

17 MAY 2020 - TODAY'S SERVICES

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00AM—ZOOM SERVICE ONLINE

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
EST. 1888
ANGELICAN 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.

Coronavirus pandemic – a suggested prayer:

*Ever present God, be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen we may, with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an
emerging world. For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

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

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

‘Those who love me will keep my word,’ Jesus promised, ‘and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.’ *John 14.23*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1ST READING: ACTS 17. 22-31.

DAVID DOWN

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

PSALM: 66. 7-19.

7. who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

8. Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

9. who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

10. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

11. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

12. you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

13. I will come into your house with burnt-offerings; I will pay you my vows,

PSALM *(continued)*

14. *those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.*

15. I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

16. *Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.*

17. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

18. *If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

19. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3. 8-22

KATE DOWN

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For ‘Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 15-21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Reflection:

Written by Dr Barbara Field from St John's Cathedral

I wonder how many reading this have, as I have of late, been suddenly convicted of the need to contact someone – to phone, email, or write a letter – and have found a real need once contact has been made. I have always thought of this as the Holy Spirit, abiding in us, speaking to us. It is the indwelling of the Spirit, in action! In times such as this when we especially need to connect with and care for each other, as we navigate our way through the challenges presented by COVID-19, the indwelling of our God strengthens us.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus promises that he will remain present in the believing community after he has been taken from them. And, we are given a glimpse into how this will happen. Jesus promises to give “another Advocate”, saying, “You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” The Christian life is life in the Spirit.

We see in this passage the remarkable language of indwelling. We are assured that the Holy Spirit is gifted to those who show their love for Jesus by the obedience he asks for – the keeping of his Word. The love and obedience of the faith community lead to the gift of indwelling! God lives in us and we live in God. In John 5 we have this indwelling put Eucharistically, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, abide in me and I in them.”

THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

IN THE WORLD: -

- ⇒ **The Dioceses of Nakuru (Kenya):** †Joseph Muchai; Abakaliki (Nigeria): †Monday Nkwoagu; Ilaje (Nigeria): †Fredrick Olugbemi
- ⇒ **The Diocese of North Queensland:** †Keith Joseph; Clergy and People

IN THE DIOCESE:-

- ⇒ **The Parish of Bribie Island:** Steven Schwarzrock, Bp Bruce Clark, Marilyn Cullen, Carolyn Payne, Jim Tait, Barry Shield
- ⇒ **Chermside Anglican Welfare Ministries**
- ⇒ **The Springfield Anglican College, Springfield:** Principal Steven Morris; Chaplain – Erika Williams; Chair of College Council – Tim Reid; members of College Council; staff & students

LOCALLY: FOR THOSE RETURNING TO WORK AND TO SCHOOL WHO MAY BE FEELING UNSAFE.

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

In Memory, May 17—May 21

Ernest Johnston, 2001; Vida Mann, 2005.