

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

Season of Creation 2, 2023



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**

Season of Creation 2023

Song: Inspired by Love and Anger (TiS 674)

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures!
Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

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

**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.**

**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.**

God of evolving diversity,
made known in seed and soil,
and the wonder of animal worlds:
free our hearts
from the anxiety
which knows only domination;
open our being
to learn from the life
with which we share this earth;
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest. **Amen.**

(Prayers for an Inclusive Church)

Ezekiel 33.7–11

(This first reading reflects on the heavy responsibility placed on spiritual leaders to call back those who have lost their way and needs to be understood in light of God in Jesus becoming the great shepherd who seeks all lost sheep and brings them back to safety – even at the cost of his own life.)

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked ones, you shall surely die’, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: ‘Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?’ ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is said responsively. The LA reads the words in the plain text. The congregation responds with the words in bold text.

Psalm 119.33–40

(This is a great prayer for when we are under pressure to follow the crowd rather than walking in God’s path of loving kindness.)

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes:

and I will honour it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law:

that I may keep it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Guide me in the path of your commandments:

for therein is my delight.

³⁶ Incline my heart to your commands:

and not to selfish gain.

³⁷ Turn away my eyes from looking on vanities:

as I walk in your way give me life.

³⁸ Make good your promise to your servant:

the promise that endures for all who fear you.

³⁹ Turn aside the taunts that I dread:

for your judgements are very good.

⁴⁰ Lord, I long for your precepts:

in your righteousness give me life.

Romans 13.1-10

(This passage needs to be understood in the light of the fact that Paul, who wrote these words, very often challenged those in authority over him when they sought to stop him from obeying God’s call on his life. We also need to remember that, unlike Paul, we live in a democracy, which means that we have a responsibility to challenge our governments when they do what is wrong. Whatever the system we are living under, Paul’s conclusion stands: Love fulfils the law. That must be the ultimate guide in all our decisions, political or otherwise.)

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴ for it is God’s servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶ For the same reason you also pay taxes, for

the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

Song: Touch the Earth Lightly (TiS 668)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 18 beginning at verse 10.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 18.10–20

¹⁰ 'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. ¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

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

Sermon - www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/

Silence

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**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

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

**God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**God who made our home,
And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection,
A future and a hope,
To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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.**

Lord have Mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

We have received a high calling to be custodians of creation, tending the sacred space that God called into being as the dwelling place of peace, justice and fruitfulness.

Silence

God who created and called us will keep calling us, however much and however often we fail. So, let's be honest with God and with each other as we call on God again to set us back on the right path.

**God of compassion,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us for caring only about our own needs
While neglecting the creatures who share the earth with us
And the people who will be born after we are gone.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent,
Asking you for the will and the wisdom to truly change.
Fill us with your Spirit, that we may love as you love,
Trusting in the One
Who brought Jesus Christ from the dead,
And will bring new life to us and to our world. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who return in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.
We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things. **And also with you.**

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbour and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honouring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

Song: The Gospel Call (by Oswald Allen, 1816-1878, Public Domain)

*Today your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin,
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been;
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
The precious cross can cleanse us
And make us pure today.*

*Today your door is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Mother's welcome,
And pardon for their sin;
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be given,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heaven.*

*Today our Father calls us,
The Holy Spirit waits,
The blessed angels gather
Around the heavenly gates;
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.*

*O all-embracing mercy!
O ever-open door!
What would we do without thee
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one door is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.*

While we are now passing around the collection bowls again you may like to also consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept all we have, all we give, and all we are,
As we dedicate all to your glory
and the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever

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.

...Reflecting your justice, peace and beauty to all creation.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...guided by His compassionate wisdom.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...And from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

...we rejoice and praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

...Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

**Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

...Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.

**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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died
for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask). If you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing (keep your hands behind your back).

You are welcome to kneel at the communion rail. If you prefer to stand, please stand in the middle section.

With the high incidence of Covid and influenza in the community we ask you to:

- *Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m as you move forward*
- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Announcements

Song: God of the Poor (TiS 690)

Please remain standing and turn to the back for the blessing:

Go in peace and justice to love and serve the Creator and creation:
In the name of Christ. Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

Upcoming events

- TODAY Michelle McDonald, (Editor of Anglican Focus) will give a **Presentation on the Voice Referendum** after morning tea. Bring your questions and concerns (and those of your friends).
- Sept 11-29 **Rev Margaret away** (some annual leave followed by a conference)
- Fri 29 – Sat 30 Sept **Bookfest** - with craft and plant stall! This is the one “All hands on deck” event of the St Paul’s year. Please add your name and area of commitment to the whiteboard at the back of the church).
- Sun 1 Oct **St Francis Day with pet blessing** – in our services and outside the church immediately afterwards.
- 24-26 Nov **Northern Region Lay Retreat** (Silent Retreat) – Raymont Residential College, Aucherflower, Facilitator: Dr Patrick Oliver. For further details and booking contact Nerida Murray – neridamurray@me.com

The Text Message Gift Card Scam has started circulating again. Please be vigilant and check the phone number and email address of all correspondence purporting to come from St Paul’s against the contact details listed below.

Jubilee Terrace Playgroup - weekly on a Friday from 9.30-11.30am during school terms. \$4 per week to cover cost. Registered Playgroup with Play Matters.

Bible Study and Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning during school terms. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

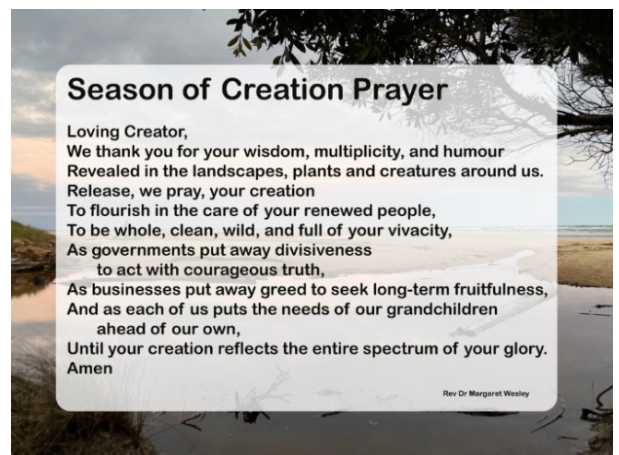
Would you like to get more involved? If you have any ideas for events or activities you would like to organise at St Paul’s, please get in touch with Rev Margaret.

For your prayers

The Archbishop Election Committee as they discern who will be our next Archbishop.

Aston, Anne, Genevieve, Brendon, Angela, Liam, Everton Park Congregation, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish, Elizabeth, Revd Jack and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Avril and Sam. We hold in our prayers Wayne, Noel, Joy and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.

Please let us know at the office if you would like someone added or removed from our prayer list.



It is the responsibility of each adult Australian to decide how they will vote in the upcoming referendum. As an organisation, the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland supports an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian constitution. Find out why here: <https://anglicanfocus.org.au/tag/first-nations-voice>

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