

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 17C | 27 July 2025

For in him the
whole fullness of
deity dwells bodily,
and you have come
to fullness in him

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 F Couperin, *Dialogue sur la Voix Humaine*
(from *Messe pour les convents*)

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.

Come, worship the Lord,

in whom mercy and truth;

Come, worship the Lord,

in whom righteousness and peace kiss.

Psalms 85

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 443 Come dearest Lord, descend and dwell

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.

Colossians 2:6-19 *Continue your lives in him*

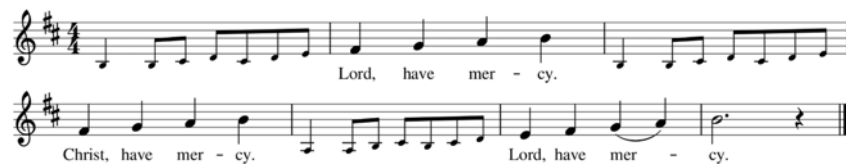
Luke 11:1-13 *Lord, teach us to pray*

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

Prayer of Confession



Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

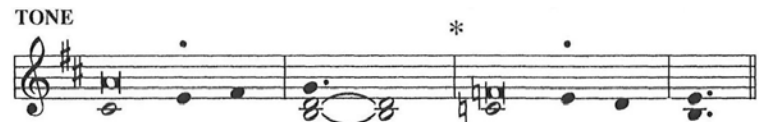
...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology via Psalm 138

REFRAIN: Organ and cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).

The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE



¹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with | my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing | praise to you.

²I will bow down towards your holy temple
and praise your name, because of your | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word ab- | -ove all things.

³In the day that I called to you, you | answered me;
you put new strength | in my soul.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall | praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words | of your mouth.

⁵They shall sing of the ways | of the Lord,
that great is the glory | of the Lord.

⁶Though the Lord be high, he watches | over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them | from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | will pre-serve me;
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand | will save me.

⁸The Lord shall make good his | purpose for me;
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
forsake not the work | of your hands.

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

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

Offering

(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)

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 524 (tune 87) Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

(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.

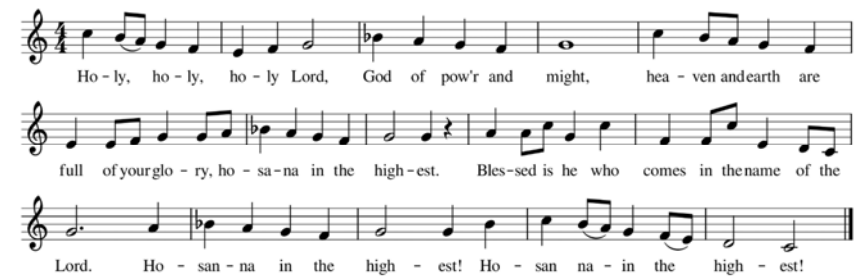
Lift up your hearts.

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



...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.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 392 At the dawning of salvation

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude JS Bach, *Prelude and fugue in C minor BWV 546*

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NOTICES

We welcome Matt Julius today as our guest preacher. As well as just being well known to us as a visiting preacher, Matt works as a Church Engagement Worker with Uniting.

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.

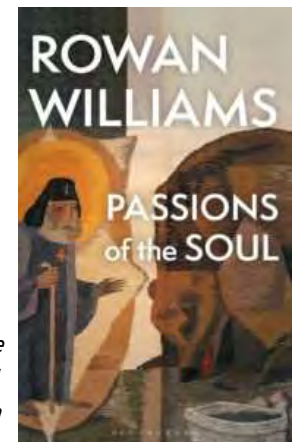
If you are intending to go please let Rod know so he can convey numbers for catering.

THIRD QUARTER 2025 STUDY GROUP

Our third quarter 2025 study groups will use Rowan Williams' *Passions of the soul*.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

With compelling and illuminating insight, he shows the cost of living in a culture that is theologically and philosophically undernourished, working with a diminished and trivialized picture of the human self. The Eastern tradition teaches us how to develop our self-knowledge and awareness, so that we can relate to the world without selfish illusions. Only then can we be ready for our eyes to be opened to God, and avoid destructive patterns of behaviour. Only in this way can we understand the kind of people we need to become.



Two online (Zoom) groups are planned on Wednesday evenings (7.45pm) and Friday afternoons (1.30PM), for six-seven weeks (one week per chapter).

These studies will commence on Wed Aug 13 and Friday Aug 15.

TOUR OF ORMOND COLLEGE – SUNDAY 3 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...

THE RECORDER CO-OP | LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT - SUNDAY 3 AUGUST , AT 2PM

This month we have the pleasure of an ensemble called The Recorder Co-Op, featuring a quartet of some of Australia's best-known recorder players, joined by special guest Kamala Bain from New Zealand. They will perform music of the 16th and 17th centuries primarily, a time when perhaps the recorder consort was at its zenith. They also perform on a consort of quite unusual and special instruments, so the concert will be unusual - visually as well as aurally. We hope you will join us on August 3rd.

Here is the link for tickets:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1353266>

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



JOHN WESLEY'S CLOCK
a Methodist mystery tour!

Talk by Prof Graeme Davison AO.

FREE EVENT

Sunday 24 August 2025, at 2.30pm.

Queen's College Chapel,
University of Melbourne
1-17 College Crescent, Parkville

Or for a Zoom link, email:
ken.barelli@bigpond.com

For enquiries call Ken on **0418 317 942**

VICTAS UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CAN YOU HELP US OUT?

Every two Months the JIM cluster releases our Newsletter and [social justice resources](#) to our supporters both digitally and physically, which are mailed to homes and congregations across Victoria and Tasmania.

Getting the physical mailings ready for posting requires a 'Compiling Day' of low intensive manual labour, and we need more volunteers to help us with this task.

What is required:

We are looking for people who are able to volunteer one morning every two months to work alongside us (Mark and Tim).

The tasks can be completed either seated or standing:

- Compiling loose individual resources inside the newsletter (standing)
- Putting postage labels on envelopes (seated)
- Placing newsletters into envelopes (seated)

This takes place at the CTM.

We are happy to arrange parking on site if you have mobility issues. Our upcoming 'Compiling day' schedule is below. Are you free to come in for part or all of the morning of **Wednesday 6th August or 29th October?**

The morning is typically 9:00am until Noon, but with enough volunteers we tend to finish earlier. Along with plenty of conversation, we provide morning tea/coffee as a thank you to our wonderful volunteers. If you are looking for an opportunity to do something both useful and appreciated, please get in touch with us. If you are interested in volunteering with us please get in contact with Mark Zirnsak:

Mark.Zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au

Monday Morning Movies (MMM)

For movie buffs: The Monday Morning Movies (MMM) group will start on Monday July 28. Meet at Nova Carlton ticket counter upstairs at 10.10a.m. to buy your own ticket (\$7 on Mondays) for a documentary on the Dalai Lama starting @ 10.20, followed by a coffee nearby afterwards to discuss the movie and the future of the group. Please let Leah know if you intend to come (leahbilleam@y7mail.com). A joint Church of All Nations-Mark the Evangelist activity!

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

The Images of God in our Conceptions of AI	Tues July 29, 5.30pm
Discussion Groups – Passions of the Soul	Aug 13+ and Aug 15+ NEW
Guided tour of Ormond College (and visit by OC Master)	August 3, after worship
Church Council	August 5, 7.30pm (online)
Combined Church Council conversation (MtE and CAN)	August 24 12.00-14.00 NEW

People to commemorate this week

Irenaeus, Christian thinker

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

Lectionary Readings | 03 August 2025

Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 2 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

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

Contact: Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

minister@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

www.hothammission.org.au

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