

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 18C | 3 August 2025

Being human, *etsi homo* *non daretur*

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 J Titelouze, *Iste Confessor* [alt.]

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 61 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:

***Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness,
joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,
chanting his praises, come before his presence:
Praise the Almighty!***

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Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Come, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
***and his mercy
endures forever.***

Praise the LORD for his mercy,
***and the love he has
for his children*** (Psalm 107.1,8)

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 437 Blessed Jesus, at your word

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

Sermon (Part the First)

The Testimony of Scripture

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

Genesis 1:1-3 *Let the be light*

John 20:11-18 *They have taken away my Lord*

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

Sermon (Part the Second)

*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



Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

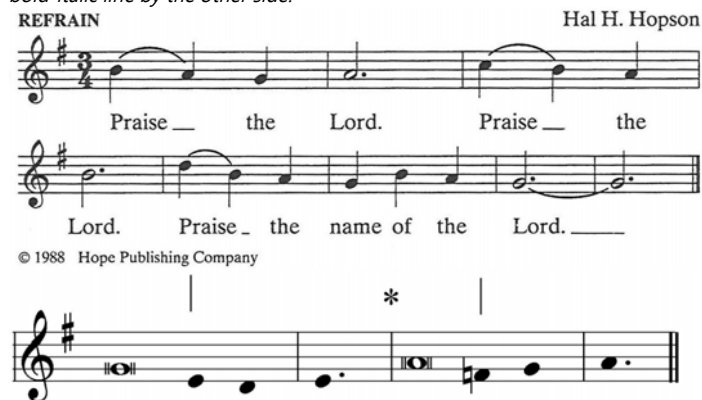
...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology via Psalm 107 *O give thanks to the Lord*

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 the hall entry doors, the second bold-italic line by the other side.



- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;
for his steadfast love en- | -dures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the | LORD say so,
those he re- | -deemed from trouble
- ³ and gathered in | from the lands,
***from the east and from the west,
from the north and | from the south.***
- ¹⁷ Some were sick through their | sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities en- | -dured affliction;
- ¹⁸ they loathed any | kind of food,
and they drew near to the | gates of death.
- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD | in their trouble,
and he saved them from | their distress;
- ²⁰ he sent out his word | and healed them,
and delivered them | from destruction.
- ²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his | steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to | humankind.
- ²² And let them offer thanks- | -giving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with | songs of joy.

REFRAIN

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

LITBIT: "...if you want to understand the body of Christ, listen to the Apostle Paul speaking to the faithful: 'You are the body of Christ, member for member.' If you, therefore, are Christ's body and members, it is your own mystery that is placed on the Lord's table! It is your own mystery that you are receiving! You are saying 'Amen' to what you are: your response is a personal signature, affirming your faith."

AUGUSTINE

Hymn 34 O Lord, you are my God, for you I long

(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...)



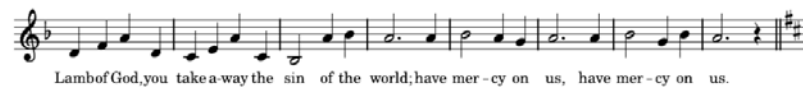
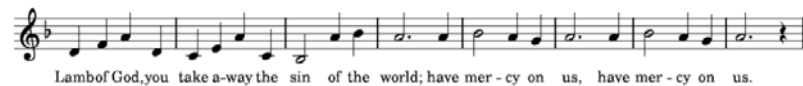
The Lord's Prayer

***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....



...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 617 By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude J Speth, *Toccata Nona*

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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

Congo (Republic of)

Bantu people lived in the area of the Republic of Congo long before European colonization began. The territory became a French colony and was part of French Central Africa until independence in 1960. Congo was one of the new nations in Africa with a socialist regime, which lasted several decades. In the 1990s the country suffered two civil wars because of power struggles between political leaders, who had each their own militia. Many people lost their lives, others were displaced or fled to neighbouring DRC. Congo has rich oil resources. Oil is the main export product, followed by coffee, but the revenues do not benefit the people. Most of the population in the rural areas lives from subsistence farming. The Catholic Church is the majority church. Besides the Evangelical Church, which is the largest Protestant denomination, other WCC member churches present in Congo are: the Kimbanguist Church, which has its headquarters in the DRC just across the Congo river, and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, which has a large parish in Brazzaville. These churches, together with the Salvation Army and the Lutherans, form the Ecumenical Council of Congo. There are also several Pentecostal and Evangelical churches.

Gabon

The area of what is today Gabon was inhabited by the Bantu people when Europeans began to explore the west coast of Africa. The population was subjected to the slave trade, and the territory was colonized by the French in the 19th century. Gabon became independent in 1960. It has remained in the French sphere of influence. Rich offshore resources have made it a major oil producing country. However only a minority of the population benefit from the income. The traditional economy of Gabon is based on timber, coffee, cocoa, palm oil and subsistence agriculture. The country has been governed by the same president since 1967. In the early 1990s, some democratic reforms were introduced. About half of the population belongs to the Catholic Church. The Evangelical Church is the largest Protestant church, followed by the Christian Alliance Church. Several African indigenous churches exist which have about the same number of followers as the Protestant churches together. Gabon is the country where Albert Schweitzer exercised his ministry.

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Mary Helen MacKillop, Christian pioneer



Mary Helen MacKillop became the first Australian to be officially recognised for 'extraordinary holiness' by the Roman Catholic church in October 2010. She pioneered a new form of religious community for women, working in twos and threes to respond to the need for both education in faith and social outreach in colonial Australia, especially among the poor.

A plaque in the footpath in Brunswick St, Fitzroy marks the place where the MacKillops' rented house stood and where

Mary was born on 15 January 1842. She was the first of eight children of Alexander MacKillop and his wife Flora (MacDonald) who had migrated from Inverness, Scotland. She was educated mostly at home by her father. The family finances were often precarious and relied on Mary's income from the time she was 14. She was a clerk in Sands and Kenny stationers (later Sands and MacDougall) for four years, and then teacher in Portland, Victoria before taking a position as governess to her aunt and uncle's children (the Camerons) in Penola, South Australia.

In Penola she shared her hopes of religious life with the parish priest, Fr Julian Tenison-Woods, and together they developed plans to provide Catholic education to children especially in rural and poor areas. On 15 August 1867 she took vows as a religious sister within the new community dedicated to St Joseph and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and adopted the name Mary of the Cross. The rule of life of the new community emphasised poverty, dependence on Divine Providence, no private ownership and the openness of the Sisters to go wherever they were needed. In November 1867 Mary's sisters Annie and Lexie joined the new community, by the end of 1867 there were 10 members, and two years later 72 members running 21 schools as well as outreach and welfare centres.

However, misunderstanding dogged the work, and Mary learnt early to remain serene while being misrepresented and humiliated. The Sisters did not fit traditional European models of cloistered life, and Mary was famously excommunicated in Adelaide for nine months from September 1871 until the sentence was lifted in February 1872, and papal authority for the work confirmed in 1873. Nevertheless, the Sisters' system of central government (under the director of their own superior rather than the local bishops) remained controversial. In 1883, in the midst of ongoing tensions, Mary transferred the administrative centre to Sydney. She suffered a stroke in 1901, and although mentally alert was an invalid until her death on 8 August 1909.

[contd...]

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Mary Helen MacKillop, Christian pioneer [...contd]

The widespread publicity around her canonisation in 2010 brought new interest in her life. As the Josephite Sisters continued to remind the public, the conviction that God is to be trusted, that Jesus really is the model of freedom, defined MacKillop's commitments before anything else. See <http://www.marymackillop.org.au/>.

Mary modelled a commitment to 'above all get help in prayer'. Her letters (the bulk of her writing) were often preoccupied with business, but underpinned by faith. She was sustained by her conviction that the human dignity of each person was God-given. Her capacity to speak reverently and carefully even of those who had caused her great pain and damage inspired her Sisters. She was committed to drawing out the best in others, advising in 1871: "Make no reserves with God. Reject no-one. You never know what grace can do."

HYMN – written by Ross Mackinnon, based on some of Mary MacKillop's sayings
Suggested tune: MARYTON (TIS 601)

Remember, we're but travellers here,
urged on by Christ to take our cross.
When this feels hard at times, take heart.
Our courage rises; Christ is near.

And as we go, we trust in God,
in God who helps us in all things.
God gives us strength for what we need,
and courage to stay on the road.

And on the way, how must we choose?
We must let God's great Spirit guide;
do all we can with what we have
and calmly leave the rest to God.

And on the track, when needs are seen,
We must not leave 'til they are met,
for we must teach, more by our deeds
than by our words, as Christ has shown.

Katharine Massam

NOTICES

TOUR OF ORMOND COLLEGE – TODAY

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...

MARK THE WORD

Vicki and Rosemary are seeking contributions for the 2025 SPRING edition of Mark the Word. We are again not proposing a theme for this edition and are open to any topic.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could send these via email to us (vicki.radcliffe@gmail.com or rosemarywearing@gmail.com) no later than **Sunday, 24th August 2025**. Thank you.

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.

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY



MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre

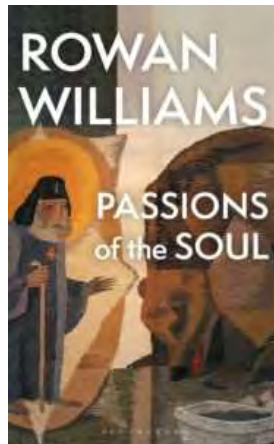
Wesley Conversation #7 - The Ethics of Making Progress
Jenny Macklin, former deputy leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party & Author of *Making Progress: How Good Policy Happens*, will talk about the how and why of good policymaking. Moderator: Daniel Nellor. Thursday August 21, 12.30pm at Wesley Hub, 130 Lonsdale Street.

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 Wednesday August 13 and Friday August 15.

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 any of these dates? The morning is typically 9:00am until Noon, but with enough volunteers we tend to finish earlier.

- **6th August - Wednesday**
- **29th October – Wednesday**

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.

Please reply to this e-mail if you are interested in volunteering with us, or get in contact with Mark Zirnsak : Mark.Zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

| | |
|--|---|
| Guided tour of Ormond College (and visit by OC Master) | TODAY, after morning tea |
| Church Council | August 5, 7.30pm (online) |
| Discussion Groups – Passions of the Soul | Aug 13+ and Aug 15+ |
| Wesley Conversations that Matter | Thu Aug 21, 12.30pm |
| Combined Church Council conversation (MtE and CAN) | August 24 12.00-14.00 NEW |
| Monday Movies at the Nova | Mon Sept 1, 10.00/10.30 TBC NEW |

People to commemorate this week

Mary Helen MacKillop, Christian pioneer

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

Lectionary Readings | 10 August 2025

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

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

www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au