



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



Seventh Sunday of Easter

12 May, 2024

8am

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

Worship

Regular 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.

Mission

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.

Visitors

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.

The Church

The church is decorated in white symbolising purity, grace, and, ultimately, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the joyful culmination of the Easter season.

Cover Image

Word of Life, Millard Sheets (1907-1989),
1964, Mural,
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, USA.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge we meet on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



@stjohnstoorak



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INTRODUCTORY RITE

Please stand as the procession enters the church

PRELUDE Pastorale

Charles Wesley (1757-1834)

THE INVOCATION

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.**

HYMN 'Crown him with many crowns'



1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon the throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for me,
and hail him as your chosen king
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
majestic and sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for you have died for me;
your praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges 1800-94 &
Godfrey Thring 1823-1903 *alt.* (TiS 228)

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.

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

CONFESSION

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

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

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 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth until the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Acts 1.15-17, 1.21-26 *read by Ted Mouritz*

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus — for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us — one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

THE PSALM Psalm 1 *said*

Blessed are they
who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:
nor followed the way of sinners,
nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

But their delight is in the law of the Lord:
and on that law will they ponder day and night.

They are like trees planted beside streams of water:
that yield their fruit in due season.

Their leaves also shall not wither:
and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up
at the judgement:
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:

but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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 1 John 5.9-13 *read by Vivienne Randall*

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL John 17.6-19

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

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave

me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'

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

THE SERMON

The Vicar, The Revd Dr Peter French

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 *led 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.

PARISH NOTICES

THE GREETING OF PEACE *standing*

Christ is risen. Alleluia! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

All share with each other a 'COVIDsafe' sign of peace

OFFERTORY

As the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward, a monetary collection for the life of St. John's is taken. Please give by contributing to the collection plate, at the paypoint at the rear of the church or by scanning the QR code.



OFFERTORY HYMN 'Give thanks for God is good'



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Give thanks for God is good,
God's love is steadfast sure,
Let Israel confess 'God's love
For ever will endure'. | 3. Throw wide the righteous gates,
that I may enter them; this is the
gateway of the Lord, the just may
now come in. |
| 2. God is my strength and song,
The saviour have I found;
Now from the tents of all the just
comes the triumphant sound: | 4. You answered me in need, and
are my health alone; the stone the
builders cast aside is now the
cornerstone. |

5. This is the Lord's own work, and
marvellous to see; the Lord has
acted on this day, we praise God's
victory.

John Newton 1725–1807 *alt.*
(SoG 805)

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING THE OFFERTORY

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As
we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection
power; through Christ our risen Lord. **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 to 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 saying:

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.**

BENEDICTUS

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues to 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

... now and for ever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE 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

**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. Communion is available as consecrated bread, which is given to each person, and wine which may be drunk from the chalice. A separate chalice for intinction (dipped) is also provided. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward and indicate this by keeping your arms behind your back. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand.*

The prayer ends with the following

**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 'Rejoice, the Lord is King'



1. Rejoice, the Lord is King;
your Lord and King adore;
let all give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore;

*Lift up your heart, lift up your
voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

2. Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the
archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound,
Rejoice!*

Charles Wesley 1707–88 *alt.*
(TiS 216)

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père*
Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

As the postlude is played please remain seated or leave quietly



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. Used with permission. C.C.L.I Licence number 669476. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

CURRENT NOTICES

Wednesday 15 May 2024 7.30pm, Sixth Sharwood Lecture in Church Law

The sixth Sharwood Lecture in Church Law will be delivered at Trinity College by Ms Mandy Tibbey, barrister. The lecture will canvass where there have been apparent collisions between anti-discrimination law and church law and practice. Craig Auditorium, Gateway Building, Trinity College, 100 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052. RSVP by 5pm, Wednesday 8 May 2024. All enquiries to be sent to Briony O'Halloran, events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au or 03 8341 0216.

Sunday 19 May 2024, Pentecost

We invite you to wear red on the Day of Pentecost as a reminder of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Open House

John Horan will host an open house at home, 17/77 Caroline St., South Yarra, on Saturdays 11, 18 and 25 May between 10am and 2pm, for ladies of the parish to select any item of his late wife Christine's extensive wardrobe of clothing and accessories, including some well-known designer labels. Clothes range from sizes 8-18 and include waistcoats, jumpsuits, jackets, overcoats, shoes and hats, for all occasions. If interested please phone John on 0421 385 894 per visit due to the limited size of the apartment.

Wednesday 22 May 5pm, Celebrating Volunteers

The Toorak Ecumenical Council invites all volunteers who give their time to join us at St Peter's Parish Centre Wednesday 22nd May 5-7pm. RSVP to the Parish Office or Op Shop by Monday 20th May.

Assistant Curate On Leave

The Revd Lydia Thangadurai is on leave until May 17.

Rosters for May & June 2024

Rosters for May & June are now available. Copies available in the Narthex or [here](#). Did you know that we send out our pewsheets and roster weekly? Join the mailing list [here](#) or contact the parish office at enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org.

Support Our Choir and Music Program

In the lead-up to the end of the financial year, please consider making a tax deductible donation in support of our choir and music program. You can do this by visiting www.melbourneanglican.org.au/maf-donation-page/ or scanning the QR code. Under "Pick your preferred program" select *Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation Inc. (MACO)*, and then *St. John's Toorak - Cultural Program*. Do speak with our Director of Music, Zachary Hamilton-Russell, our Vicar, The Revd Dr Peter French or contact the Parish Office if you need further assistance. Thank you. Every gift, large and small, helps us sing!



REGULAR NOTICES

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

St. John's is committed to safeguarding all people and protecting their wellbeing, including young and vulnerable people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children with diverse needs. All relevant staff and volunteers are trained in child safety and have appropriate clearance for service or clearance for ministry. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of children in this parish, contact Kooyoora on 1800 135 246 or www.kooyoora.org.au If you have concerns about your wellbeing or that of another churchgoer please contact the clergy.

Pastoral Care

Clergy and members of the St John's Pastoral Care Team offer pastoral care on a regular basis to parishioners as well as to those who specifically request it. This may include Home Communion. They also visit local hospitals at the request of patients, family, friends or staff with the consent of the recipient. Clergy and Lay Pastoral Carers visit a number of local Aged Care facilities on a regular, usually monthly, basis. Parishioners and others are welcome to phone the church office to arrange a home visit by the clergy or a lay pastoral carer. Those who are no longer able to attend usual services at the church are visited on a regular basis at time intervals that suit them.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA) and Prayer Diary

The latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to the May Prayer Diary is [here](#).

Contribute to Worship Services

All our ministries at St John's are supported by our wonderful volunteers. The rosters for May and June are available [here](#). And you will note that volunteering for morning tea has now been added to the list of duties. If you can help fill any of the gaps please contact the parish office. Thanks in advance.

Communion Instructions

All are welcome at the altar and those baptised are welcome to receive Communion. Holy Communion is distributed via a chalice from which to sip or, a separate chalice into which the bread may be intincted (dipped). If you wish to simply receive the bread only that is perfectly appropriate. Gluten free wafers are available on request. A blessing only is also available.

Zoom Link

Our 10am Sunday service is streamed here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86212089431?pwd=ZEN2M2xWRHRhMVhxTWWhwcmVwTzFEEdz09> Meeting ID: 862 1208 9431 Passcode: 541347

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can 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 Assistant Curate Lydia has Monday and Vicar Peter has Friday. Wendy usually works Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday only. 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Prayers for Victims of War

Give comfort, O Lord, to all who are torn away from their homes and their loved ones, by war, by famine, or by cruelty; give the world your peace and turn the hearts of those who will to war; grant that we who dwell secure in this insecure world may be generous in caring for our displaced brothers and sisters, of all faiths and none. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: St Philip's Mount Waverley (Ruth Newmarch, Breannon Wilkinson); The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Asst Bps Denise Ferguson, Timothy Harris, Christopher McLeod; Clergy & People); Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil (Abp Marinez Rosa Dos Santos Bassotto); St George's Monbulk – pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker); Ormond Anglican – pastoral service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Surfcoast Anglican Parish – pastoral service (Bp Brad Billings); St John's Toorak – pastoral service (Bp Kate Prowd).

For those who lead us in Government: His Majesty King Charles III; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah; and Premier of Victoria, Jacinta Allan.

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 schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Nicole Ginnane; St Catherine's School, Interim Principal Robert Marshall; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Gwen, Rex, Bruce, Sam, Margaret, Nichole, Joanna, Ivan, Anthea, David, John, Tim, Joan, James, Karen, Trisha, Emma & Thomas.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Rosie; Beverley; Val; Rosalind; Elizabeth & Sue.

For those who have died and their families who mourn them: Amanda "Mandy" Vial

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week:

Rodney Moss (2015); Alan Owen (2022); David Strike (2022); Joan Carter (2015); Mary-Rose Croyle (2020); James Hancock OBE (2018); Betty Rose (2017); Ken Holder (2014); Elizabeth Miller (2018); and, Brian Ritter (2016).

Support St John's, Toorak

Your support of St John's is greatly appreciated!

Donations can be made directly to:

St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac

Account Name: St John's Anglican Church | BSB: 033 086 | Account: 871931.

International transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Acts 1:15-17,21-26

Jesus has risen, and has appeared to the apostles (and to others). He has told the disciples that they “will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (v.8). He has returned to the Father. Two of God’s agents (“men in white robes”, v.10) have told them that Jesus will come again. They now return to Jerusalem, to the “room upstairs” (v.13). “Together with certain women” (v.14) and Jesus’ brothers, they are “constantly devoting themselves to prayer”. Our reading is from the first chapters of Acts, the section where the emphasis is on the missionary activity to Jews. “In those days” (v.15, between the Ascension and Pentecost) Peter preaches to the larger community; (“together” has the connotation of unity.) There will be twelve apostles: as in Jewish law, one leader for every ten of the “one hundred and twenty” present. Peter speaks to “friends” (v.16) or brothers. (In Luke 22:32, Jesus tells Peter to “strengthen your brothers”.) Peter says: specific predictions made in the Old Testament “had to be fulfilled” (v.16), i.e. what God had inspired the authors of two psalms to write must happen: this is part of God’s plan. God inspired “David” (then considered the author of Psalms) to foretell Judas’ action and fate. Judas was one of “us” (v.17), the apostles. Vv. 18-19 suggest what happened to Judas’ body after he hanged himself (Matthew 27:5): his decomposing body polluted a field, known thereafter as the “Field of [Judas’] Blood”. Two psalms are quoted in v. 20. The first, Psalm 69:25, states the curse on the enemy of the one who is godly – Judas has been so cursed. The second, Psalm 109:8, with the word “overseer” taken as meaning apostle, says that a new apostle must be chosen.

Vv.21-22 state the qualifications for being an apostle: he must have witnessed the whole earthly life of Jesus, including his resurrection. The apostles meet in prayer, seeking God’s guidance in electing a new member of the twelve. They choose “Matthias” (v.26), one of whom we know only the name. Judas has gone to “his own place” (v.25), to damnation.

Psalm 1

This psalm is an introduction to the book of Psalms; it contrasts the fate of the godly and the ungodly. Vv.1-3 speak of the happiness of the godly. They do not live as the ungodly do; rather they constantly (“day and night”, v.2) and joyfully study and observe Mosaic law; their well-being is like trees which bear fruit. They are prosperous. But, on the other hand, the ungodly are “like chaff” (v.4): in manual threshing, the crushed sheaves were tossed into the air, where the wind blew the chaff away. So, say vv. 5-6, their fate will be disaster: they will be excluded from the fellowship enjoyed by those who follow God’s ways, and will suffer – unlike the godly, over whom God keeps watch.

1 John 5:9-13

In vv. 6-7, the author has stated that the Holy Spirit witnesses, “testifies”, to both Jesus’ baptism (“the water”) and his very human agony on the cross (“the blood”)– so anyone who does not accept both is not a true follower of Christ. Three things demonstrate that Jesus is Son of God: the Spirit, working in the Church; baptism; and the crucifixion or the Eucharist (the way we celebrate Christ’s death).

Now the author says that the testimony of God the Father, which he made to the Son, is much more significant than any “human testimony” (v. 9). (In John 8:14-19, Jesus says that he testifies and “the Father ... testifies on my behalf”.) One receives this witness through believing (v. 10). Those who willfully disbelieve do the equivalent of calling God “a liar” – for they reject God’s witness that Jesus came as saviour. The testimony is more than a formula; it is living in unison with (“in”) “his Son” (v. 11). Living “in his Son” and having eternal life come together. V. 13 is the start of the conclusion of the epistle, and (as is John 20:31), is the reason that 1 John was written: that the faithful may know that they have eternal life.

John 17:6-19

The Last Supper is over; soon Jesus will be arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. In meditation, he looks up to heaven; he prays to the Father “glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you” (v. 1). Jesus waits to be restored to heaven. He has come to earth to provide eternal life to all who believe. Now he prays to the Father for the disciples.

He has made the Father known to those who would believe. (To John, the “world”, v. 6, is notable for its unbelief and hatred.) The disciples have been faithful to “your word”, to truth, to God, to Jesus’ teaching. They have come to realise the relationship of the Son to the Father (v. 7); they know Jesus’ origin and mission (v. 8). This prayer is on behalf of believers (who are God’s), not all people (v. 9). Then v. 10: belonging to God implies belonging to the Son; Jesus’ power and authority have been shown to them. V. 11 is written as though Jesus has already risen.

Jesus asks four things of the Father: (1) that they may be “one”, a unity, as he and the Father are; (2) that they may have “my joy” (v. 13, of eternal life); (3) protection from the influence of evil; and (4) to enable them to fulfill his mission in the world (vv. 16-19). Jesus asks the Father to “protect them in your name” (v. 11), by his authority and as his representatives. The Father has given Jesus this authority. He has protected them, except for one: Judas. In fulfilment of “the scripture” (v.12), per God’s will expressed there, he was “destined to be lost”, damned. The disciples have been “hated” (v. 14), as he was, because they are unlike others, but they (unlike him) continue “in the world” (v. 11). May the Father set them apart for service (“sanctify”, v. 17), make them intermediaries between the world and God, offering sacrifice as Jesus did in his death.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

Prelude: Pastorale *Charles Wesley (1757-1834)*

Charles Wesley was an English clergyman, poet, and hymn writer who, with his elder brother John, started the Methodist movement in the Church of England.

Postlude: Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père
("The Majesty of Christ Demanding His Glory of the Father") from *L'Ascension*
Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

L'Ascension (literally: "The Ascension") is a suite of four symphonic meditations for orchestra which, with the exception of its third movement, were later arranged for pipe organ in 1933-1934. Messiaen wrote this work from 1932 to 1933 in Paris, Neuchâtel, and Monaco. It was premièred under the direction of Robert Siohan at the Salle Rameau in Paris on 9 February 1935. It is one of his first major works (the first such for orchestra); and, in both of its iterations, among his most well-known.

ART COMMENTARY

Word of Life (often called "Touchdown Jesus") is a mural on the side of Hesburgh Library, on the University of Notre Dame campus in Notre Dame, Indiana. The artwork measures 41m high and 21m wide. The idea of a mural on the facade had been conceived early, in part for the need to decorate the large structure which otherwise would have seemed dull and resembled a large grain silo. When the library opened in 1963, the mural had not yet been installed. American artist Millard Sheets was commissioned to create a work large enough to cover the entire side of the library facing Notre Dame's football stadium. Fr. Theodore Hesburgh suggested that the theme should be saints and scholars through the ages.



"What they asked me to do was to suggest in a great processional the idea of a never-ending line of great scholars, thinkers, and teachers - saints that represented the best that man has recorded, and which are found represented in a library. The thought was that the various periods that are suggested in the theme have unfolded in the continuous process of one generation giving to the next. I put Christ at the top with the disciples to suggest that He is the great teacher - that is really the thematic idea." -*Sheets*.

Sheets first made a painting of the design, and the Cold Spring Granite Company translated the design into a pattern of over 6,000 separate pieces of varieties of stone from around the world.

Celebrating Volunteers in Volunteers Week

*The Toorak Ecumenical Council invites all volunteers who give
their time to join us at St Peter's Parish Centre*



Wednesday 22rd May 5-7pm



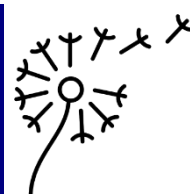
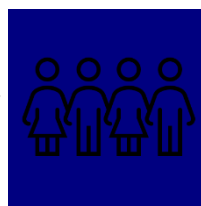
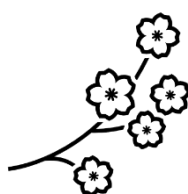
RSVP to your church office or Op Shop

Monday 20th May

Op Shop, pastoral care,

readers, church committees, flowers

Food for Friends, communion assistants, cleaning, stewards



This Week

SUNDAY, 12 May 2024
Seventh Sunday of Easter
8am Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

MONDAY, 13 May 2024
Wendy and Peter at Clergy Retreat and Conference

TUESDAY, 14 May 2024
Wendy and Peter at Clergy Retreat and Conference

WEDNESDAY, 15 May 2024
Wendy and Peter at Clergy Retreat and Conference
7pm Eucharist, Vicar Presiding

THURSDAY, 16 May 2024
2pm Funeral Service of Amanda Jane Vial



Next Sunday, 19 May Day of Pentecost

8am Eucharist

First Reading: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*, Fiona McLeay
Second Reading: *Acts 2:1-21*, Angus McLeay
Gospel Reading: *John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*
Intercessor: Jason Pennell
Preacher:

10am Eucharist

First Reading: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*, Andrew Milne
Second Reading: *Acts 2:1-21*, Lincoln Li
Gospel Reading: *John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*
Intercessor: Keith Beecher
Preacher:

Morning Tea:
Anthony
Mannering & Keith
Beecher



Pentecost



ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

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Mr Adriaan den Dulk,
Ms Vivienne Randall

Parish Council

Mr Andrew Ankers,
Ms Leanne Blanckenberg, Mr Rob Condon,
Mr Craig Cooper, Ms Hsinhui Huang,
Ms Carolyn Mackenzie, Ms Fiona McLeay,
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