



St Philip's Anglican Church
Merri Episcopate
Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
Come and Join our Diversity
Serving the Community since 1865
The Holy Eucharist



[Zoom in here](#)

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost St Francis – Pet Blessing

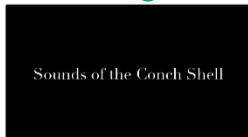
[Opening Hymn](#) TIS 607 Make me a Channel of your peace

[Opening:](#)

Today we draw to a close, our 2026 Season of Creation with the theme of Living Water. Susan Lawrence will be our guest speaker. 😊 October 4th is St Francis of Assisi's feast day and our blessing of our pets. We also note that today also precedes the COP meeting (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where global governments meet annually to negotiate climate action) which starts on 6 October in Fiji. Australian Religious Response to Climate Change invites us to join with the Fijian churches to recognise and pray for the impact of climate change on the Pacific region, our neighbours. It is not an abstract issue for it touches homes, food and water, coastlines, cultures, sacred places, livelihoods and the future of generations yet unborn. So today we are engaging with the material world and the divine in various ways! In solidarity, we will be drawing upon the liturgy provided by the Fijian churches...



[Gathering](#)



Sound of the 'Davui' – A Call to Gather. The davui (conch shell) is a traditional Pacific instrument used to announce, summon and welcome the community. Its powerful sound carries across land and sea, calling people to gather with purpose. When the davui sounds, we gather as one people—called by God, welcomed by grace, and invited to proclaim the Lord's favour for all Creation. We gather not as observers of Creation, but as part of Creation - called to listen, lament, hope, act and hold one another accountable. May this worship turn prayer into courage, courage into action, and action into climate justice.

From communities living on the frontlines of climate change —

Creator God, hear our cry.

From the nations gathering in Fiji for Pre-COP31 —

Creator God, give us courage to act.

As the Season of Creation closes and the Pre-COP31 journey begins, let justice flow like water.

Come, Holy Spirit. Renew the face of the earth.

[Opening Prayer](#)

God of Creation, source of every river, every ocean, every breath and every life, we thank you for the beauty and abundance of your world. Yet we come with hearts that are also

burdened. Our oceans are warming. Our coastlines are changing. Communities face displacement, uncertainty and loss. Open our ears to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Open our hearts to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples, women, young people, persons with disabilities and frontline communities. Open the hearts of leaders and negotiators gathering for Pre-COP31. Turn our prayer into courage, our courage into action, and our action into justice. Through Jesus Christ, the Living Water, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sentence

You, Lord, are all that I have; I have promised to keep your word. I have sought your favour with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. Psalm 119.57–58

Acknowledgement:



Prayer of Preparation

[Let us pray.]

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.

Two Great Commandments

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'



Seasonal Invitation

God calls us to love our neighbours and to care for the Earth, yet we confess that we have often failed.

A pause for reflection

Penitence

Lord God, you entrusted the waters of the Earth to all your children, yet we confess that we have failed to care for them.

We have polluted rivers and oceans, drained wetlands, and wasted the precious gift of water.

We have ignored the cries of communities who stand in queues or walk long distances for water, while others consume without restraint.

We have spoken about caring for creation without changing our lives, our churches, or our communities.

Teach us to treasure every drop, to protect every spring, and to become faithful guardians of the Living Water you freely give. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The God who led Israel into freedom and who reconciles all things in Christ forgives you, renews you and make you faithful stewards of Living Water. **Amen.**

Gloria

1 Cantor $\text{♩} = 104$ All:

Glory-to-God-in-the High - est and peace to God's peo - ple on Earth.

4

Lord God, hea - ven - ly king, al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, we

8

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

12

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,

16

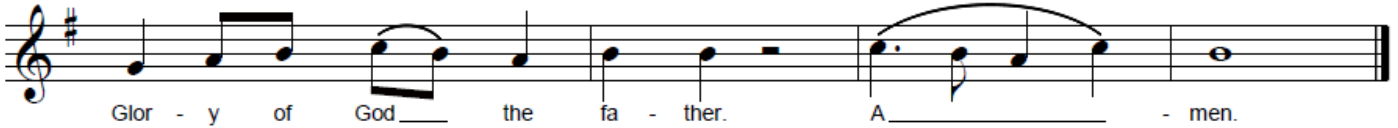
Lamb of God, you take a - way the - sin of the world: have mer - cy on

20

us; You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For

24

you a - lone are the ho - ly one. You a - lone are the Lord.



The Collect

[Let us pray.]

O God, whose blessed Son became poor so that we through his poverty might become rich: deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, so that, inspired by the devotion of your servant Francis, we may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. ¹⁸ When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹ and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' ²⁰ Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

Hear the word of the Lord

thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 - *read antiphonally.*

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God:

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

² One day tells it to another:

and night to night communicates knowledge.

³ There is no speech or language:

nor are their voices heard;

⁴ Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:

and their words to the ends of the earth.

- ⁵ There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
**which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.**
- ⁶ Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
**the command of the Lord is true,
and makes wise the simple.**
- ⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right,
and rejoice the heart:
**the commandment of the Lord is pure,
and gives light to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
**the judgements of the Lord are unchanging,
and righteous every one.**
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold:
**sweeter also than honey,
than the honey that drips from the comb.**
- ¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² Who can know their own unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³ Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the mastery over me:
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
- ¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3

¹ Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard. ² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by

becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. ¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn TIS 155 O lord my God, when I in awesome wonder.

Liturgy of the Word

Gospel Reading

The Creator be with you:

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew, Chapter 21 beginning at the 33rd verse. **Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 21.33-46

³³ 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.

³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance."

³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

⁴¹ They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.

⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

For the Gospel of the Lord

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon / Homily

Professor Susan Lawrence

Affirmation of Faith

Where possible please stand

**We believe in God, Creator of clouds,
rain, rivers, lakes, wetlands and oceans.**

**We believe that water is God's gift,
given freely for the flourishing
of every living creature.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
who called people to repentance,
justice and faithful action.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
whose living water refreshes the Earth,
renews the Church, and strengthens us
to protect creation.**

**We commit ourselves to cherish water,
to use it wisely, to restore damaged ecosystems,
and to ensure that all people
may share God's gift
with justice and joy. Amen.**

Blessing Of The Pets

Many people bring their pets to the church to be blessed on St. Francis' feast day because of his love for animals as expressed in his Canticle of Creatures. Many churches, including Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran parishes, invite owners to bring pets or photos of pets for a short prayer and a sprinkle of holy water.

The theology of the Blessing of the Pets is rooted in recognizing all animals as part of God's good creation, expressions of divine love, and objects of God's direct care. From [Psalm 50](#) to the gospels—where Jesus notes that God cares even for the sparrows—scripture affirms that animals belong to God and matter. We are also sanctifying the Ordinary, that is, blessing a pet marks them as sacred and beloved within the community of faith, validating the deep emotional and spiritual bond between humans and our animal companions.

Pet Blessing

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.

You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.

We ask you to bless this pet.

By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan.

May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! **Amen.**

Intercessions

Please sit or kneel for the prayers, (These or other prayers may be used)

For our islands and coastal communities facing rising seas, stronger storms and changing seasons —

Lord, hear the cry of your people and the cry of your Creation.

For families whose homes, livelihoods, burial grounds, churches and sacred places are threatened —

Lord, hear the cry of your people and the cry of your Creation.

For oceans, rivers, reefs, forests and lands wounded by pollution, extraction and careless consumption —

Lord, hear the cry of your people and the cry of your Creation.

For communities whose knowledge, resilience and leadership are too often ignored in decisions that shape their future —

Lord, give us humility to listen and courage to stand alongside them.

For our children, and for generations yet unborn —

Lord, make us faithful ancestors.

Silence

God of mercy, receive our lament. Where there is grief, give comfort. Where there is fear, give courage. Where there is injustice, awaken action. Where hope is fragile, breathe your Spirit of life. **Amen.**

Parishioners:

Marina & Michael; Margaret; Fr David; Robert & Gwendolyn.

Friends: **Denise, Judi and Graeme; Amy; Ken; Maryann; Zac; Dylan; Jacob; Andrew; Jan; Richard; Eloise; Grant, Drickis; Heidi; Henry and Sam; Vladimir**

Extended Parishioners: **Matt; Maj; Blessing and Maurice**

Judy Lazarus Transition Centre:

Those who have died, or anniversary's fall currently:

Within the wider Anglican Community, we pray today for:

The World: **Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela**

The Anglican Communion: **Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil**

The Anglican Church of Australia: **Diocese of Ballarat: Christ Church Cathedral: Episcopal Area of Dandenong - Bishop Paul Barker; Archdeaconry of Berwick; Yarra Ranges Deanery: St John's Healesville/St Paul's Yarra Glen, St John's Lilydale, Upper Yarra, St James Wandin, Mount Dandenong, St Peter's & St James Kilsyth, Hills (Upwey, Monbulk, Belgrave Heights), All Saints Selby, St Thomas Upper Ferntree Gully**

Anglican Schools and Agencies: **Camberwell Grammar School for Boys**

Bishops' Visitation: **St Silas' Albert Park; St Mark's Dromana**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hear God's promise of a redeemed creation: the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy all my holy mountain.

Greeting of Peace –

We want the warhorse

Jesus rides a donkey.

We want the eagle.

The Holy Spirit descends as a dove.

We want to take up swords.

Jesus takes up a cross.

We want the roaring lion.

God comes as a slaughtered lamb.

We keep trying to arm God.

God keeps trying to disarm us.

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.



During the offertory hymn a collection may be taken

Indue Ltd: - BSB: 703-122; Acc: 050051084 – Credit Card facilities are also available on the bookshelf in the Narthex or at www.stphilipscollingwood.org.au

Offertory Hymn TIS 523 Here Lord, we take the broken bread.

Preparation of the altar and the gifts

The bread and the wine are presented. – The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.

This is God's table. Here there is enough for all. Here strangers become neighbours. Here divided people become one family. Here we receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, so that we may become living water for a thirsty world. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

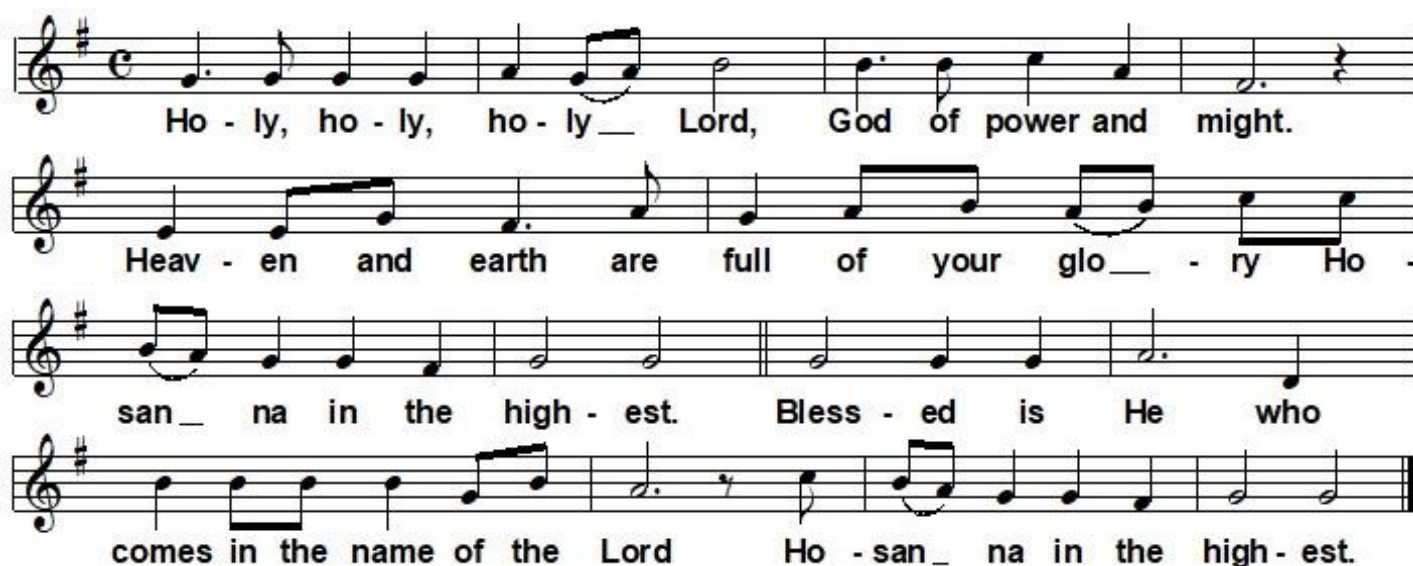
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is our duty and our joy to thank you,
Lord God, our hope and our foundation,
Because you made this sunrise of wonder
And you established the heavens in bright array.
With great joy, you called a people and set them free.
Finally in your Son Jesus you came among your people
And let loose the power of Your Spirit.
In Jesus' death and resurrection
You transformed our meanness and cruelty
Into your unfailing joy and grace.
And so, we praise you with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
to sing the hymn of your unending praise.



Exhilarating God,
 in Jesus you have given us the architect of our salvation,
 and in this meal you show us your willingness
 to be broken and poured out to win us back to you.
 Send down your Holy Spirit,
 That your people may be sanctified by your grace,
 And these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
 the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
 broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying.
 'Take, eat; this is my body which us given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me" 🕊

After supper he took the cup,
 Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me 🕊

Great is the mystery of faith.



Generous God, as you fill us with the bread of life,
 Renew our hope that not only we but all your people
 May never be hungry again.
 Make us heralds and apostles and teachers,
 That we may know your power to save,
 Be called to spread your grace and mercy
 And build one another up in the ways of righteousness and peace;
 That our tradition may be renewed in trust,
 Deepened in suffering, and resolute amid shame.
 Until we see you face to face,
 And your justice shines throughout the earth,
 And all people rise to enjoy your glory,
 Ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Communion Rite -

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Simply N Kedrov Sr

$\text{♩} = 96$

Our Fath - er, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be thy Name.
thy king - dom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heav - en.
Give us this day our dail - y bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - es
pp
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us,
p
and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,
pp
but de - liv - er - us from e - vil. A - men.

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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **grant us your peace.**

Communion - Please form a circle around the altar.

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 gave himself for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to share with us in communion with Jesus who told us to break bread and share wine in remembering him and celebrating the reality of his presence.

Administration of Communion.

The body of Christ [the bread of heaven] keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The blood of Christ [the cup of salvation] keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

Communion Chant

EARTH Jarek Czechowicz

$\text{♩} = 96$ F Gmin F Gmin

I am earth, I am air, I am wat- er, I am fire, _____

I am ev - 'ry-thing and all is good. So I sing: 1. C7 2. F7

Prayer of Virtual Communion

Jesus, we believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. Our friends online desire to receive You. Since they cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into their hearts. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Creator of all, in the death and resurrection of Jesus you have reconciled all things in heaven and on earth. May this bread and wine open our eyes to your love and justice woven through all of creation. We ask this through Jesus, your creating Word.

Prayer of self-offering

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.**

Please return to your seat.

Notices

Refugee Donations

Please bring non-perishable food, drink, clothing or bedding which we will donate to:

<https://www.westwelcomewagon.org.au/donate/>

Synod, 7-10 October

Alongside the wider business of our Diocese, we will consider For the harvest: Vision and Working Strategy 2027-2036.

Opening Eucharist

Wednesday 7 October at 7 pm.

[Watch the livestream](#)

Synod business

- Wednesday 7 October from 8.15 pm
- Thursday 8 October from 7 pm

- Friday 9 October from 7 pm
- Saturday 10 October from 9.30 am

[Watch the livestream](#)

Creation Care Notice

Individually we can make changes in our lives that make an incremental difference to the environment. Collectively (where two or three are gathered . . .) we can help make a step change. This week the NSW government extended the life of the Hunter Valley coal mine - the largest in NSW history. Also, this week scientist released research showing the human impact (heatwave related deaths, floods etc) of each ton of carbon emissions. But the two are not being put together by the decision makers.

Green Tip

Come to the event in Melbourne outside St Michael's Uniting Church, Collins Street at 10 am on 6 October encouraging national leaders (many of whom will be at the Pre-COP meeting in Tuvalu) to sign a Fossil Fuel Treaty. (See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1003022632761680/>)

Quote of the Day

Lesslie Newbigin

How is it possible that the gospel should be credible...? I am suggesting that the only answer, the only hermeneutic of the gospel, is a congregation of men and women who believe it and live by it.

Prayer for Growth

God of the unfolding Mission, you are the quiet breath that makes all things bloom. Let your Spirit sweep through our dreams, giving light to our plans and fire to our footsteps. May we grow like a deep-rooted forest — expanding in number, deepening in devotion, and reaching out as a shelter for our neighbours. Through Jesus, our living hope. Amen.

Prayer for Synod

O Lord of the Harvest, whose Church is bought by Christ and whose Spirit gives life: Give us great confidence in the work of your Son and Spirit. Send workers into the harvest. Grow us as disciples. Raise up leaders to shepherd your people. Renew your Church in faith, hope and love. We ask this so that every disciple, leader and church will take faithful steps of ministry and mission, for the glory of your Name and for the benefit of this world, which you love and which we serve. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of Creation, who called the waters into being and filled the earth with life, strengthen you to care for our common home. **Amen.**

"The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God...and the blessing of the Creator who gives living water, the Son who reconciles all things, and the Holy Spirit who renews the face of the Earth, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Recessional Hymn TIS 149 This is my Father's world (Tune 234)

Please join us after the service for Lunch.

Reverend Bruce Everett:

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