



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



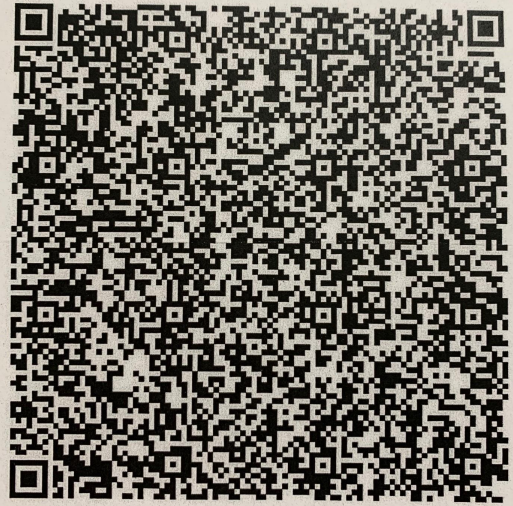
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

17th of October, 2021

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, part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.



Location code NKH H8C

QR code for church

Usually services of worship are held each Sunday at 8am and 10am, and Wednesday at 7pm. All are welcome. Services are followed by times of fellowship over food and drinks to which everyone is also welcome.

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying. 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. 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 and we will gladly welcome your contribution.

If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy, and fill out the blue 'Welcome' card found at the end of every pew so we can stay in touch with you.



@stjohnstoorak



Cover Image

Marco Basaiti, *Call of the Sons of Zebedee* 1510
Panel, 386 x 268 cm,
Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

PRELUDE *played by Director of Music and Organist, Mr. Christopher Cook*

ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

GREETING

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

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 your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

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 *pronounced by the celebrant*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Job 38.1-7 *Read by Gaynor Gould*

¹Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

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

THE PSALM Psalm 104.1-10, 104.26 *said together*

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul:

O Lord my God, how great you are!

² Clothed with majesty and honour:

wrapped in light as in a garment.

³ You have stretched out the heavens like a tent-cloth:

and laid the beams of your dwelling upon their waters;

⁴ You make the clouds your chariot:

and ride upon the wings of the wind;

⁵ You make the winds your messengers:

and flames of fire your ministers;

⁶ You have set the earth on its foundations:

so that it shall never be moved.

⁷ The deep covered it as with a mantle:

the waters stood above the hills.

⁸ At your rebuke they fled:

at the voice of your thunder they hurried away;

⁹ They went up to the mountains,
they went down by the valleys:
to the place which you had appointed for them.

¹⁰ You fixed a limit which they may not pass:
they shall not return again to cover the earth.

²⁶ Lord, how various are your works:
in wisdom you have made them all,
and the earth is full of your creatures.

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.

THE SECOND READING Hebrews 5.1-10 *Read by Rex Williams*

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; ⁶as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

THE GOSPEL Mark 10.35-45

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' ³⁶And

he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' ³⁷And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' ³⁸But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' ³⁹They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' ⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON The Vicar, The Revd Dr. Peter French

THE NICENE CREED

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 *prayers provided 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.**

PARISH NOTICES *given by the Vicar*

OFFERTORY *Please do ensure you maintain your financial support of the church, especially during this period of lockdown. Donations can be made through our website www.saintjohnstoorak.org/support/*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

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.

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *played by Director of Music and Organist, Mr. Christopher Cook*

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,

PARISH NOTICES

Continued Worship via Zoom

Services on Sunday and Wednesday continue to be streamed via Zoom. If you haven't joined one of these services, and you are able to, please do. They are a wonderful opportunity to be together (at least virtually), to pray, hear Scripture and even enjoy morning tea together afterward. Members of the congregation read the lessons and sometimes pray the intercessions. If you would like to help out with these contributions please advise the office via email. Our Director of Music plays a beautiful prelude and postlude and the clergy preach. Join the Zoom Service of Worship here. **Note: This is a new Zoom link for all Sundays in October:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272220202?pwd=cEQ0WVl3RIJxazVXNFhwbFlKNE1rQT09>. Meeting ID: 852 7222 0202 Passcode: 957386

Regarding Vaccinations

Our Vicar Peter and Assistant Curate Keiron are fully vaccinated and encourage everyone who feasibly can to be vaccinated as well. With the Victorian Government Roadmap, far greater numbers of vaccinated people can gather together in all aspects of community life, including the church. Thus if you can get vaccinated, please do so. You'll be helping the community, the church and yourself. Indeed when the church reopens, service attendance in person will only be available to those who are vaccinated, as per government direction. Services will however be livestreamed for those who are unvaccinated or unable or unwilling to gather together. If you have concerns regarding vaccinations or otherwise, please do contact the Vicar or Curate for further assistance.

With regard vaccination our Archbishop, The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier, wrote on the 1st of September, 2021:

"We have no hesitation in urging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The evidence is mounting that vaccination is highly effective. Getting vaccinated is an act of love for your neighbour, and to provide safety in our community, churches and society. There is no credible argument against vaccination, and the risks of serious side effects from any of the vaccines available are extremely low. The Archbishop and bishops have all had a second dose, or have the second dose booked within the next few days." +Philip

We are so looking forward to opening the church and seeing you all again when we can. Our prayers continue for your safety and wellbeing, and if there is anything we can do to support you, please do let us know.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service via Zoom

Until the church can reopen again and we can celebrate eucharist on Wednesday evenings, the clergy will lead a service of prayer (compline) each Wednesday

evening at 7pm via Zoom. Following the service you are welcome to stay around for a time of fellowship. We will be using the Compline Service from the Church of England which can be found here: [Night Prayer](#).

This Zoom link will be used for each Wednesday throughout September & October: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83240468688?pwd=akM0UzllMDRlTGozcDZjUmVEE2Rpdz09> Meeting ID: 832 4046 8688 Passcode: 954020

Prayers for Christian Unity, 28 October, 2021, 10am at St. Peter's

If it is possible for Prayers for Christian Unity to go ahead, it will be held on Thursday 28 October, 10am, at St Peter's. Any restrictions that may be in place will be conveyed in updates in the pew sheet.

All Souls' Day, Thursday 28 October 2021, 7pm (via Zoom)

A special service will be held on Thursday 28 October at 7pm to remember the faithful departed. This will also be a prayerful opportunity to remember those in Australia and around the world who have died from COVID-19 and the families who mourn their passing. If you have loved ones who have passed away and would like them remembered, please email: prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org.

Annual Blessing of the Pets Service, Sunday 31 October, 2021 @ 4pm

As we look forward to reopening the church for services in line with the Victorian Government's roadmap and guidelines from the Diocese of Melbourne, the first service possible will be our annual Blessing of the Pets Service on 31 October at 4pm. This will be held on the south lawn of St. John's. Bring your much-loved animal/s for a service of thanksgiving for all the joy our pets bring us! If you are able to assist in setting up and packing away, that would be greatly appreciated. Please let the parish office know.

As numbers are limited to 50, please book tickets via TryBooking at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BUMSR>

All attendants must be fully vaccinated, otherwise we cannot hold this service. You will be asked to show your vaccination certificate (either paper copy or electronic copy).

If the date of this service needs to change due to restrictions, details will be updated here in the pew sheet.

First Service Back in the Church, Sunday 7 November, All Saints Day and Remembrance Day

At this stage, it is our hope and prayer that the first services back in the church will be on **Sunday 7 November**, at both **8am and 10am**. Based on the Victorian Government's roadmap details, St. John's can have up to 80 people in the church but only if ALL attendants are fully vaccinated. This may pose a dilemma for a very

small number of parishioners who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons; but we continue to be guided by both the Victorian Government and the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. As we move through October, we hope to be able to confirm the commencement of services for early November.

The Church Office Remains Closed

As per the Victorian Government's direction, the church office remains closed, with Sally, Milton and the clergy all working from home. Only Peter is allowed into the office, by virtue of living onsite. However, the office is still contactable via email enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org or by phone 0477 091 492. The office is open Monday to Thursday, as per usual.

Restoration of the War Memorial

The War Memorial which stands proudly near the entrance to the church will be restored in the coming month. Restoration work by Lodge Brothers will start within the next 2-3 weeks and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. As part of the restoration, scaffolding will be erected around the monument, and work will be done to restore the stonework and carvings on the memorial. The War Memorial Restoration at St. John's Church is supported by the Victorian Government. The Commonwealth of Australia represented by The Department of Veterans' Affairs has also provided funding for the restoration project.

The Hon Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Veterans in the Victorian State Government writes: "The veteran community helped make Victoria what it is today. Our commitment is to continue to maintain their stories for future generations." "I am proud to continue the Victorian Government's support for communities honouring and commemorating our proud war heritage." "I applaud ex-service organisations and community groups' commitment to honouring our service people, their families and loved ones." We are also grateful to the Toorak Heroes Club, the sub-branch of the RSL, for their work in obtaining this funding and for the volunteers from St. John's who have facilitated this process. Why not come by and see what's happening over the coming weeks?

Annual Meeting, 11.30am, Sunday 21 November, 2021

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners will be held on Sunday 21 November, 2021 at 11.30am. Further details will be provided over the next couple of weeks. Additionally, an email will be sent regarding being on the Electoral Roll. Please let the Office Assistant know if you are not currently on our email list and would like to ensure you receive material related to the Annual Meeting. The Office Assistant's email address is enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org. Those responsible for producing reports please submit them to the Parish Office by Thursday 28 October.

Dr. Scott Kirkland's recent three-week study

Weeks 2 and 3 of Scott's recent presentations on the Trinity are now available as audio files on our website, under 'Sermons.' Scott's PowerPoint presentations for

each of the three sessions, and a bibliography, are available. Please email curate@saintjohnstoorak.org if you would like these sent to you.

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 September Prayer Diary and prayer resources is [here](#).

Be part of our Sunday Services

All our ministries are supported by volunteers. The Roster availability form for November and December is now available. If you are able to assist with duties please complete the form/contact the parish office on 0477 091 492 or at enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Prayer apps to help us pray

Along with prayer books and the Bible, a number of apps are available, which can help us maintain an active and engaged prayer life. Here are a few for you to consider: [epray](#) [Daily Prayer app and podcast](#) [Pray as you go](#)

Children's Ministry

Your children may enjoy activities offered on-line. 'Sermon4kids' offers weekly activities - [here](#). The Church of England has also produced a number of resources for families and children called 'Cheeky Pandas.' <https://cheekypandas.com/>

Prayer Requests

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

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.

Support St. John's

Your support of St. John's is greatly appreciated. The church often gets requests from members and friends about how best to support the church financially. With this in mind, donations can always be made directly to: St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac, 509 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142, Australia. Account Name is St. John's Anglican Church. BSB is 033 086. Account No. is 871931. For international transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.

What's Happening at St. John's?

For the latest details on what is planned in the parish this year, go to [Community & Events - St. John's Anglican Church, Toorak](#)

28 October, 7pm All Souls' Day Service via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86069291111?pwd=d3JrbnI1ZnRRSWU2MEJCNzd6MFdVUT09> Meeting ID: 860 6929 1111 Passcode: 246882

31 October Dr. Scott Kirkland's Last Sunday at St. John's;
Blessing of the Pets Service at 4pm on the South Lawn

7 November, 10am All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day Service

21 November, 11.30am Annual Meeting

28 November - 5 December 'Food for Friends,' our annual food drive for those in need in our community, alongside our friends of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement.

Saturday, 4 December 10am - 12pm Advent Working Bee

Sunday, 5 December A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, sung by The Choir of Trinity College, the University of Melbourne

Sunday 12 Monday or 13 December, 8pm Hosting The Swedish Church's annual St. Lucia service

Friday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 6pm Children's Pageant

Friday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 11pm Midnight Mass with Melbourne University Choral Society under the direction of Andrew Wailes and with the Majestic Brass Ensemble.

Saturday, 25 December, Christmas Day Services at 8am and 10am

2022

Sundays 26 December, 2021 - 30 January, 2022 Summer Sundays! One Service at 10am.

Sunday 2 January, 2021 The Revd Keiron Jones' Last Sunday at St. John's. Keiron will preach and preside and the 10am service will be followed by a farewell.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Unfortunately, the Anglican Cycle of Prayer is unavailable for this week. Please pray for this year's Synod which will take place 13 - 16 October, online. Synod is the gathering of the clergy and lay representatives of the Diocese with the Archbishop to make decisions about our corporate life in Christ.

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; Leader of the Opposition, Matthew Guy.

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: Keith Beecher on Wednesday; Jo Jo Patterson on Wednesday.

For those who have died recently, and the families who mourn them: Douglas Anderson

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; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; Mary; Delta; Sue; Adrian Hall; Debra Moore; Samantha; Patricia Williams, Anthea, Bp. Andrew St. John.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Teri Lawrence; 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: Andrew Ramsden; Robert Gronow; Elizabeth Bolton; John Hill; James Crow; Prudence Bullivant; Janet Gilfillan.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

This commentary presents one interpretation; others may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings. Text from New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV).

Job 38:1-7,(34-41)

Job has complained of God's indifference and injustice to him; he has asked why his misfortune happened. He has pleaded that God hear him, answer him. Now God, appearing in a "whirlwind" (as he does elsewhere in the Old Testament) answers him by asking him rhetorical questions. First he asks: *who are you to doubt, in your ignorance, the sum total of my plans and works? Stand up like a man; answer the questions I put to you* (vv. 2-3). Our reading is only a small part of God's speech. He asks five main questions: (1) Were you present at creation? (2) Do you know your way around the cosmos? (3) Would you know how to operate it? (4) Would creation and creatures obey your commands? and (5) Are you capable of providing for animals and birds?

Question 1, vv. 4-15, has three parts: earth, sea and light. In vv. 4-7, "earth" is pictured as a building: who were the architect (v. 5a) and the surveyor (v. 5b)? Who laid the foundations ("bases", v. 6a)? "Who laid its cornerstone?" On this festive occasion, the "stars sang" (v. 7) and God's heavenly court rejoiced. Now for Question 4 (vv. 34-38): even if you gave the right orders, would they be carried out? Only God has the "wisdom", the combination of great knowledge and experience, to have the "clouds", etc. obey him. (People believed that a set of pudding bowls covered the earth; here rain is stored in "waterskins", v. 37. V. 38 describes the effects of rain.) Question 5 is in 38:39-39:30. Nine creatures are described. Can Job care for them and nourish them as the creator does? The last, the war horse, is the most amazing of all. After God's speech, Job says: "See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? ... I will not answer" (40:4-5). God's appearance has invalidated the very basis of Job's complaint. He is at last able to articulate what he has been suspecting all along: he and his friends thought they understood the world; now he realizes that they do not. And so his complaint against God evaporates.

Psalms 104:1-9,25,35b

This psalm is a hymn of praise to God, the creator. Vv. 2-4 tell of the creation of the heavens and vv. 5-9 of the earth. To the ancients, "light" (v. 2) was a thing, so likening it to a "garment" made sense. God built his heavenly dwelling on the chaotic (unruly, disordered) "waters" (vv. 2b-3a). The hot wind in v. 4 is the sirocco, a desert wind from the east; the "wind" (v. 3c) brings rain clouds from the sea; both are under God's control. People saw the earth as a disk supported by pillars ("foundations", v. 5). Before God's creative acts, the "waters" (v. 6) covered the earth. God chased away chaos, bringing order; he restricted the waters to the mountain tops (as snow) and the "valleys" (v. 8, as rivers). He will never again permit the waters to cover the earth (v. 9) and all that lives (vv. 10-18): creatures depend on him for their very existence (vv. 27-30). God's "works" (v. 24) are countless. He has made them "in wisdom", with perfection of design and ethic, absolute integrity, truth and beauty. Praise the Lord!

Hebrews 5:1-10

The author has told us that “we have a great high priest” (4:14) who has been raised to heaven, namely “Jesus, the Son of God”. Now he compares the high priests of Judaism with Christ.

People chose a high priest to lead, on their behalf, in matters relating to God, especially the offering of sacrifices for sins. (The author writes as though the Temple sacrificial system still exists.) A high priest was able to “deal gently” (v. 2, to steer a right path between pure emotion and lack of feeling) with those who committed unpremeditated sins because he himself sinned in this way, being “subject to weakness”; he needed to make sacrifice for his own sins too. He did not appoint himself; rather, he was appointed by God, as Aaron was (v. 4).

Christ was also appointed by God – at his baptism, when God said: “You are my Son ...” (v. 5). Christ also fulfills Psalm 110:4 (v. 6): unlike other high priests, he is “priest forever”. He ranks with “Melchizedek”, the Canaanite priest who brought bread and wine to Abram, and blessed him. (In 7:2, Melchizedek is said to resemble the Son of God.) During his earthly life (“the days of his flesh”, v. 7), Jesus prayed to God in anguish (at Gethsemane) to the one who would “save him from death”, i.e. resurrect him (bring him back to life). Because of his proper respect (“reverent submission”), the Father heard him. Although already God’s Son (v. 8), he learned a needed human trait, obedience, through suffering. His work of salvation complete (“made perfect”, v. 9), he, as eternal priest, offers salvation forever to all the obedient, the faithful. He is high priest forever.

Mark 10:35-45

Earlier (in 9:33-34) the disciples have argued about which of them is the greatest. Now two members of the inner circle ask a favour of Jesus: they seek positions of special dignity at the messianic banquet in heaven at the end of time (v. 37). Jesus answers: *you do not know the implications of what you ask*. In the Old Testament, one’s “cup” (v. 38) is one’s lot assigned by God, be it blessing or condemnation. Here, Jesus is speaking of his suffering and death. To be baptised with Jesus’ baptism is to share fully in God’s ways. James and John confidently answer *yes* (v. 39) and accept all the consequences. Only the Father knows whom he has called to special places in the kingdom.

Jesus tells all the disciples: pagan authority depends on power and force (v. 42) but for disciples, it is different (v. 43): to be “great” now and in the kingdom (“become”, v. 43 and “be”, v. 44) one must serve others; to be “first”, one must serve even more humbly, as a “slave”. Jesus, the “Son of Man” (v. 45), in his voluntary abasement, is the example: he gave even his life for the freedom of others, gaining their release from punishment and death for their sins.

THIS SUNDAY

10am Service

First Reading: Job 38.1-7, read by Gaynor Gould

Second reading: Hebrews 5.1-10, read by Rex Williams

Gospel Reading: Mark 10.35-45

Intercessor: John Horan

Preacher: The Revd Dr. Peter French

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

NEXT SUNDAY, 24th October

10am Service

First Reading: Job 42.1-6; 10-17, read by Stella Jongebreur

Second reading: Hebrews 7.21-28, read by Brenda Mouritz/Jenny Smith

Gospel Reading: Mark 10.46-52

Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz/Keith Beecher

Preacher: The Revd Dr. Peter French

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones



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

Vicar The Reverend Dr Peter French
vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

Wardens Mrs Amanda Bagot,
Mrs Stella Jongebreur,
Mr Anthony Mannering

Parish Council

Mr Dougal Colhoun, Mr Craig Cooper,
Mrs Vivienne Brown, Ms Diana Dunlop,
Dr Jessica Hall, Mrs Claire Morgan,
Mr Harrison Young

Assistant Curate The Revd Keiron Jones
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Director of Music/Organist
Mr Christopher Cook
accCook2001@yahoo.com.au

Ordinand
Dr. Scott Kirkland

**Parish Administrator/Child Safe
Compliance** Mrs Sally Robertson
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Child Safe Officer Mrs Vivienne Brown

Family Safety Officer
The Revd Keiron Jones

Sunday School Teachers Mr Clive Wright,
Ms Shierly & Miss Jo-Jo Patterson

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