



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859



# The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020

# Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.

This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859, a faithful Christian presence for over 160 years. We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Normally, our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying; however, in order to continue to keep everyone as safe as possible, pastoral care will be mainly via phone for the remainder of this year. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry.

Now that restrictions have eased, weddings and baptisms have recommenced; please check the website for details regarding permitted numbers at these services. If we can be of service to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you would like to give of your time and talents in the service of others, please also contact the church.

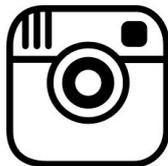
If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy.

## Services of Worship

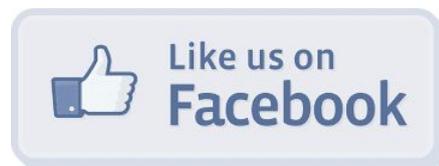
Sundays at 8am and 10am (also via Zoom at 10am)

Wednesdays at 12 noon, via Zoom

*Links for these services are in the notices below*



@stjohnstoorak



## Cover Image

Fra Angelico, *St Matthew* 1423-24, Tempera on wood,  
Musée Condé, Chantilly.

*The 8am service begins with the Introductory Rite, below.  
The 10am service begins with the processional hymn 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.'*

## INTRODUCTORY RITE

### *The Invocation*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### *The Greeting*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'** *At 8am only verses 1 & 4 are sung*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your  
health and salvation.

Come all who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord who in all things  
is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle,  
uplifting, sustaining:  
have you not seen  
all that is needed has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will  
prosper our work and defend us;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall  
daily attend us:

ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do  
as with his love he befriends us.

4 Praise to the Lord, who when  
darkness of sin is abounding,  
who, when the godless do triumph,  
our best hopes confounding,  
sheds forth his light,  
scatters the horrors of night,  
saints with his mercy surrounding.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is  
in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come  
now with praises before him.  
Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for ever adore him.

Joachim Neander 1650-80 tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 and others

### *Sentence for The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

'God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.' (1 Thessalonians 5.9, 11)

*The Collect for Purity*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Confession*

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Absolution Here absolution is pronounced by the celebrant*

*Gloria in Excelsis said at 8am and sung at 10am*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Collect for Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

**Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void: give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, knowing that your kingdom shall come and your will be done, to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Children's Address*

*At the 10am service, all children are invited to join together at the chancel step*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Old Testament Reading Judges 4.1-7 Read at 8am by Diana Dunlop, and at 10am by Andrew Ankers*

<sup>1</sup>The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup>So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. <sup>3</sup>Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years. <sup>4</sup>At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. <sup>5</sup>She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. <sup>6</sup>She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup>I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." ' <sup>8</sup>Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' <sup>9</sup>And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup>Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalter Psalm 123 said together at 8am, and sung by the choir at 10am*

<sup>1</sup> To you I lift up my eyes:

you who are enthroned in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master:

or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,

<sup>3</sup> So our eyes look to the Lord our God:

until he show us his mercy.

<sup>4</sup> Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:

for we have had our fill of derision.

<sup>5</sup> Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease:

and with the contempt of the proud.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*New Testament Reading* 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

*Read at 8am by the clergy and at 10am read by James Griffith*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 25, commencing at verse fourteen. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have

been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”<sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.”<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”<sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.”<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon* The Assistant Curate, The Revd. Keiron Jones

*Anthem 'In praise of God' sung at the 10am service by members of the choir*

François Couperin, (1668-1733), arranged Hector Berlioz

*The Nicene Creed said together, standing*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is**

seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The Prayers of the People kneeling*

*At 8am led by the clergy and at 10am led by John Horan*

*The Prayers end with the following*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Greeting of Peace standing*

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*All share with each other a 'socially distanced' sign of peace, saying, 'Peace be with you.'*

*Please DO NOT shake hands or have any physical contact with those around you.*

*Parish Notices given by The Vicar*

*Offertory Music*

*Prayer for Receiving the Offertory*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*All remain standing*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues until the following*  
Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues until the following*  
...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*The Great Thanksgiving Prayer ends with the following*  
... songs of never ending praise. or ... now and for ever.  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer of your custom, in your own language, or using the following translation*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### *The Breaking of Bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

*Agnus Dei at 8am said together, at 10am sung together, kneeling or standing*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*Invitation to Communion kneeling or standing*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Administration of Holy Communion*

*All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion and would like a blessing, please come forward and indicate your desire to do so by keeping your arms behind your back.*

*Please maintain social distancing during Holy Communion.*

**Communion Anthem** *At the 10am service members of the choir sing  
'Agnus Dei', from Messe Basse*

'O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us/grant us your peace.'

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

*Post Communion Prayer which ends with*

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Final Hymn** Our God, our help in ages past *at 8am only verses 1 & 3 are sung*

1 Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

2 under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure:  
sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone:  
short as the watch that ends the  
night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all of us away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
remain our guard while troubles  
last, and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt.

*Blessing, to which the response is 'Amen.'*

*Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Postlude*

Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia 1995*. Broughton Books by E.J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A. Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

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## **PARISH NOTICES**

**We are, thanks be to God, now open for Services!**

As you will no doubt be aware, Premier Daniel Andrews has announced significant easing of restrictions. Churches may now reopen for services with a maximum of 20 people indoors. After 22 November, the number may increase in line with what is called a 'density quotient', a measurement of how many people can be seated based on 4sqm per person. If further easing of restrictions eventuates on 22 November, the maximum number permitted inside the church is 70.

With all this in mind, the following has been put in place at St. John's as a *first step* to reopening:

**Sunday 22 November:** 8am and 10am services inside the church, with a maximum of 20 people at each service.

**Sunday 29 November:** 8am and 10am services inside the church, with a maximum of 20 people at each service. On this morning, the **Annual Meeting** will be held via Zoom for the parish at 11am, to ensure as many people as possible can attend.

If you would like to attend ONE of these services, please ring the Office on 0477 091 492 (9am - 4pm, Monday - Thursday) to confirm a place. The intention is to ensure that as many as possible can attend a service in the remainder of November. Please note here will not be a 'waiting list.'

A number of procedures will be in place for a safe reopening:

- Please do not come to church if you are unwell.
- When you arrive at the church, you will need to provide your first name and phone number.
- Hand sanitiser must be used.

- Masks must be worn.
- Social distancing is essential. Every second pew is roped off, and each person will be distanced by 2m.
- Please do not shake hands or hug other people.
- Holy Communion will be available in one kind (bread only).
- Attendants must leave the church immediately after the service and not congregate outside.
- The church will be cleaned after the 8am and 10am services.

### **Holy Communion**

Until government restrictions ease, Communion will be celebrated as usual but only administered in 'one kind,' that is, by people receiving the consecrated bread only. This is, and always has been, considered as communion in full and in no way diminished. Please note the clergy use hand sanitiser immediately before the Great Thanksgiving prayer and before administering Communion and giving blessings.

### **Today's Service**

Today's service is also streamed live at 10am via Zoom. All are welcome to attend by clicking the Zoom link [here](#) (Meeting ID: 968 6970 4876, Passcode: 079462). A video recording of this service can be found on the St. John's [YouTube channel](#) on Sunday afternoon. An audio-only recording of the service can be found on the St. John's [website](#).

### **Breakfast & Morning Tea**

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions around public gatherings, especially regarding the sharing of food, Breakfast and Morning Tea is unfortunately unable to be served just now until these restrictions are lifted. We look forward to socialising after the 8am and 10am services as soon as is feasible.

### **New Donation Point**

As part of our intention to keep people as safe as possible, we now have a cashless donation point, where you are encouraged to give by tapping your credit or debit card. The amount set is \$20 each time you touch. If you would like to give more than \$20, please wait a few seconds and touch the donation point again. All offertories are recorded and received securely. If you would prefer to give in cash, a retiring collection will be taken. A collection plate can no longer be passed from person to person. Regardless of how you give, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

### **It's Time to Pledge your Support to St. John's**

As we set our budget for 2020/21, it is time for you to play your part in supporting our church, its life, mission and ministry. Our Vicar Peter wrote via email to every member of the parish this past week. Please consider your giving for the coming year, respond by the forms provided. Do contact the Office if you need help or further information.

## **Prayer Service, Wednesdays at Midday**

Our Wednesday midday prayer service continues each Wednesday via Zoom. The service is 12.00pm-12.15pm, with time for fellowship following. There are two scripture readings (a psalm and a reading from the New Testament), set prayers, and time for participants to pray for themselves and others.

To Zoom in to the Wednesday prayer service click [here](#).

Meeting ID: 812 0748 1776      Passcode: 136058

If you would like to be a **reader** for one of the services, please email [here](#) with the day you are available. You are also welcome, as always, to email prayer requests to [prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto:prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org)

## **Pew Sheet by Postal Mail**

A limited print run of the pew sheet continues for those who do not have access to email or our website.

## **Staying in Touch with St. John's**

Keep up to date with what is happening via email, our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). If you are unable to access any of these, a printed pew sheet can be mailed to you. If you are aware of someone who is not receiving information from the church and wishes to do so, please advise the Parish Office on 9826 1765 or [enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto:enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org)

## **Music Notes**

As part of our deliberately cautious opening up, I welcome a trio of our singers to assist me in leading the musical side of worship. As you'll note they are spaced well on Decani (the south side of the choir) and are wearing masks. While people are passing through this area they will not sing. We are committed to their good health, and to that of everyone in the community. Two hymns for your enthusiastic participation are included with the words printed in the Pew sheet.

*Mr. Christopher Cook, Director of Music*

## **Ordination Service at St. John's**

Our Assistant Curate, The Revd Keiron Jones will, God willing, be ordained to the Holy Order of Priest on Saturday 28 November at 10.00am at St. John's. The ordaining bishop will be the Most Revd Dr. Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne, and the preacher will be St. John's Vicar, The Revd Dr. Peter French. Due to continued Covid restrictions, the Cathedral cannot hold the usual service of ordination of priests in November. We are currently awaiting an update from the Diocese regarding how many people will be permitted to attend the ordination service. Currently, a maximum of 20 is permitted but this may change in the light of further easing of restrictions on 22 November. Please continue to hold Keiron in your prayers as she prepares for this special ministry.

## **Annual Meeting, 11am, Sunday 29 November, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners will be held on Sunday 29 November, 2020 at 11am.

*Please note that this meeting will be held via Zoom and it is most important that as many on the electoral roll attend this meeting.*

The Zoom link is the same as the 10am Sunday Service link found on page 12. The link will be placed in the pew sheet each week until 29 November. If you are unable to attend the service but would like to attend the Annual Meeting, please use the same link and you will be admitted to the meeting.

### **The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)**

The link to the latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to this week's Newstand is [here](#). The link to the November Prayer Diary and prayer resources is [here](#).

### **Message from our Op Shop**

Our Toorak Churches Ecumenical Op Shop opened again on 28 October under reduced hours: 12 -4pm daily, Monday to Saturday. Donations of goods suitable for sale are very welcome into the Shop, but the all-hours street bin is closed until further notice due to Covid-19.

### **Clergy Days Off**

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Vicar Peter has Friday and our Assistant Curate Keiron Monday. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

## **THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY READINGS**

*Commentary for Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 2020.*

*These comments present one interpretation of today's readings; other interpretations may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings.*

### **Judges 4:1-7 NRSV**

Joshua is dead; Israel is now under the influence of 12 successive *judges*, charismatic leaders raised up at times of national crisis by the spirit of God, to deliver God's people from pagan oppressors. Judges honestly admits that Israel does not control all of the Canaan; because they "did what was evil in the sight of the LORD" (v. 1, 3:12 and elsewhere), they were subjugated by other peoples from time to time. Conquest was a gradual process, with many reverses.

The preceding passage, 3:12-30, tells the story of "Ehud" (4:1), a *judge*, a national hero who put an end to domination by the Moabites, the people who lived to the southeast of the Dead Sea. He carried the tribute to Eglon, King of Moab. He tricked Eglon into seeing him in private to hear a secret message from God. Ehud took his concealed sword and assassinated Eglon. Without a leader, the Moabites were in confusion; Ehud was then able to lead the Israelites to victory over the Moabites. God sometimes works in strange ways!

Once again the Israelites disobey God, and so are subjugated: this time by "Jabin" (v. 2), a king who rules at "Hazor" (north of the Sea of Galilee); "Sisera" is his chariot commander. The forces of Jabin are awesome, especially because the Israelites, lacking chariots, are no match for his army on level ground. "Deborah" (v. 4), the fourth of the *judges*, is different from others: she acts as God's spokeswoman in matters of national importance and societal disputes ("judgement", v. 5) but leaves military leadership to "Barak" (v. 6). She orders him, in God's name, to assemble troops drawn from northern tribes ("Naphtali" and "Zebulun") on Mount Tabor. There, God will "draw out" (v. 7) the enemy, and will give Israel victory. The following verses describe the battle. Due to a heavy rainstorm or to the "Kishon" river overflowing its banks (or to both), Sisera's chariots become mired in the mud, and his troops panic. Sisera and all his troops are killed. Israel is once again free.

### **Psalms 123 NRSV**

This is a prayer for deliverance from enemies. Vv. 1-3 speak of humble submission to God's will (note "servants"-"masters" and "maid"-"mistress", v. 2). We look with our "eyes" to God, seeking his "mercy" (v. 3). The speakers (Israel or an oppressed group within Israel) seek God's help, his mercy, having had their fill of "contempt" (v. 4), "scorn" of the powerful, and derision.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NRSV**

Paul has just told the Thessalonian Christians that, at the end of the age, both the faithful who have already died and those still alive will ascend to heaven to be with God for ever. Now, he says, concerning when Christ will come again, you are well

aware that he will come suddenly and unexpectedly (“like a thief in the night”, v. 2). Others who are lulled by the “peace and security” (v. 3) will be separated from God for ever (“sudden destruction”), as suddenly as a “woman” comes into labour; God’s condemnation of them will be inescapable.

Then, in vv. 4-8a, he exhorts his readers to moral vigilance. Being “children of light”, (i.e. united with Christ, the *light* of the world), they will not be surprised by Christ’s second coming. So let us not become careless and sinful (“fall asleep”, v. 6) as others do, but let us be prepared. Let us have the sobriety of people who have peace of mind through trust in God. Sleep and drunkenness are attributes of *children of darkness*, those who ignore or oppose God’s ways.

We are, (here he uses a military image) to possess the Christian virtues of “faith” (v. 8), “love” and “hope” – the certain hope of “salvation”; these virtues protect us from evil. For God has pre-ordained (“destined us”, v. 9) that we are saved through Christ rather than being damned eternally (“wrath”). Jesus rescues us from sin, so that, whether we are alive (“awake”, v. 10) or physically dead (“asleep”) when he comes again, we will live with him in heaven. Finally, he advises his readers to “build up” (v. 11) each other, to support each other spiritually: here he sees the church as the temple of God under construction; the builder is God, and Christians can participate in the work.

### **Matthew 25:14-30 NRSV**

Jesus continues to tell parables about the kingdom of heaven. In the previous parables, he has told us that we need to be prepared for the Second Coming at all times. Today’s parable is set in the realm of finance. A master, before leaving on a journey, entrusts his slaves with his money, “each according to his ability” (v. 15). (A *talent* was about 15 years’ wages for a labourer, a large sum of money.) Two servants invest the money and earn more (vv. 16, 17); the third simply buries it (v. 18). When the master returns (v. 19), he praises the investors; they, he says, will be made responsible for “many things” (vv. 21, 23), and will “enter into the joy of your master”. But the third slave, admitting that he was afraid of his master’s wrath (v. 24), simply returns the original sum (v. 25). The master chastises him for his wickedness and laziness. This slave loses what he has been given (v. 28) and is condemned to “outer darkness” (v. 30). This would have caused a stir in Jesus’ day, for a rabbinic maxim commends burial of money as a way of protecting it.

But this parable is about the kingdom of heaven, so what is the lesson it teaches? “Weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v. 30) is a *stock phrase* for condemnation of the wicked at the Last Day. The master stands for God and the servants for various kinds of people. Yes, God both rewards generously and is a stern judge. He expects us to be good stewards of his gifts. We will be commended and rewarded for faithfully carrying out his mission. Failure to use what he gives us will result in punishment – by separation from him, the essence of goodness. We are expected to make his gifts grow. He is free to distribute them as he sees fit (vv. 28-29).

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Church of Ceylon (Bp Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey, Bp Keerthisiri Fernando); Anglicare Australia (Bp Chris Jones, Chair; Kasy Chambers, Exec Director); Archdeaconry of Williamstown (Glenn Buijs); St Andrew's Somerville (Phil Hurwood).

**For all those who lead us in the Anglican Church, especially:** Our Primate The Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Our Archbishop The Most Revd Philip Freier, and our Bishop, The Right Revd Genieve Blackwell.

**For those who lead us in Government:** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Katie Allen; Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews; Member for Malvern and Leader of the Opposition, Michael O'Brien.

**For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians:** For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

**For The Toorak Ecumenical Movement:** Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

**For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare**

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Christopher Bagot on Tuesday.

**For schools in our parish:** Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Rachel George; St Catherine's School, Principal Michelle Carroll; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

**For the sick and all in need:** Rosemary Griffith; Maggie Perkins; Rosie Creswell; Gwen; Sohaib; Audrey Leeton; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; James Griffith; Mary; Rainer Schnelle; Coszette Probert, and Jean Allison.

**For those in aged care and those who are housebound:** Teri Lawrence; Janet Field; Beverley Joyce; Val Hurst; Marcia Larsson; Gordon Kennett; Anne Myers; Billee Edwards; Elizabeth Johnson.

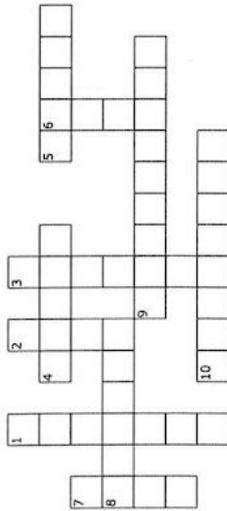
**Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week:** Colin Bannister; David Linley; John Suttie; Nicholas Kodell.

*The prayer petitions above closely follow the daily prayer regimen of the Anglican Church of Australia, which you can follow everyday [here](#).*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayer requests can be sent to [prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto:prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org). The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- The coins and bills that are used to buy things
- To divide or use something with others
- To be filled with fear
- A feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, or joy
- To be trusted or loyal

## DOWN

- A trip, especially one over a great distance
- The opposite of bad
- A person who is employed to do work for another person
- Put something in a place where it cannot be found
- Not willing to work

AFRAID	HAPPINESS	LAZY	JOURNEY	FAITHFUL
GOOD	HIDE	SHARE	MONEY	SERVANT



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# Children's Worship Bulletin

## Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

# Word Search Puzzle

W O R T H L E S S T R E S N R  
 W I C K E D U J R E M N X N U  
 K G O S C E M J T S H T Q F A  
 T A Z I L H Z S P H A R E Q X  
 F I Q S W K A F P I P U F I L  
 A N M B E M A H E P P S Q F A  
 I E O J E R A B I L I T Y J Z  
 T D N I P C V U Y K N E S Q Y  
 H R E P I L S A Y P E D N E T  
 F X Y D N N H N N R S W N N L  
 U Q C J G W A Y Q T S R E O X  
 L Z G Z G N R C J N U L Q M D  
 R Z D M E F E N E O A T W S K  
 P R O P E R T Y J T W G F X K  
 W G L E U E H I K B G N R Y U

JOURNEY	WORTHLESS	TALENT	MASTER
SERVANT	PROPERTY	SHARE	MONEY
ABILITY	WICKED	FAITHFUL	WEEPING
GAINED	HAPPINESS	LAZY	ENTRUSTED

Your Church Name Here  
Anytown, USA



**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday 15th November - 24th Sunday after Pentecost.**

**8am Service of Holy Communion**

First Reading: Judges 4.1-7, read by Diana Dunlop

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11, volunteer reader required

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25.14-30

Intercessor: Clergy

Celebrant: The Revd Dr. Peter French

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

**10am Service of Holy Communion**

First Reading: Judges 4.1-7, read by Andrew Ankers

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11, read by James Griffith

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25.14-30

Intercessor: John Horan

Celebrant: The Revd Dr. Peter French

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

**NEXT WEEK**

**Sunday 22nd November, Christ the King**

**8am Service of Holy Communion**

First Reading: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24, volunteer reader required

Second reading: Ephesians 1.15-23  
volunteer reader required

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25.31-46

Intercessor: Volunteer required.

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones

**10am Service of Holy Communion**

First Reading: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24, read by Doug Harrah

Second reading: Ephesians 1.15-23, read by Gaynor Gould

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25.31-46

Intercessor: Jenny Smith

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones



**ST. JOHN'S  
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CHURCH**  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859

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