

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 23C | 7 September 2025

(strangely)

there

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 Pachelbel, *O mensch, beweine dein' Sünde groß*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 100 v.7)

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

***Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Happy are they who delight in the Lord,
***who study God's law
day and night.***

Like trees by streams of water,
***in all things
they shall prosper.*** (Psalm 1.2f)

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Prayer of invocation

Hymn Father, we praise you (Tune 246)

1. Father, we praise you, now the night is over,
active and watchful, stand we all before you;
singing we offer prayer and meditation:
thus we adore you.
2. Monarch of all things, fit us for thy mansions;
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
bring us to heaven, where your saints united
joy without ending.
3. All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding
through all creation.

Attrib: Gregory the Great; Tr: Percy Dearmer

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

ForeWord

Word: The Testimony of Scripture

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

John 12:27-36 *When I am lifed up from the earth*

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

Word: In Preaching

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

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

AfterWord: Prayer of Confession

Psalm 1 *Like trees by streams of water*

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.

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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TONE

Happy are those who do not follow the advice | of the wicked,
***or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the | seat of scoffers;***

- ¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice | of the wicked,
***or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the | seat of scoffers;***
- ² but their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate | day and night.

- ³ They are like trees planted by | streams of water,
which yield their fruit | in its season;
...their leaves | do not wither.
In all that they | do, they prosper.

- ⁴ The wicked | are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand | in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation | of the righteous;

- ⁶ for the LORD watches over the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked | will perish. (NRSV)

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!

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 517 Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus (vv1,3,4)

(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 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...



...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 530 Now let us from this table rise

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude D Buxtehude, *Praeludium in G*

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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

Benin

The Benin of today was the site of Dahomey, a prominent West African kingdom that rose in the 15th century on what was known as the Slave Coast, one of the primary supply centres of slaves to the European traders. In 1872 Dahomey became part of French West Africa and the Republic of Benin achieved independence in 1960. A succession of military governments ended in 1972 with the establishment of a government based on Marxist principles. Multi-party democracy was introduced in 1991. The economy of Benin is still largely based on subsistence agriculture. As in most former French colonies, the Catholic Church is the majority church. The Protestant Methodist Church is a member of the WCC. The largest Protestant denomination is the Assemblies of God, and there are several other sizeable Pentecostal and Evangelical churches. A Council of Protestant Evangelical Churches has been in existence, but was no longer functioning in 2005. The Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions, another grouping, is affiliated with the WEA.

Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire)

Before colonization, the coastal area of today's Ivory Coast was settled by groups who migrated from the north to the forest. In the 15th century, French and Portuguese traders explored the area, in search of ivory and slaves. France extended its influence inland in the 19th century, and the territory became a French colony at the Berlin conference in 1884. Ivory Coast achieved its independence in 1960. Under the one party regime of president Houphouët-Boigny, the country maintained close political and economic ties with France. It had one of the most developed economies of sub-Saharan Africa, based on the production and export of cocoa and coffee, and remained stable until the 1990s, when tensions between population groups and regions became manifest. In 2002 a rebellion divided the country in two: the less developed north, and the south where the plantations are concentrated. In 2005, negotiations were still going on to settle the conflict. Christian missions began working in the area in the 19th century. The Catholic Church is the majority church. Most of the Protestant churches are Pentecostal and Evangelical. There are also several indigenous and independent churches. The Protestant Federation was dissolved in 1963. Plans to create a Christian Council had not yet materialized in 2005. A Forum of Religious Confessions, set up in 1997, brings together the Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and African churches. The north of the country is predominantly Muslim.

NOTICES

Next week we will welcome Tom Grayden, the chaplain MtE is supporting at the Southbank campus of Melbourne University, in conjunction with Northcote Uniting Church.

MARK THE EVANGELIST AND CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

In a decision that could lead to greater openings for the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ in our local area, the Church Councils of Mark the Evangelist and Church of All Nations have entered into a conversation regarding the possibility of a shared future. There have been two conversations so far and more are planned. Both of the congregations are part of a Parish Mission and have similar theological cultures. They are located within 2kms of each other and for about 3 years we have been sharing a worship service twice a year and have been participating in book discussion groups.

Our Presbytery of Yarra Yarra is encouraging these sorts of conversations and there are a number of ways of "sharing a future" - such as working on congregational mission projects, combined worship services, joint study groups, sharing ministerial agents, sponsoring or supporting mission activities elsewhere, sharing resources at our own mission agencies, through to a full merger. We have entered into the dialogue with no preconceived assumptions but are trying to be open to the calling of the Spirit. Presbytery staff, Chris Barnett and Nadine Rozario are supporting the conversations.

We will keep you posted on the progress of the discussions.

TRIO CONTÉ | LYREBIRD MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT - SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER , AT 2PM

Dear Lyrebird supporters,
It seems difficult to believe but Spring is apparently just around the corner. Our concert on September 7th features an ensemble new to the Lyrebird Music Society -Trio Conté (violin, cello and piano.) The trio takes its name from Nicolas-Jaques Conté, who is the inventor of the modern pencil, as well as Conté crayons. This doesn't appear to have a direct bearing on the program however, which will include Haydn's "Gypsy" Trio, Songs Without Words by Anne Cawrse and Felix Mendelssohn's second Piano Trio, in C minor. The concert is at Yuma Auditorium as usual, (29 College Crescent in Parkville) at 2pm on Sunday 7th September. We hope you will join us in welcoming Trio Conté, and we look forward to seeing you there. Link for tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1353268>

FAITH AFTER FAITH

Craig publishes weekly on *Faith after Faith*, a Substack site, including Sunday sermons with a bit more commentary, and other material. You can subscribe to receive email updates of recent posts (avoid the pushy paid subscription invitations!).

See faithafterfaith.substack.com for more info, or use the QR image here to check in.

Recent posts include

- Preaching to the Diverted
- Death by Aphorism
- On the sustainable church



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Discussion Groups – Passions of the Soul	Ongoing
Church Council	Tue Sept 9 , 7.30pm (online)
Hotham Mission Board	Sept 18, 3pm @ CTM
Monday Movies at the Nova	Mon Oct 6, Time TBA

People to commemorate this week

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, faithful servant

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

Lectionary Readings | 14 September 2025

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

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

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