



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859



# The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

24<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

Duccio di Buoninsegna, *Healing of the Blind Man* (detail) 1308-11,  
Tempera on wood,  
National Gallery, London.

## 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 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Job 42.1-6, 42.10-17 *Read by Stella Jongebreur*

<sup>1</sup>Then Job answered the Lord: <sup>2</sup>I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup>“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. <sup>4</sup>“Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.” <sup>5</sup>I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; <sup>6</sup>therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.’ <sup>10</sup>And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. <sup>11</sup>Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. <sup>12</sup>The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. <sup>13</sup>He also had seven sons and three daughters. <sup>14</sup>He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. <sup>15</sup>In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. <sup>16</sup>After this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. <sup>17</sup>And Job died, old and full of days.

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

THE PSALM Psalm 34.1-8 *said together*

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the Lord continually:

his praise shall be always in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> Let my soul boast of the Lord:

the humble shall hear it and rejoice.

<sup>3</sup> O praise the Lord with me:

let us exalt his name together.

<sup>4</sup> For I sought the Lord's help and he answered:

and he freed me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> Look towards him and be bright with joy:

your faces shall not be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me:

and saved me from all my troubles.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him:

and delivers them in their need.

<sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the Lord is good:

happy are they that hide in him!

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 7.21-28 *Read by Keith Beecher*

<sup>21</sup>but this one became a priest with an oath, because of the one who said to him, 'The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest for ever" ' – <sup>22</sup>accordingly Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant. <sup>23</sup>Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup>but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever.

<sup>25</sup>Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup>For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

<sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

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

THE GOSPEL Mark 10.46-52

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.**

<sup>46</sup>They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

SERMON The Revd Keiron Jones, Assistant Curate

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 by Brenda Mouritz*

*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/](http://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,  
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. CCLI Licence Number: 669476.

## PARISH NOTICES

### **Regarding Reopening**

As we have done so for the duration of this pandemic, we continue to follow the Victorian Government's directions, and, in particular, the recently updated 'Roadmap.' This allows for churches to reopen for services of worship *inside* (with a density quotient of one person per 4 square metres, which means 80 for St. John's), from the indicative date of November 5. This is dependent upon, however, those attending being vaccinated. When you arrive you will need to both check-in *and* give proof of your vaccination status, if you haven't done so already. The same will apply for the pet service on 31 October, which can take place because there is a small window of opportunity for services to take place *outside only* for a small number of people between now and the indicative date of November 5. The same density quotient will apply and will have a maximum number of 50 attendees.

### **Continued Worship via Zoom until November 7, 2021**

Services on Sunday and Wednesday continue to be streamed via Zoom until Sunday 7 November. Our first service back inside the church will be the All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day Service, details of which are below. 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=cEQ0WVl3RlJxazVXNFhwbFlKNE1rQT09>. Meeting ID: 852 7222 0202 Passcode: 957386

### **Wednesday Evening Prayer Service via Zoom**

A service of prayer (Compline) is said each Wednesday evening at 7pm via Zoom until Wednesday 10 November, when the Wednesday eucharist will recommence in the Angel Chapel. Following Compline you are welcome to stay around for a time of fellowship. The Service can be found here: [Night Prayer](#).

This Zoom link will be used for each Wednesday throughout October:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83240468688?pwd=akM0UzllMDRlTGozcDZjUmVEE2Rpdz09> Meeting ID: 832 4046 8688 Passcode: 954020

### **Prayers for Christian Unity, 28 October, 2021 CANCELLED**

Prayers for Christian Unity has been cancelled for October. The next Prayers for Christian Unity service will be advertised when the service is confirmed.

### **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](mailto:prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86069291111?pwd=d3JrbnI1ZnRRSWU2MEJCNzd6MFE2VUT09> Meeting ID: 860 6929 1111 Passcode: 246882





### **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. 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).

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

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

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

Our first services back in the church will hopefully be on **Sunday 7 November**, at both **8am and 10am**. We are permitted up to 80 people in the church and all attendants must be 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. Please book via TryBooking at

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

### **Thank you to our Synod Representatives**

Our thanks to Synod Representatives Jenny Smith, Harrison Young and Dougal Colhoun who attended Synod (online) Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 7-10.15pm and all day Saturday. Joining Keiron and I, Synod is a very important annual meeting of the Diocese of Melbourne at which legislation is passed regarding almost every sector of our church life. I remain grateful to all our Synod Reps for their attendance and their engagement. A full report regarding Synod will be made available to everyone once it is available. Peter.

### **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 mostly from home. However, the office is still contactable via email [enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto:enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org) or by phone 0477 091 492. The office is open Monday to Thursday, as per usual.

## **Restoration of the War Memorial has begun**

The War Memorial which stands proudly near the entrance to the church is in the process of being restored by Lodge Brothers, and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. The War Memorial Restoration 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.

## **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 has been 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](mailto:enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org). Those responsible for producing reports please submit them to the Parish Office by Thursday 28 October.

## **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](mailto: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](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.

## 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 10am** Dr. Scott Kirkland's Last Sunday at St. John's;  
**4pm** Blessing of the Pets Service 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:** The Extra Provincial Churches of the Anglican Communion (Abp Justin Welby, Abp of Canterbury); The Diocese of Perth (Abp Kay Goldsworthy, Asst Bps Jeremy James, Kate Wilmot, Clergy & People); Girls' Friendly Society (Alison Benfield, Chair); Holy Trinity Melbourne East (Grant Edgcumbe); Church of the New Guinea Martyrs, Croydon South - pastoral visit (Abp Philip Freier); St Hilary's Kew - Confirmation Service (Bp Genieve Blackwell).

**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:** Debra Moore on Wednesday; Edward Beecher on Thursday.

**For those who have died recently, and the families who mourn them:** Douglas Anderson; Reginald Church.

**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; Claire Rouse; 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:** Valda Hunting; Roger Henry; John Wall; Leith Richards; Rosemary Rossi; Adrian Sanders; William Rudd; Sally Chancellor.

## **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 42:1-6,10-17**

Early in the book, Job was deprived of all his worldly possessions, his children, and his health – as tests to determine whether he really is a person of great integrity and fidelity to God. He has wondered why misfortune has happened to him: surely punishment is for the ungodly, not for him. Three friends have come to comfort him; they have argued that he must have lived contrary to God's ways to suffer the way he has. God has met him and has asked: who are you to doubt my plans and my works? Job has come to realize that neither he nor his friends understand the world, so he has no grounds for complaint against God. God has even invited Job to replace him as divine king and manager of the world, but it is a safe offer, because Job cannot and will not accept it.

Now Job answers: he acknowledges God's "purpose" (v. 2). God has taught him a lesson. Job acknowledges God's sovereignty. In vv. 3a & 4, he quotes God's words spoken earlier. He admits his ignorance (v. 3b). He has long had faith in God; this has now been replaced by seeing (and experiencing) God. (V. 6 is incomplete in the Hebrew. Because v. 7 implies that Job is godly, "repent" here is not repentance of sins, it may mean approach you in awe.) It is sufficient that God has come to him; he seeks no explanation of his suffering. In a turnabout, God is angry with Eliphaz and the other friends for their ungodliness (v. 7); he orders them to ask Job to intercede on their behalf (v. 8); God accepts Job's prayer for them (v. 9). The ancient story begun in 1:1-2:13 now continues. All Job has lost is restored to him, some in double measure. He is no longer shunned by his relatives (v. 11). Whether his health is restored is not mentioned. To ancient people, possessions and progeny indicated God's favour: God loves him even more dearly. Gifts are God's to give. Their absence or withdrawal is hard for a virtuous person to accept.

### **Psalm 34:1-8,(19-22)**

The psalmist blesses God continually for what he has done for him: God heard him, and restored him to a peaceful life (vv. 4, 6). May he be an example for the "humble" (v. 2, the dedicated, committed believers in God, who hence have a claim on God's help). God protects ("the angel of the LORD ...", v. 7) those who hold him in proper respect ("fear") and saves them. Come to understand ("taste and see", v. 8) that God is ultimate goodness! (v. 8) The godly are his "holy ones" (v. 9), those set apart for him; they lack nothing (v. 10). Doing good, abstaining from evil deeds, seeking and working for peace is God's way (v. 14). It leads to a rich, long life. God always hears the pleas of the godly when they are in need physically and spiritually (vv. 17-18); when they suffer, he "rescues them" (v. 19). Though they will suffer, they will be restored to health (v. 20). But he is "against evildoers" (v. 16), causing them to be forgotten when they die. At the Last Day, the ungodly (who hate the godly) will be damned but God will liberate those who trust in him.

## Hebrews 7:23-28

The author has written: “we have a great high priest” (4:14). He asks: “If perfection [the completion of God’s plan of salvation] had been attainable through the ... [Temple] priesthood” (v. 11) why would there be need to speak of another priest? The levitical priests were under Mosaic law, but “there is ... the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God” (v. 19). Jesus, the high priest, unlike others, “became a priest with an [divine] oath” (v. 21). Psalm 110:4, the author asserts, is about Christ: “The Lord has sworn ... ‘You are a priest for ever’”, so “Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better [new] covenant.” (v. 22).

Platonism distinguished between (1) a single, eternal ideal of earthly things and (2) multiple transitory copies of the ideal on earth. In vv. 23-24, the author sees “former [Temple] priests” as transitory (because individual high priests died) and Jesus as the eternal ideal (“he continues forever”, v. 24). So “for all time” (v. 25) Jesus is the way to God and to salvation for those who are godly because he (as priest) lives to plead with God on their behalf (“intercession”). Under Mosaic law, priests subject to “weakness” (v. 28, sin) were appointed without divine oath, but “a Son” has been appointed, by God’s “oath”, superceding the Law, a “perfect” (ideal) priest forever. Vv. 26-27 list Christ’s qualities. He has no need to sacrifice continually for his own sins and those of others (as, the author asserts, earthly high priests did) for he is “separated from sinners, and exalted” (v. 26), i.e. with the Father; in dying, he offered sacrifice “once for all” (v. 27) for our sins.

## Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples are now nearing the end of their journey from Caesarea Philippi (in the north) to Jerusalem: “Jericho” is some 25 km (15 miles) from Jerusalem. We have seen the disciples’ misunderstanding and blindness to Jesus’ message. Mark has told us of the healing of an unnamed blind man (8:22-26), one who is healed gradually.

Here Mark gives us the name of this “blind beggar”. Bartimaeus makes a politically charged statement: Jesus is “Son of David” (v. 47), King of the Jews, and Messiah. Elsewhere, Jesus orders silence on the matter, but not here: his time is approaching. For the first time, a sane person immediately proclaims Jesus’ true identity. The “cloak” (v. 50, garment) Bartimaeus throws off is probably the cloth he uses to receive handouts; in Mark, garments often indicate the old order, so Bartimaeus has accepted the new. Jesus’ question in v. 51 is the one he asked James and John when they sought status in the kingdom (10:36), but Bartimaeus’ approach is different: he comes in humility (“My teacher”, v. 51). Jesus simply tells him that his “faith”, (v. 52, his receptivity of God’s healing word), “has made you well” (also meaning has saved you from impending destruction). Bartimaeus is cured immediately and becomes a follower of Jesus (“the way”).

**THIS SUNDAY**

**10am Service**

First Reading: Job 42.1-6; 10-17, read by Stella Jongebreur  
Second reading: Hebrews 7.21-28, read by Keith Beecher  
Gospel Reading: Mark 10.46-52  
Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones  
Celebrant: The Revd Dr. Peter French



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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

**NEXT SUNDAY, 31st October**

**10am Service**

First Reading: Ruth 1.1-18, volunteer reader required  
Second reading: Hebrews 9.11-15, read by Sam Shepherd  
Gospel Reading: Mark 12.13-17, 28-34  
Intercessor: Scott Kirkland

Preacher: The Revd Dr. Peter French  
Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

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