



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19–25)

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Season of Creation 2, September 8, 2024

Song: Come as you are (TiS 693)

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.**

Acknowledgement of Country

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads
their cause Proverbs 22: 22-23a

**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.**

Gracious God,
the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes
silver with creation, and the forests bloom with
leaves for healing nations.
May your light and love fill our hearts and souls
and minds, that we may share your abundant
grace with the world.
Amen

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23

¹ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. ³ The clever see danger and hide; but the simple go on, and suffer for it.

⁷ The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. ⁸ Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. ⁹ Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. ¹⁰ Drive out a scoffer, and strife goes out; quarrelling and abuse will cease.

²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; ²³ for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

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

Psalms 146

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,

for there is no help in them.

⁴ When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

For their hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas,

and all that is in them;

who keeps promises for ever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

food to those who hunger and sets the prisoners free.

⁸ The Lord opens the eyes of the blind!

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down

and loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger

and sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ The Lord shall reign for ever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

James 2: 1-17

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸ You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹ For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement. ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Song: Inspired by Love and Anger (TiS 674)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 7 beginning at verse 24.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 7: 24-37

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸ But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹ Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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



Rev Margaret's sermons are all available on her Substack blog. You are welcome to read them there if ever you can't get to Church, or if you would like to go over what she has said again.

Silence

Nicene Creed

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

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.

(silence)

We therefore confess our sin in penitence and faith.

...according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

And in celebration of the freedom, healing and strength we have in Christ, let's stand!

We are the body of Christ

His Spirit is with us!

His peace be in your speaking and your silence
In your praying and your resting
In this place, in every heart,
In all the world.

And also in you.

Greet each other with words and signs of peace.

Song: Touch the Earth Lightly (TiS 668)

The collection bowl will be passed around to support the ministry of St Paul's. Most members give electronically through their 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 of all of Creation.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

...now and for ever saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

...God of all, in songs of everlasting praise.
**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 the earth for the people of earth.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

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. For the safety of all in the community we ask you to:

- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *do not dip the bread in the wine*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and from anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

God, the source of all that is,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy.

Amen.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Announcements

Song: God of the Poor (TiS 690)

Please stand and turn to face the back for the blessing

Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the 9/8.30am service!

We try to keep the church open when we can, to be a place of peace for our community. If you can find time to sit in church (read, knit, etc), please let Rev Margaret know.

The Queensland Churches Together Season of Creation devotional app is highly recommend to St Paul's members: <https://www.qct.org.au/news-events/news-items/new-season-of-creation-app-available-now>

Upcoming events

Fri 20 Sept **Peace Vigil**, 6pm, followed by a meal. Please RSVP using the whiteboard at the back of the church, to Rev Margaret or the office.

Sat 21 Sept **Westside Orchestra Concert**, 5pm followed by refreshments – more details to come

Fri 27 – Sat 28 Sept **Bookfest** - with craft and plant stall! Please email the office with your availability and the activities you prefer to be involved with (books, cakes, craft, BBQ, plants, sales)

Sun 29 Sept Ice-cream Sunday 9am: Family friendly service, followed by ice-cream. Bring the kids in your life, and anyone who might like a simple introduction to the church.

Fri 29 Nov – Sun 1 Dec **The 5th Annual Silent Northern Lay Retreat**, themed '*Peace That The World Cannot Give*'. Forms are at the back of the church.

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!

For your prayers

Ian and Kirsty, Rev Shane at St Lucia Parish, Baby Sal and his parents Bella and George, Georgia, Sue J and Wayne. We hold in our prayers Noel and Joy who are at home or in a nursing home. Pray for the continuing recovery of Maureen M, Rev Jack, Cherilee and Sam.

We also give thanks for Rev Jack and Rev Kathy in their ministry to several parishes in the Diocese. Please pray for our friends at LAMB and surrounds, and for the country. There have been four homes burnt down near Lamb - one was Christian, animals slaughtered and gunshots. The Lamb Director asked for police protection, but it wasn't forthcoming.

Contact: Rev Dr Margaret Wesley, margaret.wesley@anglicanchurchsq.org.au, 0424 214 924. Rev Margaret's day off is Thursday. Parish Office, parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au, 07 3366 2320 (open Wed and Fri mornings).

