



# ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!  
SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2017  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

God has been accused of sleeping on the job many times over. People say, God does not answer prayers right away. God delays. Why does God allow evil things to happen? In the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, the workers who showed up early accuse God of being unfair, because God treats the early birds and the latecomers equally, paying them the same amount of wages. God seems to condone indiscipline and sluggishness, when everyone should be up on their toes.

The evangelist Matthew writes the parable to defend God. God is God and has his way of doing things. God has his own measuring stick and way of reckoning time. God does not follow the human system of weights and measurements. God's reward system depends on the generosity of his heart, not on our efforts or measuring devices. God computes according to the abundance of his heart. God has an infinite supply of love.

The Gospel story reminds us not to impose our terms on God. We should not make God act like a human being, in fairness to God. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Is 55:8). Our total well-being is God's top priority. God encourages those who have strayed to return as soon as possible. God does not care whether we have ignored him for so long. God just wants us back. God does not discriminate against the late penitents, in fairness to them.

**Cont. pg 4**

## THE REV'D TIFFANY SPARKS PRESIDING AND PREACHING

### Next Week's Readings

- Exodus 17.1-7
- Psalm 78.1-4, 11-16
- Philippians 2.1-13
- Matthew 21.23-32

**Sentence:** By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2.8-9

**Collect:** Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

•**Readings:** Exodus 16.2-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

**Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45**

1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name: tell among the peoples what things he has done.

**2 Sing to him, O sing praises: and be telling of all his marvellous works.**

3 Exult in his holy name: and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

**4 Seek the Lord and his strength: O seek his face continually.**

5 Call to mind what wonders he has done: his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

**6 O seed of Abraham his servant: O children of Jacob his chosen one.**

37 He brought Israel out with silver and with gold: and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.

**38 Egypt was glad at their going: for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.**

39 He spread out a cloud for a covering: and fire to lighten the night.

**40 The people asked, and he brought them quails: and satisfied them with the bread from heaven.**

41 He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed: and ran in the parched land like a river.

**42 For he had remembered his holy word: that he gave to Abraham his servant.**

43 So he led out his people with rejoicing: his chosen ones with shouts of joy;

**44 He gave them the land of the nations: and they took possession of the fruit for which other peoples had toiled,**

45 So that they might keep his statutes: and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord.

**Matthew 20.1-16**

Jesus told his disciples this parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

**PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**

**We give thanks for :**

- \* Our Church family and community
- \* All who help in the mission of the Church.

**We pray for :**

- \* The Diocese of Tasmania
- \* The Parishes of Zillmere and Red Hill
- \* Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital Ministry

**For health and healing for :**

Thomas Moore, Beryl and Tom Wakefield, Anthony Bugden, Saloni Paul, Fred Morrison, Theda Lowe, Jan, Romola Squire, Fr Neville and Eileen Jackson, Robert Johnston and Sue McCurdy.

**At home or nursing home :**

Jean Ward, Noela Burdett and Joyce Shearing.

## WHAT IS GOING ON AT ST. PAUL'S?

### **WOMEN'S BREAKFAST—**

Saturday 30 September.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST—**

Saturday 21 October. For more details please contact Sarah and Mark Combe.

### **BOARD GAME GROUP—**

Run by David Adams. Every second Saturday in the Crypt at 7.30pm. All welcome!

### **MORNING PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY GROUP—**

Wednesday mornings at 9:05am. If you are interested please come along. All Welcome!

### **PRACTICALLY SPIRITUAL—**

This is a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Talk to Rev'd Tiffany or Rev'd Kathy on how to become involved.

### **JUBILEE TERRACE PLAY-GROUP—**

**Fridays 9:30-11:30am.** For more information contact Sarah Combe on ph: 0403 771 442 (leave a message if there is no answer).

### **PET SERVICE??**



### **BOOKFEST:**

Please note the dates: Friday 6 and Saturday, 7 October. How can you help? Advertise us on social media, bake cupcakes or biscuits to sell on the day or ask Ann Caston how you can help.

**BOOK CLUB—**Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm Tuesday 10 October. The book currently for discussion is 'The Art of Hearing Heartbeats' by Jan-Philipp Sendker. When a New York lawyer disappears neither his wife nor daughter has any idea of where he is.... until they find a love letter written to a Burmese woman. If you enjoy reading do come and join us. For details talk to Ann Caston.

### **HISTORIC MEMORABILIA—**

In 2026 our hall will be turning 100 years. We are currently looking to carry out restoration work of the floor.

If anyone has historical photos/memorabilia of the church and hall could you please talk to Rev'd Tiffany.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY**

#### *How Funds are Used?*

*Your giving to our parish community helps our community grow! Your donations go towards having a full time minister, electricity, insurance, rates, copyright, cleaning, music ministry, supporting Children's Church, grounds maintenance, Mission giving to Anglican Board of Mission, Bush Ministry Fund and the Anglicare women's' shelter. These are agencies that provide clean water to 3rd world communities, educational opportunities and safe shelters to the vulnerable. Without your contributions our parish would not be able to support a full time minister, pay the costs of running the parish and to support these wonderful missions. Every dollar goes towards making a difference to Ashgrove and to the world.*

### **HEARING IMPAIRED?**

St Paul's has provision for people with hearing impairment. A headset is available from the back of church, or a receiver for those with a hearing aid (turn on and switch ear piece to the T switch).

**We are on the web!**

**stpaulsashgrove.org.au**

**ANGLICAN CHURCH  
OF AUSTRALIA**

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10 Jubilee Tce  
Ashgrove  
Queensland 4060  
Phone: 3366 2320

**OUR MISSION**

**WE PARTICIPATE IN  
GOD'S MISSION OF  
TRANSFORMING  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
COMMUNITIES,  
OFFERING MEANING  
FOR TODAY AND HOPE  
FOR TOMORROW  
THROUGH JESUS  
CHRIST.**

**HELP US GROW!!!**

Bank online!!

For easier ways to give and build up St. Paul's and our mission. Give online.

Account Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish.  
BSB 704901      Acc No 00004420



**BITCOINS ACCEPTED HERE!!!**

St. Paul's is the first Church in Australia to accept virtual currency! Scan code for our wallet details!



**WHO ARE WE? MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL'S**

**Rector:**

The Reverend Tiffany Sparks  
0405224616

tiffany.sparks@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

**Hon Associate Priest:** The Reverend Pam Hynd: pam.hynd@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

**Honorary Priests:** The Reverend Kathy Hammer and the Reverend Jack Hammer: jkhammer@bigpond.net.au

**Wardens: Peoples Wardens:** Sarah Combe and Rae Haggarty; **Priest's Warden:** George McCallan

**Welcoming-Care Group:** Elizabeth Sillano and Gill Outen

**Choir:** Robyn Carl

**Rosters:** Tiffany Sparks

**Thrift Shop:** Margaret Marshall & Deborah Walker

**Mother's Union:** Joy Lloyd

**Playgroup:** Sarah Combe

**Book Club:** Ann Caston

**For all inquiries please email the office:** info@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

**From pg 1:**

As Christians, we experience God's forgiveness. When we make a good confession, we are liberated from a lot of heavy burdens, from sin and guilt.

In the Second Reading, Paul in prison sees his end is near. The former persecutor of Christians says that he does not mind whether he dies or continues to live. Either is to his advantage. If he dies, he will be with Christ and receive his great reward. If he is allowed to go on living, he can continue his mission. Paul believes that he will go to heaven, not because of his accomplishments, like bringing people to Christ and building Christian communities, but because of the merits of the risen Lord. God has been fair to him.

God is fair to us. God does not sleep but is always on the lookout to welcome us who repent even at the last minute.

*365 Days with the Lord 2017*

