



The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
November 12 2023
Sunday 32A

Preparing for Worship Today

- Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- If you get here early enough, **please read through the text of today's readings prior to our hearing them**. The text can be found at the end of the order of service. We will have brief conversation/response time to the readings after hearing them, and before the sermon – all to make our hearing a little sharper!
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.

Call to Worship

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 786 (tune 437)

1. Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

3. Word that caused blind eyes to see,
speak and heal our mortal blindness.
Deaf we are, our healer be,
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken;
heal the world, by our sin broken.
4. Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling.
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling.
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 *The LORD drove out before us all the peoples
who lived in the land*

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word

*The sermon text will normally be available
after worship and online*

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

Prayer of Confession

Hymn 566 Lord Jesus, if the same you are

'...make me rich, for I am poor...'

Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Prayers of the People

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 548 (tune 332) Eternal light, shine in my heart

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 prayer continues...)

SANCTUS




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

5




hea-ven and earth are full of your glor-y, ho - san - na in the high-est!

BENEDICTUS



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -

4



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer

**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 people sit)


The Breaking of the Bread

...the gifts of God for the people of God...


JESUS, LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus bear - er of our sin have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem-er of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

...Let us receive what we are,
let us become what we receive
The body of Christ

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

GATHERING: *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

Offering

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 585 I heard the voice of Jesus say

'...look unto me, your morn shall rise...'

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

TODAY'S READING

Read the following text-for-the-day before the service and consider:

Where should the emphasis be laid in reading this text, to bring out its main point?

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; ¹⁴Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." ¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." ²¹And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" ²²Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." ²³He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." ²⁴The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." ²⁵So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Margaret of Scotland, Faithful servant



Saint Margaret was canonised in 1250 by Pope Innocent IV in recognition of her personal holiness, faithfulness to the Church, work for religious reform, and charity, her Feast Day now being celebrated on 16 November. An English princess of the House of Wessex, she is also known as Margaret of Wessex, Queen Margaret of Scotland and sometimes called “The Pearl of Scotland”.

Margaret was born in exile in Hungary around 1045, daughter of Edward the Exile and granddaughter of Edmund Ironside, King of England and with her siblings, Edgar the Ætheling and Cristina, grew up in the Hungarian court.

When Margaret was still a child her father, Edward, was recalled to England as a possible successor to Margaret’s great-uncle, the childless Edward the Confessor, but died soon after landing. Margaret continued to live at the English court, her brother Edgar Ætheling being considered a possible successor. But when the Confessor died in January 1066, Harold Godwinson was selected as king. After Harold’s defeat at the battle of Hastings later that year, Edgar was proclaimed King of England. But after William the Conqueror’s victory, Edgar was taken to Normandy. He was returned to England in 1068, when Edgar, Margaret, Cristina and their mother Agatha fled north to Northumbria.

According to tradition, Agatha decided to return to the continent, but they were shipwrecked on the way and driven on to the coast of Scotland. Soon after, Margaret met Malcolm 111, and they were married by 1070. She is believed to have had a moderating influence on this rather rough and uneducated man, and would read to him from the Bible. He so admired her devotion that he had her books decorated in gold and silver. One of these is kept at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. She and Malcolm had six sons and two daughters, whose religious instruction and other studies Margaret supervised.

[contd...]

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Margaret of Scotland, Faithful servant [contd...]

Guided by Lafranc, the future Archbishop of Canterbury, she encouraged reforms in the Scottish Church, seeking to bring it in line with the Church of Rome. She encouraged synods and was present for the discussions which tried to correct religious abuses common among priests and lay people, such as simony, usury and incestuous marriages. Together with Malcolm, she founded several churches. She also sought to improve her adopted country by promoting the arts and education.

In her personal life, she spent much of her time in prayer, devotional reading, and ecclesiastical embroidery. During Lent and Advent she would rise at midnight to go to church. In 1072 she invited the Benedictine order to establish a monastery at Dunfermline in Fife, and established ferries at Queensferry and North Berwick to assist pilgrims. She was also known for her charity. Before eating her own meals, she would wash the feet of the poor and ensure that they were fed. Margaret was also a benefactor of Iona Abbey providing funds for a chapel in the Relig Oran (the graveyard were Oran, a companion of Columba, was the first to be buried). It is the only chapel that still stands on the monastic site.

Because of all this, she was considered as an exemplar of the “just ruler”.

By 1093 Margaret was close to death and died three days after hearing that Malcolm and their eldest son Edward had been killed at the Battle of Alnwick. People still visit her tomb at Dumferline Abbey and her chapel in Edinburgh Castle.

Rev Pam Kerr

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Australia

Aboriginal people settled in Australia more than 40,000 years before the first white exploration began in the early 17th century. In 1788 Britain established a penal colony there. In 1901, Australia became independent of Britain. In the 20th century many Europeans and Asians migrated to Australia. Today the country has a prosperous capitalist economy, although its previously generous policies towards immigrants and refugees have hardened considerably in recent years. Australia struggles with the effects of years of injustices suffered by the Aborigines, who continue to be marginalized, poor and victims of racism. The churches are challenged to relate in new ways to the aboriginal communities in their midst. The two largest Christian bodies are the Catholic Church, transported from central Europe and the Philippines, and the Anglican Church, with its roots in England. The Uniting Church in Australia, made up of former Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians, is one of the pioneering church unions in the ecumenical movement worldwide. Of more recent origin are the sizeable Orthodox churches and the Pacific Islander communities. The National Council of Churches was re-organized several years ago to include the Catholic Church. There is also an Australian Evangelical Alliance. Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Charismatics represented in 2000 some 27 percent of the Christian population. In their external relations, Australian churches are primarily turned toward the Pacific and Asia.

Aotearoa New Zealand

The indigenous people of the islands that form New Zealand, the Polynesian Maori, arrived there some 800 years ago and called it "Aotearoa - land of the long white cloud". Britain annexed the territory in 1840 and negotiated the Treaty of Waitangi, by which the Maoris ceded their sovereignty, but retained their perpetual rights to the land. The treaty was violated by the colonizers, and white settlers soon outnumbered the Maoris, who lost several land wars between 1843 and 1872, but resisted the assimilation imposed by the British. In 1947 New Zealand became fully independent as a constitutional monarchy within the British Commonwealth. In 1975 the Waitangi Tribunal was established, to deal with claims of violation of the Treaty since 1840. Maoris constitute 14 percent of the population, Pakeha (people of European descent) 80 percent, and Pacific islanders and other immigrants six percent. New Zealand has a modern, developed economy, based on the export of agricultural and industrial products. The Anglican Church is the largest church, followed by the Catholics, the Presbyterians and the Methodists. These churches have in various ways provided possibilities for the Maoris to have their own jurisdiction, without separation. Similarly, there have been two ecumenical bodies, for the Pakeha and the Maori. Churches have also been the first to add Aotearoa to New Zealand in their name. An interesting form of local unity emerged in the 1980s, called "cooperative ventures" between congregations of different confessions. There are several Pentecostal church groupings and independent charismatic groups, and an Evangelical network.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Quarterly Discussion Groups	Wed's and Fri's till Nov 24
Hotham Mission Board (VicTas Synod Meeting)	November 28, 7:45pm (Nov 18-21)
(Yarra Yarra Presbytery Meeting)	(Dec 2)
Church Council	October 31, 7:30pm
Congregational Meeting (2024 Budget)	December 10

NOTICES

SUMMER CHURCH ROSTER IS BEING PREPARED

The roster for December, January and February is being compiled. Please tell Sue Blackwood (sblackwood46@gmail.com) by 19 November at the latest, of your availability over the next 3 months. Many thanks to those who continue to help with the services.

FRIENDS OF VELLORE VICTORIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023



Stafford Room, Queen's College,
1 College Cres, Parkville
2-4 pm, Saturday 25 November 2023
Guest Speaker from CMC Vellore
Assoc. Prof. Tina George
Multimorbidity at Christian Medical College
– greater than the sum of its parts

Tina, shown here with her doctor husband and son, works in the Faculty of General Medicine at Christian Medical College, Vellore, India. Her PhD topic at Melbourne University Dept of General Practice & Primary Care relates to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with two or more chronic illnesses (multimorbidity) Worldwide, multimorbidity affects 37% of all patients (mean age 57 years). More than half the global over-60 population have two or more chronic illnesses.

People to commemorate this week

Margaret of Scotland, Faithful servant

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

LECTIONARY READINGS 18 NOVEMBER 2023

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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As a Parish Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia,

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist is responsible for Hotham Mission.

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Please advise all notices and roster changes to email:

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