



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 20
15 October 2023

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal



I hope that you've had a very good week!

There is nothing pretty about war.

Even our media outlets aren't showing us the real horror of the consequences of war - thank goodness. There is nothing fair about war: women, children and civilians have always suffered when nations go to battle. Let alone all who serve their respective countries in uniform and those who support them.

It is a brutal reality. It always has been. And despite our 'advanced human consciousness' - I suggest it ALWAYS will be thus. There are no winners in war. As the adage goes: "War does not tell us who is right, only who is left."

Terrorist martyrdom is misguided.

Fear is the root of war. Unless leaders respond with love - there will be no peace! Tough love is a skillful task - that few leaders and those in authority seem aspire to. It seems 'we' have departed beyond return from the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. It grieves me - deeply.

As the ONE HUMAN RACE dwelling on earth - we are implicated in the way we live, think and how we prepare a space for the alien, stranger and oppressor in our heart.

I invite us to find that extra ounce of zeal in our prayer - for the vulnerable: in the face of war, exploitation and injustice.

Women, children and men - who do not get the backing of our media outlets and the 'great' nations of the World; who have no voice for justice. Let us dispel fear!

Every blessing, Rev.

Men are cruel, but Man is kind.

Rabindranath Tagore

Services – October

Pentecost 20 – 15 October

9.30am Eucharist – Warracknabeal

5.00pm – Warracknabeal

Pentecost 21 – 22 October

9.30am Eucharist – Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church - Warracknabeal

Pentecost 22 – 29 October

10.30am Eucharist – Warracknabeal

12.00pm Mission Lunch

TODAY'S READINGS

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading : Exodus 32:1-14

A reading from the book of Exodus

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered round Aaron and said, 'Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' Aaron answered them, 'Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, 'Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.' So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterwards they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." 'I have seen these people,' the Lord said to Moses, 'and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.' But Moses sought the favour of the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your anger burn against your people, whom you

brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance for ever.'" Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

106.1-6, 20-24

Response: *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever*

1. Praise the Lord; O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
And his mercy endures forever. **(R)**
2. Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord: or fully voice his praise?
Blessed are those who act according to justice: who at all times do right. **(R)**
3. Remember me, O Lord, when you visit your people with your favour: and come to me also with your salvation, That I may see the prosperity of your chosen: that I may rejoice with the rejoicing of your people, and exult with those who are your own. **(R)**
4. We have sinned like our ancestors: we have acted perversely and done wrong. At Horeb they made themselves a calf: and bowed down in worship to an image. And so they exchanged the glory of God: for the likeness of an ox that eats hay. **(R)**

5. They forgot God who was their saviour: that had done such great things in Egypt, Who had worked his wonders in the land of Ham: and his terrible deeds at the Red Sea. **(R)**
6. Therefore he thought to destroy them: had not Moses his servant stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath from destroying them. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Philippians 4

***A reading from the letter to the
Philippians***

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying

this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia!

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

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 'Then he sent some more servants and said, "Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet." 'But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 'Then he said to his servants, "The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, "How did you get in here without wedding

clothes, friend?" The man was speechless. 'Then the king told the attendants, "Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 'For many are invited, but few are chosen.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

THE PROPERS

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

Collect: O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life; transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; The Registry; Synod prep;
- For the Land, Sea and Sky we call Australia; for all who dwell here;
- For harmony and a just sharing of resources; for understanding; for all our respective cultural heritage;
- For the people of Ukraine; the people of the Middle East; Haiti;
- For all people oppressed by political or military regimes;
- For those experiencing tragedy & grief;
- For those known to us in hospital;
- Our friends and families – near and far;
- For genuine world peace.

Years Mind: Donald Johnson

NEXT MISSION LUNCH

**SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER AT
12.00PM FOLLOWING THE
10.30AM SERVICE.
\$25 PER PERSON.**

**DONATIONS OF SALADS
PLEASE.**

The Apostle's ACTION Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore;

This week I will give thanks for someone I love or something I own ...

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

As a follower of Jesus I will bring an attitude of In all I do, so that I can be a better human being.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Guided by the Spirit I will seek to behave with this week to make the world a better place.

So be it. (Amen)

Hope, Peace, and Justice

Richard Rohr writes:

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-2021) envisions God's dream for the world through a message of hope, justice, peace, and inclusion:

Dear Child of God, before we can become God's partners, we must know what God wants for us. "I have a dream," God says. "Please help Me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts, when there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, that My children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God's family, My family."

In God's family, there are no outsiders. All are insiders. Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight, Jew and Arab, Palestinian and Israeli, Roman Catholic and Protestant, Serb and Albanian, Hutu and Tutsi, Muslim and Christian, Buddhist and Hindu, Pakistani and Indian—all belong....

We have heard of God's dream from His prophets throughout history and in modern times from great leaders and humanitarians like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. King spoke of it ... when he dreamed of the day that the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners in Georgia would be able "to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." [1] Gandhi wrote about it in 1929 when he stated that his goal was not just the brotherhood of Indian humanity but "the mission of brotherhood of man." [2] (Today they would have referred to daughters and sisterhood, too.) The visions and triumphs of these prophets of God helped change their nations and inspire the rest of us around the world in our own struggles for equality.

Tutu finds God's dream for an inclusive community embodied in Jesus:

We can look at the life of Jesus to see what God asks of us. Jesus came into a deeply divided and polarized society. There was the divide between the hated foreign oppressor and the citizens of the vassal state. Within Judaism there were different religious groupings, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Zealots. There was the divide between the Jew, the Gentile, and the Samaritan. And then men were segregated from women. There were free persons and there were slaves. There were the rich; there were the poor. The world saw a veritable miracle unfolding before its very eyes as all sorts and conditions of women and men, rich and poor, slave and free, Jew and Gentile—all these came to belong in one fellowship, one communion. They did not regard one another just as equals. That in itself would have been a huge miracle.... No, they regarded one another not just as equals but as sisters and brothers, members of one family, God's family.

[1] Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream," in *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, ed. James Melvin Washington (San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1986), 219.

[2] M. K. Gandhi, "My Conception of Patriotism," *Young India* 11, no. 14 (April 4, 1929): 107.

[3] Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams, *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time* (New York: Image Books/Doubleday, 2005), 19-22.

Parable of the Wedding Feast

Word Search



C B A N Q U E T E O O M G U Q
 X W E D D I N G I X N X K L R
 I B J R H N K U L D L F R Z S
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Parables	Invited	Oxen	Street
kingdom	banquet	cattle	corners
heaven	refused	come	filled
servants	dinner	wedding	guests

Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.
Matthew 22:9 (NIV)