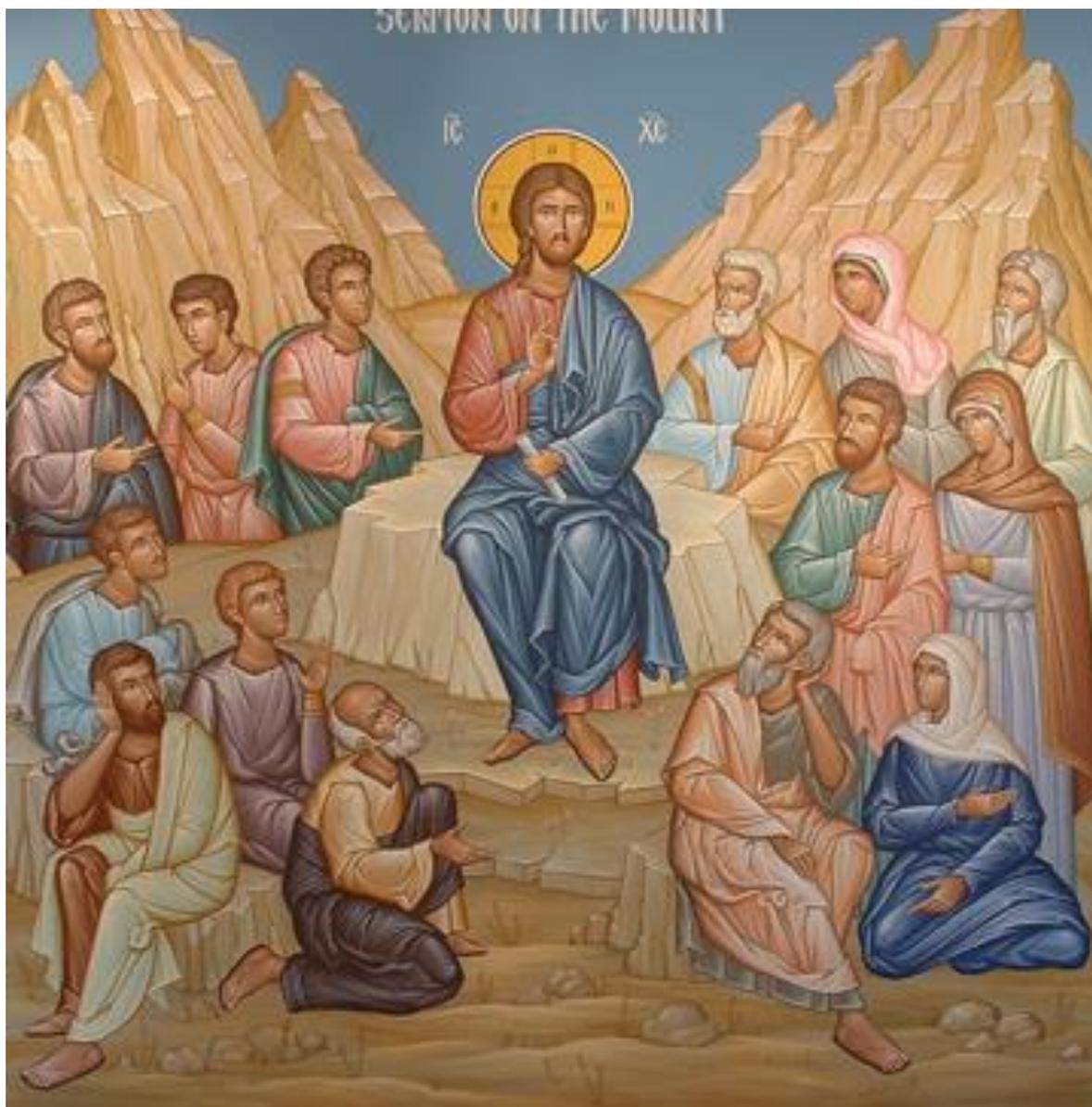




ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MALVERN

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
OR
QUINQUAGESIMA**



5 February, 2023

8:00 a.m.

REFLECTIONS ON TODAY

At first reading, Isaiah and Paul appear to be completely contradictory. “Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!”, God says to Isaiah. *This* is how I want you to speak to my people and call them to repent. Perhaps Paul skipped this lesson at preaching school, because he reminds the Corinthians that when he came among them, he “did not come proclaiming the mystery of God in lofty words or wisdom.” And, he goes on, “my speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom...”.

Of course, deeper and longer reading of the two passages makes clear they really aren't that different after all. Isaiah is called to remind people that what they *think* is the right way of pleasing God – in effect, playing nice religious games – really is about ‘serving their own interests’. It is about making themselves feel good, so they can say with a certain pained self-justification, ‘why don't you see or notice all the things we're doing for you?’ Paul also makes clear that what *humans* consider is wise and religiously plausible is not what impresses God, nor is it God's way of showing wisdom and power. Both make clear, that Christian faith – faith in the God revealed in God's dealings with Israel, and most potently in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus – is not about play-acting at piety; nor attempting to seem wiser than anyone else. It is about learning to be heart-broken with love and care and longing for the world, as God is.

That is, Christian faith is not just, certainly not primarily, about ourselves, but about our participation in God's work in and for the world. Of course, God's work has been done fully and completely in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. But as those who have come to believe in that life as revealing God, we need to shine the same light – the light that is Jesus – in the world.

Perhaps that's why Matthew has Jesus tell his disciples (that's us) that we are (and are to be) the light of the world. And, as Isaiah makes clear, and Paul shows, we are to let that light shine – yes, to see our good works, but not for the sake of glorifying us, making us feel good about ourselves. But to ‘give glory to our Father in heaven’.

As we welcome a newly ordained deacon this morning, we pray that he (together with those ordained with him yesterday) will indeed “Shout out and not hold back!”... in helping us to see the world, and feel for it as God does. And as we also commission a range of people to continue in or begin new ministries in this community, let us be zealous in encouraging them to do ‘good works’ – not just for those who gather here each Sunday, but for this part of God's world. And let us not neglect, ourselves, to do all we can do to build together a community, a people, whose communal life reflect the very nature of God: to be, indeed, the light of the world wherever we are. Then, indeed, the Lord will guide us continually, so that we become ‘like a watered garden, a spring of water’, for those around us.

The service may be followed from p. 119 in A Prayer Book for Australia (APBA – the green book), with seasonal material for Epiphany (p. 150)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING HYMN

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
 To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 Who like me his praise should sing?
 Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favour,
 To our forebears in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
 Slow to chide and swift to bless.
 Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.
3. Father-like, he tends and spares us;
 Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
 Rescues us from all our foes.
 Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.
4. Angels, help us to adore him;
 Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
 Dwellers all in time and space:
 Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: H. F. Lyte (1793–1847)

Music: 'Praise, My Soul', John Goss (1800–80)

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Vicar welcomes the congregation, then this sentence of Scripture is read:

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:16

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans 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.**

We sing together:

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

The ancient hymn Gloria in excelsis, is sung by all:

**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.**

Collect

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

Faithful God,
you have appointed us your witnesses,
to be a light that shines in the world:
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,
but tell everyone your love,
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1–12

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah:

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practised righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger,
the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112

Response: Light arises in darkness for the upright.

1. O praise the Lord. Blessed are they that fear the Lord:
and greatly delight in his commandments
2. Their children shall be mighty in the land:
an upright race who will be blessed.
3. Riches and plenty shall be in their house:
and their righteousness shall stand for ever. **R.**
4. Light arises in darkness for the upright;
gracious and merciful are the righteous.
5. It goes well with those who act generously and lend:
who guide their affairs with justice.
6. Surely they shall never be moved:
the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance. **R.**
7. They will not fear bad tidings:
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
8. Their hearts are confident and will not fear:
they will see the downfall of their enemies.

9. They give freely to the poor:
their righteousness stands for ever, their head is uplifted in glory.
10. The wicked shall see it and be angry:
they shall gnash their teeth and consume away;
and the hope of the wicked shall fail.

R.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1–13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him'—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
For what human being knows what is truly human
except the human spirit that is within?

So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.
Now we have received not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom
but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

“I am the light of the world,” says the Lord;
“those who follow me will have the light of life.”

Alleluia!

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus continued to teach the disciples, saying:

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;
I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

A sermon is preached.

After the sermon, silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

All stand

**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.**

LITURGICAL WELCOME OF THE REVEREND DR AARON GHILONI

Vicar: We are called to be the Body of Christ, the community of the Holy Spirit. The risen Lord Jesus pours out on his baptized people gifts and graces for the various tasks of the Church.

Today, we welcome Aaron Ghiloni, called, recognised and ordained to be a deacon in the Church of God, serving in this parish of St George, Malvern. It is here that, at the start of his ordained ministry, Aaron will use those gifts the Holy Spirit has given for the tasks he will undertake.

Aaron, yesterday morning, you vowed that you would be an ambassador for Christ in this place, take part in reading holy Scripture in the Church, teaching the doctrine of Christ, assisting in the administration of the sacraments, be diligent in prayer and study, and play your part in encouraging and enabling God's people here to fulfil their ministries.

I ask you now, in the presence of those you will chiefly serve, do you promise faithfully to fulfil those vows in your ministry here?

Aaron: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Vicar: People of St George's, you have heard Aaron renew his commitment to serve you, the people of God in this place. Will you pray for him, encourage him, work with him that we may all be ambassadors of Christ and the peace he brings in this place?

All: **We will, by God's grace.**

Vicar: Aaron, on behalf of the people of God gathered here, I welcome you, and greatly and warmly look forward to working with you in ministry to this community and the wider Church.

The congregation responds with applause.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea; The Diocese of Bunbury; Casey Anglican Dinka Congregation.

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you especially: Ann; Anne; Christina; Coral; Erica; Heather; Ivan; Joan; John; John; Keith; Manci; Margaret; Peter; Ron; Rupert; +John Parkes; +John Stewart.

For the Faithful Departed

We remember those who have died recently: Patricia Bouma; Dorothy Lucas; Metropolitan John Zizioulas; and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Garry O'Dell Armstrong; Harold Braund; Katina Elliott; Herbert Fowler; Audrey Henry; Catherine Horn; Peter Howard; Elsie Marie Moss; Violet Newton; Geoffrey Parsons; Marian Ransom; Anna Shepherd; Ruth Were. Marjorie Werner; Jessie Willers.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

Silence is kept.

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.

His spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to share God's peace with those around them.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendour,
There with joy thy praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded
Hath this wondrous banquet founded;
High o'er all the heavens he reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.
2. Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Joy, the sweetest we e'er knoweth;
Fount, whence all my being floweth;
At thy feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, thy glory, given.
3. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee,
Let me gladly here obey thee;
Never to my hurt invited,
Be thy love with love requited:
From this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
Through the gifts thou dost here give me,
As thy guest in heaven receive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618–77),

tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)

Music: Schmücke Dich,

Melody from J. Crüger's *Geistliche Kirchen-Melodien* (1649)

Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set up on the altar and the President offers prayers, to which the people respond:

Amen.

The President then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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.

The President continues with a prayer appropriate to the season, concluding with:

... we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and 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.**

The President continues the prayer until:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The President continues the prayer, which concludes:

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President breaks the bread, the following is said:

As this broken bread was once many grains
that have been gathered together and made one bread,
**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your Kingdom.**

Together, we sing:

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin 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.

The clergy and people receive the sacrament.

All who wish to come to receive communion are welcome.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand.

A prayer is offered by the President, which ends

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Notices are given.

All stand.

FINAL HYMN

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, we go,
Our daily labours to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
in all we think or speak or do.
2. The tasks thy wisdom hath assigned
O let us cheerfully fulfil;
in all our works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.
3. Thee may we set at our right hand,
Whose eyes our inmost substance see;
and labour on at thy command
and offer all our works to thee.
4. Give us to bear thine easy yoke,
and ev'ry moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day;
5. for thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run our course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heav'n.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788) alt.
Tune: 'Song 34', Thomas Tallis (c.1505–1585)*

THE BLESSING

The President pronounces God's blessing on the people, to which all respond:

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 42:1–9
Acts 10:34–43

Psalm 29
Matthew 3:13–17

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Prayer</u> in Chapel and by	<u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below)
Monday, 6 February	Psalm 86 Genesis 24:1–21 Luke 4:1–15	Psalm 88 Jeremiah 16:1–21 Philippians 3:1–16
Tuesday, 7 February	Psalm 90 Genesis 24:22–49 Luke 4:16–36	Psalm 119:89–104 Jeremiah 17:1–18 Philippians 3:17–4:7
Wednesday, 8 February	Psalm 89:1–18 Genesis 24:50–67 Luke 4:13–44	Psalm 89:19–38 Jeremiah 17:19–18:12 Philippians 4:8–23
Thursday, 9 February	Psalm 89:39–53 Genesis 25:5–11; 19–34 Luke 5:1–11	Psalm 91 Jeremiah 18:12–23 1 Timothy 1:1–11
Holy Eucharist – 10:15 a.m.	Genesis 2:18–25; Psalm 128;	Mark 7:24–30
Friday, 10 February	Psalms 92; 93 Genesis 26:1–17 Luke 5:12–26	Psalm 94 Jeremiah 19:1–26 1 Timothy 1:12–20
Saturday, 11 February	Psalms 95; 96 Genesis 26:18–33 Luke 5:27–39	Psalms 97; 98 Jeremiah 20:7–18 1 Timothy 2
Next Sunday, 12 February Sixth after Epiphany/ Sexagesima	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist & Meditation

Morning Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWdQ4Zz09>

9:00 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Evening Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWdQ4Zz09>

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

NOTICES

Saturday, February 11 – Parish Council ‘Away Day’. Please keep all members of the Parish Council, together with others in attendance, in your prayers for this important day to review how we all continue to live and function as God’s people in this place.

Thanks again to all those who assisted in the preparation and clean up for last Sunday’s service and luncheon. Thanks also to Judy Mallinson and Sandra Morgan and all who contributed to the post-ordination party yesterday afternoon, and to those who have contributed to this morning’s morning tea after the 10:00 a.m. service.

Lenten Study

There will be another book available for Lenten Studies this year; and at least two occasions on which those studies will take place. Please speak with (or email) the Vicar in the coming week if you are:

- (a) interested in participating in a Lenten Study; and/or
- (b) leading a Lenten Study

Office communications: Over the past couple of months, it became clear that the IT, wiring and other matters in the Parish Office are in a dire state. (No wonder poor Nisha had difficulties!) One opinion is that the whole system is completely out-of-date (installed on a shoestring in 2011), and that it is best to start from scratch.

What this has meant is that phones in the Parish Offices were not working (and have not been so for over a month). Email contact with the outside world was sporadic, at best. Apologies are therefore offered to all who have tried to contact the parish, but with no success.

In his first couple of weeks Adrian (what a start to a job, for him!!) has attempted to get the whole system working again: not least, co-ordinating tradespeople to come at the times agreed! (Let the reader understand.) By courageous, diligent, and patient persistence, he has (for the most part) succeeded, and the final issues should be resolved soon.

Please be patient with Adrian (and others) as these final kinks are resolved, and give thanks for the diligence that saw them remedied.

PARISH DIRECTORY

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144



VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone: 9822 4662 (h); 0408 505 646 (m)
Email: vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org
Day off: Friday

ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Dr Aaron Ghiloni

Phone: 9822 3030 (w)
Email: curate@stgeorgesmalvern.org
Day off: tbc

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey 0412 852 697

ORGANIST and DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tom Baldwin music@stgeorgesmalvern.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 9822 3030

Email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

WARDENS

Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957

Ravi Renjen 0412 399 897

Meg Winter 0408 124 246

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.