

On breaking the law (for God's sake)

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Sunday 9B
June 2, 2024

Preparing for Worship Today

- Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
- Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- 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 usually have a brief time of conversation about the readings before hearing them, and before the sermon – all to make our hearing a little sharper!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude W Bomhof, *Variations on Psalm 139*

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

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Come, worship the Lord who has made us,
who has searched us out and known us.

Psalm 139.13

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 786 Word of God, come down on earth (Tune 437)

With the Children

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.

1 Samuel 3.1-20 *Your servant is listening*

Mark 2.23-3.6 *They watched him in order to accuse him*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

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

The sermon text will normally be available after worship and online

Psalms and Prayer of Confession

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 *You have searched me and known me*

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

...¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
**Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
**when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

(Prayer of confession..)

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the Kyrie eleison prayer. Each staff is divided into two parts: 'Cantor' and 'Congregation'. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, l - lei - son. Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, e - lei - son.' The second staff contains: 'Christ-e, Christ-e, Christ-e e - lei - son. Christ e, Christ e, Chris te e - lei - son.' The third staff contains: 'Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, Kyr-i - e, e - lei - son. Kyr-i - e Kyr-i - e Kyr-i - e, e - lei - son.'

***Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison;
Christe, Christe, Christe eleison;
Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.***

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 Nicene Creed *(Sung):*

| Cantor | People

We be - lieve in one God, the Fa - ther, the Al - might - y, mak - er of
 heav - en and earth, of all that is, seen and un - seen. We be - lieve in
 one Lord, Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, e - ter - nal - ly be -
 got - ten of the Fa - ther, God from God, Light from light, true God from true
 God, be - got - ten not made, of one be - ing with the Fa - ther; through him
 all things were made. For us and for our sal - va - tion he came down from
 heaven, was in - car - nate by the Ho - ly Spi - rit of the Vir - gin Mar -
 y and be - came tru - ly hu - man. For our sake he was cru - ci - fied
 un - der Pon - tius Pi - late; he suf - fered death and was bur - ied. On the
 third day he rose a - gain in ac - cord - ance with the Scrip - tures; he as -
 cend - ed in - to heaven and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa -
 ther. He will come a - gain in glo - ry to judge the liv - ing and the
 dead, and his king - dom will have no end. We be - lieve in the Ho - y
 Spi - rit, the Lord, the giv - er of life, who pro - ceeds from the Fa - ther,

who with the Fa - ther and the Son is wor - shipped and glo - ri - fied. who
 has spo - ken through the pro - phets. We be - lieve in one ho - ly cath - ol -
 ic and ap - os - tol - ic Church. We ac - know - ledge one bap - tism for the
 for - give - ness of sins. We look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. A - men.

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 537 Let us talents and tongues employ

(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...)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full of your glor - y, ho - san - na in the high - est! Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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 in the highest!
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

Though broken *by* us,
Christ is given *for* us:
food for sinners,
bread of joy.

Though spilled by us,
Christ is caught in the cup of life,
given to revive
the faint-hearted.

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

UIW2 p.218 alt



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; *rit...* grant us peace.

**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 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

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude F D'Agincour, *Trio & Recit de Nazard*

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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/>

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Eswatini

From 1894 to 1899 the country was a protectorate of South Africa, and in 1902 came under the British. In 1968 it achieved its independence from Britain. King Mswati III took the throne in 1986. Swaziland is economically dependent on South Africa for most of its goods. About half the country is engaged in subsistence agriculture and herding. AIDS has reached catastrophic proportions with over 33 percent of the population infected. The average life expectancy at birth has dropped to 38 years. Methodist remains the largest Protestant denomination after being invited by the Swazi king in 1825. Most of the Christian population belongs to indigenous Zionist and other independent churches. The Council of Swaziland Churches is an ecumenical organization founded in 1976 and includes the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church of Africa, Anglicans, Mennonites, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church. There are no WCC member churches based in this country.

Lesotho

Lesotho came into being as a kingdom in the 19th century, when the Basotho leader Moshoeshoe I resisted the attacks of the Zulu empire. It became a British protectorate in 1864, at the request of the king, to avoid being taken over by the white Afrikaners. Called Basutoland, the kingdom recovered its independence in 1966 under the name Lesotho. It is a mountainous country, entirely surrounded by South Africa. From 1986 onwards, it was governed by the military who cooperated with apartheid South Africa and sent the king into exile. In 1993, it became a democratic constitutional monarchy. Economically, Lesotho has been dependent on the employment of its workforce in South Africa's mining industry. A local manufacturing industry is developing, compensating for the decrease of employment opportunities in the mines. The Catholic Church is the majority church in Lesotho, and is a member of the Christian Council, which is the ecumenical body. Besides the Lesotho Evangelical Church, which is the largest Protestant church, other WCC members include two Methodist churches, which belong to the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Namibia

Namibia was since early times inhabited by the Bushmen, and as of the 14th century by Bantu groups. The territory was attributed to Germany at the Berlin Conference of 1884, as South-West Africa. In 1904, some 50,000 Hereros were massacred by the German colonial army. South Africa administered the territory after World War I, and annexed it after World War II, imposing its apartheid regime. From 1966 to 1988 the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) under president Sam Nujoma fought a liberation war against the South African occupant. Namibia achieved its independence in 1990 and since then has been governed by SWAPO. Namibia's economy is based on mining and export of diamonds, uranium, and other minerals. Most of the population depend on subsistence farming. Protestant, Anglican, and Catholic missions began working in Namibia in the 19th century. The largest churches are the two Lutheran churches, among the Ovambo people in the north, and among other groups in the centre. These churches, as well as others, supported the struggle for liberation and against apartheid. Several WCC member churches based in South Africa are present in Namibia: the Anglicans, Methodists, United Congregationalists and Uniting Presbyterians. The African Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Methodists are part of the WCC through their church structures in the USA. All of these belong to the Council of Churches, which also includes the Catholic Church. There are various Pentecostal and independent churches. The Evangelical Fellowship of Namibia is affiliated with the WEA.

South Africa

The original inhabitants of South Africa were the Khoikhoi, later joined by Bantu groups migrating from the north. In 1652 the Dutch settled in the Cape, and slowly extended into the interior. The Boers, as they were called, fought the Africans until they were themselves defeated in 1902 by the British, who established the self-governing Union of South Africa. In 1948 the Nationalist Party of the Afrikaners (Boers), came into power and put in place the racist apartheid regime, based on total, legalized separation of the whites, blacks, coloured and the small Indian population. The white Reformed churches provided the theological justification of the system. They withdrew from the WCC in 1961. The African National Congress, formed in 1912, became the opponent of apartheid, later followed by other movements. The struggle against apartheid is marked by the Sharpeville shooting (1960), the Rivonia trial of Nelson Mandela (1964), the Soweto uprising (1976), the assassination of Steve Biko, countless other tragedies, and the unflinching determination of a people to free itself from an evil yoke. Several churches in South Africa denounced apartheid more and more openly, led by Archbishop Tutu, Rev. Boesak, and many others. Key documents were the Belhar Confession, the Kairos document and Evangelical Witness in South Africa. The South African Council of Churches played a major role. In 1991 Mandela was released from prison; on 27 April 1994 in the first free and democratic elections of South Africa he was elected president. The current membership of the Council of Churches includes the Catholic Church, the Apostolic Faith Mission (Pentecostal), and the Dutch Reformed Church. There are many indigenous churches, the largest being the Zion Christian Church, with eight million members. Evangelical and Pentecostal churches are also active. The Evangelical Alliance of SA is affiliated with the WEA.

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Pope John XXIII, reformer of the Church



Pope St John XXIII (born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, 1881-1963) came from humble beginnings, through a diplomatic ministry in the Roman Catholic Church, to become Pope at the age of 77, from 1958-1963. He was canonized in 2014. Far from being the caretaker in that role which others imagined, less than three months from his election, he called the Second Vatican Council together and presided over its first sessions (1962), Pope Paul VI bringing it to a

conclusion after three more sessions, in 1965. Unusually, his saint's day is not the date of his death, but the day the Council began (September 11). The Uniting Church remembers on his 'heavenly birthday, June 3, and we grant him the title 'Reformer of the Church'. His own favourite papal title was 'Servant of the servants of God'. Many called him 'Good Pope John'. He charmed people with his gentle sense of humour.

The Vatican Council was indeed a reforming council, well beyond expectation. It benefitted from a century of serious scholarship and pastoral thought across Europe and the Catholic world. He invited representatives of other churches as non-voting observers. There was lively debate on the floor of St Peter's, and in the coffee shops around Rome. His stated intention was to 'open the windows [of the Church] and let in some fresh air.' The unimagined result was change in the whole of the western church. Key documents were composed and promulgated, the first being on ecumenism (Unitatis redintegratio), which propelled the Roman church into relationship with others, defining non-Catholics as 'separated brethren'. From dialogue, we have all learned to state more clearly what we believe, what unites and what still divides us as Christians. The Church's primary purposes and its structures were redefined in Lumen Gentium, including its evangelical mission in the world. The liturgy was radically challenged, vernacular forms of language replacing Latin, word and sacrament given a new balance, and new rites composed. The centrality of Scripture was emphasized and a new three-year lectionary created. On all of this scholarship and wisdom, other churches have drawn on in their own ongoing reforms.

Pope John was a Christian visionary. His passionate sense of humanity was summed up in his remark, 'We were all made in God's image, and thus, we are all Godly alike.' Many of the gains of the Council must be attributed to the gifts of Pope Paul VI, but it was Good Pope John who summoned his Church, and all of us, to reform and renewal in the humble spirit of Christ.

Robert Gribben

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Online discussion groups

TBA – Mid-late May

Quarterly Essay Conversation

June 26, 1:30pm at CTM

NOTICES

AKBAR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Akbar, the Iranian asylum seeker supported by this congregation since his release from (illegal) detention in 2013, continues to live in Australia with no visa, no work rights and no legal status. Thanks to his generously/privately funded North Melbourne gardening 'work', and the regular financial contributions of some of our congregation members he enjoys some financial independence. He has recently overcome an accommodation 'crisis' with practical assistance from these sources. Akbar is included in our prayers of intercession on the first Sunday in each month.

Rosalie Hudson

BLACK COCKATOOS FILM LAUNCH, WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE FROM 18.30 AT LONGPLAY (FITZROY NTH)

Some of you will remember coming to hear Donald and Katie's new work, "Black Cockatoos" last year. We're launching a video of it! Tickets are free, but space is small

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1194790>

Doors open from 6.30 for mingling, and there are two screenings at 7.40 and 8.10

YOU ARE INVITED

to the launch of

**The Wesley Centre for
Theology, Ethics, and
Public Policy.**

Please join us on **Thursday, 6th of June**
from **5pm - 8pm.**

Welcome to Country - Panel Discussion - Reception

Click To RSVP

theology - ethics - public policy



<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thewesleycentre/1253021>

People to commemorate this week

Pope John XXIII, reformer of the Church

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini

LECTIONARY READINGS 09 JUNE 2024

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Congregation of Mark the Evangelist, North Melbourne

Website: marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Minister: Rev Dr Craig Thompson

Ph: 9329 0018 Mob: 0408 389 751

or **email:** minister@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

As a Parish Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia,

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

Office ph.: (03) 9326 8245

Please advise all notices and roster changes to **email:**

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

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