

The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 28th June 2020

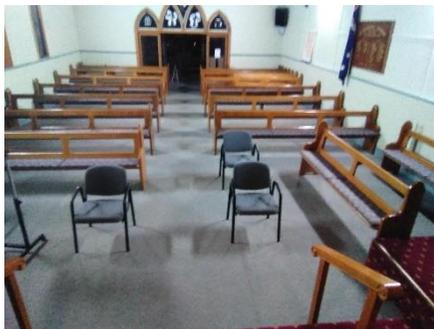
Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to announce that we have a successful candidate for the 2021 Noel Jackson Memorial Bursary at Bishop Druitt College. This is an annual bursary so please keep telling people about it.

When are we re-opening?

An application to reopen Holy Trinity (only), together with a COVIDSafe Plan has been sent to the Bishop. I have not yet received the Bishop's response.

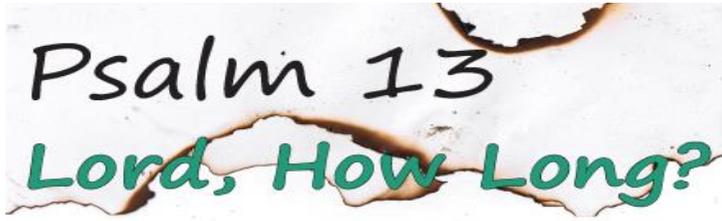
There are still many restrictions and conditions on reopening so we will certainly not be 'back to normal' for quite some time. I have provided a summary copy of these at the end of this Supplement. Please familiarise yourself with these in preparation for when we do open. In addition, there are cleaning requirements that I will need to do before and after the service.



Wednesday Service. If we receive approval to reopen, we are planning to reopen Holy Trinity for the Wednesday Bible Study and communion as soon as possible. Look out for an email on this.

Sunday Service. I have become aware that, given the restrictions and conditions that will apply (see back page) and concern with the spike in positive diagnoses in Victoria, some of you feel that you would prefer to continue with the Sunday Home Worship for the time being. I intend surveying all on our email list to seek a more extensive indication of when you might wish to return and potential attendance.

Rev Clyde



Psalm 13

1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

5 But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

NRSV

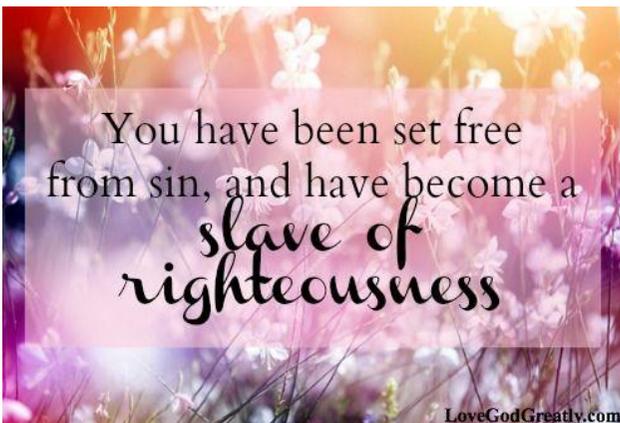
Romans 6:12-23

12 Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13 No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18 and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NRSV



Reflection on Romans 6.12-23 & Psalm 13

In the Psalm for today, Psalm 13, the psalmist cries out in distress to the Lord, “How long, O Lord?” The psalmist is in deep despair and weary from awaiting God’s deliverance. Nevertheless, he maintains his confidence that God will act.

The psalmist is under siege from his enemies and is crying out to God for deliverance from his situation. He is looking for practical help that is not coming. He is questioning whether the close relationship with God that he has enjoyed in the past is no longer so strong.

It’s not quite the same situation that we find ourselves in as we struggle with the COVIDSafe restrictions imposed by our Government. Nevertheless, many of us are also wondering, “How long, O Lord?” “How long will this virus continue to impact us?” And “When will our prayers for deliverance through the discovery of a vaccine be answered?”

How are you responding to this situation? Some Christians around the world see the COVID-19 virus pandemic as being judgement from God - even a sign of the end times – and a call to repent of sinful living. Perhaps if we were in a country where thousands of deaths have occurred, we may also be wondering if this is so. Other people are joining in a chorus of blame and condemnation.

But are these the only way of seeing and responding? At such a time we should be drawing upon the example of a way of living, thinking and praying that Jesus gave us. Jesus spoke about the importance of relationships and neighbours.

Many people have rediscovered the importance of relationship during their isolation. Many have rediscovered the importance of family. Some have rediscovered their neighbours and the importance of

maintaining good relationships with them. Staying connected with our family and our neighbours is so important for wellbeing.

Staying connected to God is also important. Many people have asked me whether the closure of the churches is causing people to drift away from the habit of worship. The answer to this will be revealed when we reopen the churches.

Perhaps we do need to re-examine our relationship with God and how we are living as Christians.

In the Romans 6:12-23 passage, Paul is answering a question on how to live as a Christian that arose out of the doctrine of justification by faith alone - '*Should we sin (i.e. go on sinning) because we are not under law but under grace?*' (v.15).

The life governed by sin (or as Paul expresses it, enslaved to sin) is a life whereby sinful passions, desires and self-indulgences rule our actions and thoughts. This leaves us centred on ourselves and results in a life cut-off from God.

Earlier in the Chapter, Paul had explained that having been united in baptism with Christ in his death and resurrection we have become different people - our old self-centred nature has been put to death and we have been raised to a new life in Christ - freed from sin. To go on sinning would be incompatible with this Christian reality.

Paul then rephrases his argument in terms of what we have done, rather than what God has done. This is our conversion, an act of self-surrender, in which we turn from sin to God.

Self-surrender leads inevitably to slavery, and slavery demands a total, radical, exclusive obedience. As Jesus said, no one can be the

slave of two masters. Having offered ourselves to God, we have committed ourselves to live in accordance with his desire and intention for us.

We are called to live a life of righteousness and holiness, entering into the life of mutual love and relationship that we see exemplified between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus encourages us through his example and his teachings. The Holy Spirit empowers us in this life and enables our spirit to know the love of God as revealed through our relationships and God's creation. This life is a turning outward - to live not for self, but for God and neighbour.

Amen.



Collect

O God,
 your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his
 name will not lose their reward:
 open our hearts to the needs of your children,
 and in all things make us obedient to your will,
 so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift,
 eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The next Home Supplement

Will be Sunday 5th July
 – Fifth Sunday after
 Pentecost.
 Keep an eye on your
 email on Thursday.

COVIDSafe Conditions of Entry

When we reopen the church, the following conditions of entry, which we are all obliged to comply with, will apply:

- Based on the 4 square metre rule, the maximum number of worshippers can be 23. Physical distancing from each other of 1.5 metres must be maintained within the church (except for family members).

- David Ainsworth & Pamela Langford are appointed as COVIDSafe Church Wardens and will record all attendees as you arrive.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the door. Please use it before entry, and again as you leave.
- An Offertory Plate will be placed at the door. The plate will not be passed.
- There is to be no physical greetings or exchanges such as handshakes or hugs, including sharing of the Peace.
- Pews have been rearranged – long pews can have one person at each end and one in the middle. A couple may sit together, but no more than one couple per pew. Short pews can seat one person at each end (or one couple and one person).
- Singing is not permitted. We will either have a solo performer to listen to, or DVDs with projected words for times of reflection.
- No Prayer Books (or Hymn books) will be available – the entire service will be projected. You may bring your own copy of the APBA if you wish.
- Communion will be bread only. Communicants will stay seated and the priest will bring the bread to you.
- After the service, the church is to be vacated immediately, keeping the 1.5 m distance rule. No after service refreshments will be available and you are requested not to gather outside without maintaining 1.5 m distancing.