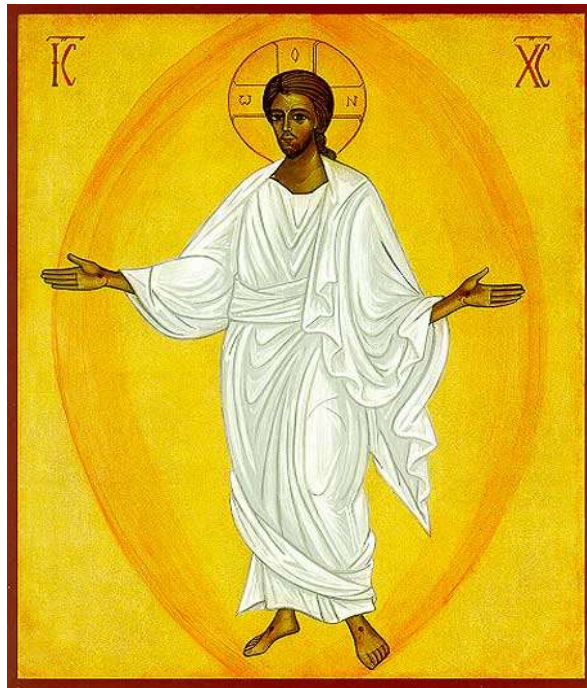


**Welcome to worship at Holy Trinity, Terrigal
Sixth Sunday of Easter
17th May, 2020**



~~**7.30am – Sung Eucharist – Presiding & Preaching – Fr Mark Watson**~~

~~**Organist – Chris Sillince**~~

~~**Hymns: TIS**~~

~~English Organ Postlude:~~

~~**9.30am – Holy Eucharist – Presiding & Preaching – Fr Mark Watson**~~

~~**Trinity Band and Singers**~~

~~**Hymns: TIS**~~

~~[All hymns are from Together in Song unless otherwise specified.]~~

Prayer and anointing for healing are available at each Eucharist. If you would like prayer and anointing, please move in front of the step, at the left side of the altar, after receiving communion and a priest will come and minister to you.

TALKING ABOUT JESUS

The Prayer for the Week in last week's bulletin prays that we may be witnesses to Jesus. It can be frustrating trying to tell others what we believe and why. We can't find the right words; we find it difficult to express verbally our reasons for believing. Part of the problem is the limited frames of reference of modern society. St Paul faced a similar dilemma in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles today. Like our world, the classical culture and learning of Athens in the time of Paul, limited the capacity to hear and understand. For example, atheist writers like Richard Dawkins argue that science is the primary way of knowing. Science has brought enormous benefits, but it is one way of knowing alongside other ways of thinking about the world such as philosophy and theology. When we limit our ways of thinking, we find ourselves inhabiting a world that is flat, predictable, and explainable.

In Athens, at the Areopagus or marketplace, Paul provides us an example of how we can present the case for being Christians. He begins: "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way" (Acts 17:22). Their city is full of altars and idols. They are searching spiritually. They've covered all bases, having an altar to an unknown god in case they missed one. Paul says this is the one he has come to proclaim to them. He doesn't quote the scriptures to them because they're Greeks not Jews. He refers to the order and beauty of the cosmos, the seasons and years, all created by the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" (v. 28), quoting one of their poets, words with which they would have been familiar.

What was the result? It was mixed. Some scoffed at him. Some believed him, including several prominent citizens of Athens. Others said they would like to hear more later. Usually people mock those things they don't understand. The thinking of these Athenians is, like us, based on what they already know. New ideas are judged on the basis of past ideas. We all prefer the familiar

and the comfortable. Christians can be like this too. We can become settled and comfortable in our faith, failing to allow it to change us, convert us, enlarge our world, deepen and broaden our thinking.

Alan Jones (no, not *that* Alan Jones) former Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, has said that there are basically two types of religion. One type seeks to provide answers to all our questions; to deal in certainties, in black-and-white, saying, "We are right; others are wrong." The other type, instead of providing answers to questions, seeks to deepen our questions.

Jesus never said, "I am the answer to all your questions." He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness." Our faith is not a set of rules. It is a relationship with Jesus. In today's Gospel, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth and love. We receive the Holy Spirit in baptism. We then seek to live and walk in the Spirit from day to day. We then begin an adventure with Jesus who takes us places we never would have gone had we not met Jesus. Through him, we enter a larger, more expansive and more interesting and exciting world, the opposite of a flat, limited, predictable world.

Ask yourself this: does my faith help me grow or does it shrink me? Am I flourishing or shrivelling? Is my thinking deeper and broader or is it narrow and more shallow because of my faith? In short, do I believe Jesus has been raised from the dead and that I am a new person because of it?

Fr Mark

Sentence

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

John 14.23

Prayer of the Day

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 17, verses 22 – 31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope

for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 66 verses 7 – 19

O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,

**Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.**

For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.**

You let our enemies ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:

and I will pay you my vows,

The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.

**I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.**

Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.

**I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.

**But God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.**

Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.

**A reading of the first letter of Peter Chapter 3,
verses 8 – 22**

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For
`Those who desire life
and desire to see good days,
let them keep their tongues from evil
and their lips from speaking deceit;
let them turn away from evil and do good;

let them seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.'

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Chapter 14, verses 15 – 21

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer in time of life-threatening illness (*A Prayer Book for Australia*, p. 691)

God our refuge,
when human resources fail,
you alone remain our sure hope and defence.
In the knowledge of your love, grant us courage.
We place ourselves in your hands,
confident that nothing can separate us from your love,
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for those suffering severe illness (adapted from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, p. 692)

Healing Spirit,
we pray for those suffering from serious diseases
and for those who are terminally ill,
and those living with the COVID-19 virus.
We pray for skill and patience for the doctors and nurses who
care for them. We pray that their relatives and friends may be
strengthened and comforted.
May their faith not falter as they support each other through
testing times.
We pray for those engaged in research
that by your inspiration and their skill
the scourges of this generation may be overcome.
Help us to live in your way
and to seek health in body, mind and spirit. **Amen.**

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE

Brothers and sisters in Christ, just a reminder that the current measures during the COVID-19 pandemic for our protection are temporary, not permanent. The world and the church have been through challenging times before and we will survive this too. Things will probably be different after. Many church leaders are asking, "What is God showing us during this time?"

While technology is a wonderful gift and enables us to see and hear our families and loved ones and to share to some degree in the prayer and worship of the church, we remember that the Church, the sacraments and the people of God are tangible, material, physical. This includes our financial stewardship. Jesus spoke about the use of material possessions more than any other subject. During this time, churches are affected by the economic stress felt by the rest of society.

A very small number of people have taken up the invitation to use electronic giving. In March, the income for the Parish was \$8,870.74, expenditure was \$18,272.91 leaving a shortfall of \$9,402.17. in April, the income was \$2,143.32, expenditure was \$13,917.38 leaving a shortfall of \$11,773.86. As I said, expenses have not ceased since social isolation. Op Shop and market days have been suspended. As stated previously, the Bishop said that electronic giving is the key to sustaining financial viability. I encourage you to prayerfully consider giving electronically.

Direct debit details of accounts:

ASDF Account
Parish of Terrigal
BSB:705-077
Account Number: 00040934

Or

Westpac Bank

Account Name: Anglican Church of Australia, Parish of Terrigal

BSB: 032-545

Account Number: 16-9152

If you require help transferring to electronic giving please do not hesitate to contact our treasurer Terry Rowe and/or wardens for assistance. If you have any questions, please ask me or one of the Wardens.

Every blessing

Fr Mark

Please pray for

Barb Matthews, Graeme Patterson, Ken Hope, Norm Williams, Emma Horton, Isobel Hargraves, Daniel Kristensen, Gail Lyndon, Joyce Taylor, Jason Newton, Sue Wilkinson, Jean Jackson, Marian French, Aaron Lane, Pat Lindsay, Toby Lindsay, Gloria Townsend, Kath Connor-Brown, Fred Luxford.

'Whispers of Love' Meditation –

Reflection

St Augustine in his *Confessions* wrote of the marvellous works of God in his life.

Late have I loved you, O Lord!

and behold, You were within and I without and there I sought You.

You were with me when I was not with You.

You called and cried and burst my deafness.

you gleamed and glowed and dispelled my blindness.

You touched me, and I burned for your peace.

You have made me for Yourself and restless are our hearts until they rest in You.

Lord have I loved You,

Oh beauty ever old and ever new.

Prayerfully Reverend Ann

Prayer of the Week

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant that we may walk in his way,
rejoice in his truth,
and share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**