the mighty warriors. ⁸The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have handed them over to you; not one of them shall stand before you." ⁹So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who inflicted a crushing blow on them at Gibeon, chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹As they fled before Israel, while they were going down the slope of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down huge stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died because of the hailstones than the Israelites killed with the sword...

⁴⁰So Joshua defeated the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes and all their kings; he left no one remaining but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded. ⁴¹And Joshua defeated them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon. ⁴²Joshua took all these kings and their land at one time because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. ⁴³Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.