



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass
St Philip's Cowes

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

13th September 2020

Choose Hope, Love, Justice

MON 14th

TUES 15th 11.00am Zoom Morning Prayer Worship (link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89840507462?pwd=dzYwdGhEaHlRajZUTFZORnRpSnJWZz09>

WED 16th

THURS 17th 5.00pm Next week's worship material available

FRI 18th

SAT 19th Rev'd Jo's Day Off

SUN 20th Vocation Sunday Feast of St Matthew

Worship at Home - www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE REGIONAL ROADMAP FOR REOPENING

The DHHS advises that all places of worship will continue to be closed for private worship or religious ceremonies until the last of three steps toward COVID normal. Worship resources are available at www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org; from your Care Group Leader or from the small table at St Philip's. This week we are trialling a Zoom style Morning Prayer to which you are invited via our website.



We meet for worship on the lands of the Bunurong people and wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Let's Worship Together This Week

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

Sentence – If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered

Prayer of the Day O God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD (please use your own Bible or www.biblegateway.com)

Reading 1 Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's

horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114

When Israel came out of Egypt:

And the house of Jacob from among a people of an alien tongue,

Judah became his sanctuary:

And Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled:

Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams:

And the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:

O Jordan, that you were driven back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams:

And you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:

At the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the rock into a pool of water:

And the flint-stone into a welling spring.

Reading 2 Romans 14:1-14

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

¹³ Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. ¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 18 beginning at verse 21; **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



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

SERMON (Available at www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org Click Play on the picture to start)

Post-it notes used to be really popular; those little coloured sticky squares just big enough for a reminder about something we needed to do or promise ourselves. I used to write a lot of post-its. They were like a little contract with myself.

These days we have appointment diaries and reminders on our phones so the Post-it has been left in the back of a draw. But I just wondered whether we might write a couple of Post-its to ourselves this week as a promise to keep the message of the Gospel alive and lively in our hearts.

So here are my Post-it suggestions:

Do Not Judge; Practice Tolerance; Forgive From Your Heart



These things are good in themselves. They are signs of a good character and they have value in society. Their role in the life of a Christian is what helps bind us together as people of faith.

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St Paul begins chapter 14 of his letter to the Romans with these words;

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.

It's easy for the strong to judge the weak whether that's about a matter of faith or simply because someone appears to be small or poor or lacking in scholarship. We have all heard judging words from others and maybe we have even used them ourselves. Words like 'Dumb, stupid, puny, useless, bimbo.' And these judging words happen in the church too. We might dress it up differently but it happens with labels like 'Anglo-catholic, happy-clappy, traditional, charismatic.'

It was no different in the early church. There were disputes about eating and fasting; loyalty to Jewish practice and to Christ; adherence to feast days and so on. These are not trivial matters since in the area of religion even the simplest rites and practices enshrine fundamental values and beliefs. To those who were making judgements and singling out certain practices as better and more in keeping with a belief in Christ Paul said – don't argue of these things. What Paul emphasises is the one thing that believers have in common and that is faith in Jesus Christ.

Do Not Judge reminds us that in terms of our Christian life we are not to judge a person. It matters little that someone has weak faith or strong faith as long as they have faith. Doesn't each of us have times when our own faith is weak? If we have a strong faith we are no better than those who are weak. We all have an equal responsibility to serve the Lord our God. St Paul and St Matthew make use of servant imagery to help us understand that as servants of one master (Jesus Christ) we are in no position to pass judgement on a fellow servant. Each of us is accountable to the master and we stand or fall by the verdict of our master and none other.

The parable of the unforgiving servant highlights the primacy of our heavenly Father in matters of judgement. When the unforgiving servant assumes the role of judge over a fellow servant he insists he pays what is owed even though it's just a few denarii.

'Pay what you owe.' He yells and then throws the man into prison.

The lord steps in and passes judgement on that arrogant slave. Not just any judgement but a right judgement. We should read this as the judgement that God would and will render to all his servants including us.

Do Not Judge lest ye be judged and Do Not Judge for we are all servants of our Father in Heaven and of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Tolerance is an interesting word. It could be seen as laissez-faire and rather weak. That is not what St Paul is advocating. The tolerance of a fellow servant is about adopting an attitude of respect and an acceptance that others will have different practices and even differing faith but that in the end the mark of a Christian life is one lived to God. Our tolerance of others in the church is an active thing in which we live not for ourselves and what makes us feel good but we live in Christ and for Christ.

In verses 7-9 of Romans 14 we read a kind of statement of faith.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Practice Tolerance reminds us that in terms of our Christian life we are to actively seek those things that we have in common with our fellow Christians. In practicing tolerance, that is, in putting into practice tolerance we must not put ourselves above another servant nor believe that what we do or what we prefer is somehow better or more faithful or even more Christian than the practices of other faithful people.

In the end what is important is a person's intent; it's what is in their heart; it is who they call Lord. On the day that God sits in judgement what he will be looking at is our intention, our heart and our service to Him. God sees what is in our heart and weighs it in the balance. In verses 13-14 we hear a summary of Paul's call for mutual tolerance: (For the sake of clarity I have used [The Message](#) version of the Bible here.)

Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is. I'm convinced—Jesus convinced me!—that everything as it is in itself is holy. We, of course, by the way we treat it or talk about it, can contaminate it.

Don't contaminate the holy with intolerance but actively practice tolerance.

We don't live for ourselves! (Verse 7) That is quite a shocking thing to say in today's society. Most people do live for themselves and their family but it's not as simple as that for a Christian. We live to the Lord. We might like to think that we are our own master and that we are the ones who can choose to forgive or to punish. That we can give love or withhold it. But we must live to the Lord. If we take that seriously all our other relationships take as their reference the first and most important relationship that is, our love for and service to the Lord Jesus.

Forgive from your Heart reminds us that in terms of our Christian life our hearts are turned to Jesus our master and our friend. With our hearts so enlightened by Christ forgiveness is both His and ours. We forgive because we know forgiveness.

In the end; on the final day what will be weighed in the balance is our commitment to The Lord. We will be accountable to God and God alone.

So, if it helps why not make a few Post-Its as a way to commit ourselves again to:

Not Judge;
Practice Tolerance; and
Forgive From our Heart.

A TIME OF PRAYER prepared by Sandy Ridge (sit or kneel) based on Wycliffe's *Scripture-based prayers for COVID-19*

We praise God that nothing can separate us from his love and pray that Christians throughout the world will hold on to this truth and share it joyfully with others. We praise God for the good things he is doing through acts of kindness as communities show love and compassion to one another and pray that churches and individuals will be mobilised to care for the vulnerable people in society and share the love of Jesus with them, albeit with appropriate social distancing. Between the recent bush fires and the ongoing impact of the coronavirus, Australians have had to come to terms with many sudden changes. The world is facing a time of great uncertainty but we praise God that his great love never changes and pray for opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with others this week, that the joy of the Lord would be evident as believers in Christ encourage one another. We share the peace that only comes from God with a world that needs to know Jesus.

Spirit of God **Hear our prayer**

We pray for wisdom and endurance for our Prime Minister and federal parliament, State Premier, MPs and leading officials, as they make decisions that affect the safety and wellbeing of our nation. This is an unprecedented time in history when the world has never been so connected, yet the social distancing imposed by authorities to slow the spread of the coronavirus has caused many people to feel lonely and isolated. We pray that the Holy Spirit will use this opportunity to reawaken hearts to turn back to God and give him glory and that remote indigenous communities will be protected from the virus.

Spirit of God **Hear our prayer**

Amid the fear and chaos of a hurting world, we pray that as the Body of Christ we will be strengthened in our faith and reminded that God is with us to provide peace and comfort. We pray too that we will be emboldened to share the good news of God's love with others who are struggling. We praise God that he has already conquered the powers of darkness in this world and pray against the control of the coronavirus over the world and ask that our great Advocate will intercede to bring healing and restoration to a world that is hurting. We pray that we would use this extra time at home as an opportunity to develop spiritual disciplines that help us to grow in the fruits of the Spirit, spending more time reading and meditating on God's Word, praying and caring for others.

Spirit of God **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those affected by the coronavirus or who are caring for someone currently suffering from it, for anyone grieving for the loss of a loved one who has died from the virus in Australia or overseas. We ask that they will be comforted in their suffering and pray too for the doctors and nurses who have been on the front line in delivering medical care for those affected by the virus. We ask that they will be able to rest and be encouraged in their work. We pray for those who suffer from anxiety and mental health disorders who may be experiencing immense distress during this time and ask that they will receive peace and a word of comfort to know that they are not alone, and that God cares for them in their struggle.

Spirit of God **Hear our prayer**

Many mission workers throughout the world have had to return to their home countries during the current crisis. We pray that God will continue to use the work already established through their ministries to bring the good news of his Word to those who have never heard it before. We pray particularly that Bible translation projects will be sustained and that the local

- Direct transfer via e-banking, to the Parish bank account, which is Anglican Parish Bass/Philip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. But please be aware that your name could appear on the Parish bank statements, hence your contribution is not anonymous.
- Go to any Bendigo Bank branch and make a cash or cheque deposit to Anglican Parish Bass/Phillip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. This is then anonymous. Please put on deposit slip: "Offertory" or "Donation" indicating your usual congregation eg. Offertory St Paul's or Donation St Augustine's.
- Place your donation in an envelope and pass it on to a person who can go to Bendigo Bank and make the deposit.
- Drop your offering in the donation box at St Philip's, Cowes (located outside the front door)

Helpful websites

Sunday by Sunday there is a simple service online for you to follow.

This material will be available via our website www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org.au or Facebook www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes

Or you might like to join the weekly Eucharist from St Paul's Cathedral, Sale available at www.gippsanglican.org.au or St Paul's Warragul Anglican Church www.warragulanglican.org/sunday-service-stream

Please pray for:

Rene Foulkes, Sue Chambers, Mike Heflingers, John Shields,
Rev'd George Sansom, Shirley Broad, Kath Kent, Kate
Durkacz, Len Chatfield, Rev'd Gerald Wall; Sylvia Williams; Les Ridge

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please tell Rev. Jo