

10 MAY 2020 - TODAY'S SERVICES

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00AM—ZOOM SERVICE ONLINE

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
EST. 1888
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Prayer for our New Parish Priest

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments;
an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Collect prayer in honour of St Stephen:

*Gracious Father,
who gave the first martyr Stephen
grace to pray for those who took up stones against him:
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us,
Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Locum: The Reverend Jamee-Lee Callard
(Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)**

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

'I am the way, the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one come to the Father except through me.'

John14.6

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

1ST READING: ACTS 7.55-60

TONY RIGBY

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

PSALM: 31:1-5, 17-18.

1. In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.
- 2. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**
3. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
- 4. take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**
5. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
- 17. Do not let me be put to shame, O Lord, for I call on you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.**
18. Let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Reflection: Written by The Rev'd Charlie Lacey, St Andrew's Springfield

I once hired a tuk-tuk, a kind of automated rickshaw, in New Delhi and spent the first part of the journey travelling the wrong way up a busy main road. It didn't feel very comfortable and was probably quite dangerous!

Jesus said, 'I am the way' and the first Christians were said to belong to 'the way'. Today's readings make it abundantly clear that 'the way' of Jesus goes against the flow of the world. The stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr ([Acts 7.55-60](#)), emphasises the level of persecution endured by the early Church, a persecution still experienced by many Christian communities in the world today. From [1 Peter 2](#) we glean that the early Christians were accused of 'doing wrong'. Indeed, since they had no temples or priests and made no animal sacrifices, they were accused of being godless.

Choosing to go against the flow of the world by following the way of Jesus can be uncomfortable, and in many places it is an extremely dangerous thing to do. Here in Australia we are unlikely to face serious persecution, but we may experience social awkwardness, scathing remarks or even ostracism. However, if we find ourselves counting the cost of going against the flow, today's readings offer tremendous hope. For example, [Psalm 31](#) reminds us that we can "take refuge" in the Lord and that "the Lord preserves the faithful".

We may be going against the flow by following Jesus' way, but our trajectory is towards God and his eternal kingdom.

THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

IN THE WORLD: -

- ⇒ **The Anglican Church of Kenya:** †Jackson Ole Sapit - Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya
- ⇒ **Ministry to the Defence Force:** †Grant Dibden; Chaplains & Members of the Defence Force

IN THE DIOCESE:-

- ⇒ **The Parish of Clayfield St Mark's:** Nicole Colledge, Allan Shephard, Jacqui Lake, Peter Daugaard, Derek Allton, Roslyn Clifton
- ⇒ **St Lawrence's Parish Care Program, Caboolture**
- ⇒ **St Andrew's Anglican College, Peregian Springs:** Principal – Chris Ivey; Chaplain – Gary McClellan; Chair of College Council – Rosalyn Cheales; members of College Council; staff & students

LOCALLY: FOR THOSE LIVING IN DANGER OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Roselee, Steph and Chris, Kerry, Gloria, Joseph, Linda, Elizabeth, Bernie, Don, Andrea.

In Memory, May 11—May 17

ELSIE (ELLIE) HUMPHERY, 2008; BRUCE HYND, 2008; ERNEST JOHNSTON, 2001.