

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 16C | 20 July 2025

How can these things be?

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

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude JL Krebs, *Fantasia in F*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 127 v. 1)

If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:

***Holy God, we praise your name,
Lord of all, we bow before you;
all on earth your power proclaim,
all in heaven above adore you;
boundless is your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.***

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the field exult, and everything in it.

Let the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD;
for God is coming, the LORD is coming. *from Ps 96*

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 445 Jesus, where'er your people meet

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.

John 3:1-10 *Nicodemus came to Jesus by night*

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Psalm 15 *Who may dwell in your tabernacle?*

The REFRAIN is sung before and after the whole psalm. The psalm text will then be sung responsorially to the TONE below: the first line is sung by the 'half' of the congregation closest to entry doors, the second bold-italic line by the other side

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

Praise the Lord. Praise the
Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

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- ¹ Lord, who may dwell | in your tabernacle?
Who may rest upon your | holy hill?
- ² Whoever leads an | uncorr-upt life
and does the thing | that is right;
- ³ Who speaks the truth | from the heart
and bears no deceit | on the tongue;
- ⁴ Who does no evil | to a friend
and pours no scorn | on a neighbour;
- ⁵ In whose sight the wicked are | not esteemed,
but who honours those who | fear the Lord.
- ⁶ Whoever has sworn | to a neighbour
and never goes back | on that word;
- ⁷ Who does not lend money in | hope of gain,
nor takes a bribe a- | -gainst the innocent;
- ⁸ Whoever | does these things
shall | never fall.

REFRAIN

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!

Glo - ry to God_ in the high - est and
peace to Gods' peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly king, al-migh-ty God. and_
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you_ for_ your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone_ are the
ho - ly one, You a - lone_ are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,
Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo-ry of_ God the_ Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

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

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.***

*We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.*

*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.
We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.*

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 145 The king of love my shepherd is

(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...)



(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...



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

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

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

...Let us receive what we are,

let us become what we receive

The body of Christ

The Communion

The United 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.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 690 Beauty for brokenness

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude J Pachelbel, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

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NOTICES

BEV WENDELKEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Members of the congregation are invited to join Bev at an "at home" at her daughter Susan's home (20 Rona St., Ferntree Gully) on Saturday 9th August from 2pm to help celebrate her 90th birthday. If you are intending to go please let Rod know so he can convey numbers for catering.

QUARTERLY CONVERSATION - FRIDAY 25TH JULY, 12.30PM



**HARD NEW
WORLD**
OUR POST-AMERICAN FUTURE
HUGH WHITE

FRIDAY July 25, 11.00–12.30, in the library at the Center for Theology and Ministry. (Some parking *may* be available onsite, but plan to park in the surrounding streets, just in case...). **Catch a coffee at the CTM cafe before the meeting** (although coffee not allowed in the library), **and then stay for**

lunch afterwards!

More info: www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



Wesley Conversation #6 - Ethics, Technology and the Human person, with Dr. Emanuelle Burton Senior lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Chicago. Rev Prof. Glen O'Brien Historian and editor of *A Curious Machine: Wesleyan Reflections on a P-human Future*. Dr. Kristel Clayville Religion scholar, ethicist, and writer focusing on how technology shapes our lives.

TOUR OF ORMOND COLLEGE – SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST

MtE members are invited to join an informal tour of Ormond College, following worship on Sunday August 3, led by Ormond College Librarian Wilma Kurvnik. More details to come...

FRIENDS OF VELLORE VICTORIA - FUNDRAISING DINNER

You are Invited to: MEET THE DIRECTOR, Christian Medical College & Hospital (CMC) Vellore. Tamil Nadu. India.

Dr Vikram Mathews Professor of Haematology

Date: Sunday 24th August 2025 | 5.30 PM for 6.00 PM start

Venue: *Gaylord Indian Restaurant* | 33 Spencer Street Docklands VIC 3008

Tickets@Humanitix

Friends of Vellore/CMC Alumni: \$40

Students: \$20

Children Under 12: Free

<https://events.humanitix.com/dinner-with-cmc-director-vikram-mathews>

Limited parking at Grand Hotel (see Humanitix): \$15

Street parking (check signs): Free

RSVP: 17 August 2025

Generously supported by Gaylord Indian Restaurant



NORTHEY LECTURE TUESDAY, JULY 29 :: DEI EX MACHINA: THE IMAGES OF GOD IN OUR CONCEPTIONS OF AI -- REV DR KRISTEL CLAYVILLE PHD

AI has emerged as a tool for productivity, a threat to jobs, and even a stand-in for God. Much of the language used to discuss AI draws on apocalyptic and prophetic discourse, as well as on images of God rooted in divine omniscience. Rev Dr Kristel Clayville, a lecturer in ethics in the computer science department at University of Illinois Chicago, suggests an alternative theological framework.

Rather than emphasising AI's godlike powers of omniscience and control—traditionally masculine divine attributes—Clayville examines how feminine divine imagery might reshape our understanding of artificial intelligence. Could we envision AI through metaphors of nurturing, relationship, and collaborative wisdom instead of domination and all-knowing power? Does embracing feminine images of God offer new ways to conceptualize AI's role and possibilities in human society? Her talk will explore this alternative and attempt to offer a different conceptual vocabulary for AI.

Northey Lecturer Rev Dr Kristel Clayville PhD

Rev Dr Kristel Clayville holds a PhD in Religious Ethics from the University of Chicago's Divinity School and completed Fellowship training in clinical medical ethics at the MacLean Center. She has served as the Acting Director of the Zygon Center for Religion and Science, and was a Fellow in the Sinai and Synapses program. She has a clinical background as a chaplain and ethicist at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Currently, she teaches ethics in the Computer Science Department at UIC, where she also serves on the hospital ethics committee, and the medical school ethics education committee. Her research interests encompass the ethics of emerging (bio)technologies, organ transplant ethics, the role of religion in medical education, AI and religion, and the function of ethics committees in hospitals and tech companies.



Tuesday, July 29 Pilgrim Theological College, 29 College Cres, Parkville, 3052 Refreshments available from 5pm Lecture commences at 5.30pm To register Visit : events.humanitix.com/northey-lecture-dei-ex-machina-the-images-of-in-our-conceptions-of-ai

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Inter-Church Council Meeting with CAN
Wesley Centre – Ethics, Technology and the Human person
Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay
The Images of God in our Conceptions of AI
Guided tour of Ormond College
Church Council

TODAY, 1pm at CAN
July 24, 12.30pm
@ Wesley Place (not in the church)
July 25, 11.00-12.30 at the CTM
Tues July 29, 5.30pm
August 3, after worship
August 5, 7.30pm (online)

People to commemorate this week

Mary Magdalene, witness to Jesus

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Djibouti, Somalia

Lectionary Readings | 27 July 2025

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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www.hothammission.org.au

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