

The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, 25th October 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Nambucca Valley LLM Training. On Wed 21, I had pleasure in meeting with all of the ten Nambucca Valley LLMs (4 from Macksville, 6 from Nambucca Heads) to train them in Baptism Preparation. This was part of the formation of the new team for 2021. We had a pleasant time together and I trust you will have an opportunity to meet the LLMs from Nambucca Heads very soon.

All Saints, Stuarts Point has been granted a two-year deferment of the intention to close and sell the church. This was passed by Synod under *Resolution 26/20: Restructuring for Mission and Ministry*. This deferment was recommended by Bishop-in-Council in recognition of the engagement with the community that is being achieved through the support of the Stuarts Point Art House.

The Art House continues to gain popularity and workshop enrolments are increasing. They conducted a successful five-day School Holiday Program. They have applied for two Government grants (with support from myself) to assist with costs. I am currently investigating ideas for us to further engage with the Stuarts Point Art House.

These include:

1. Craft Skills to Share Group at All Saints
2. Statement from the Heart discussion/study group (2021)
3. Singing Group to visit and sing gospel to church congregations.
4. Intergen (Intergenerational) club – e.g. Kids with senior citizens story-telling, skills exchange.
5. Before and After School Care
6. Welfare support from Anglicare North Coast.

Be blessed and keep safe,

Rev Clyde



Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17

- ¹ Lord, you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.
- ² Before the mountains were born
or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.
- ³ You turn us back into dust:
saying ‘Return to dust, O children of Adam.’
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday passing:
or like one watch of the night.
- ⁵ You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;
- ⁶ In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.
- ¹³ Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?:
take pity on your servants.
- ¹⁴ O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.
- ¹⁵ Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.
- ¹⁶ Show your servants your work:
and let their children see your glory.
- ¹⁷ May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: “‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’ ⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² ‘What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ ‘The son of David,’ they replied. ⁴³ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him “Lord”? For he says , ⁴⁴ “‘The Lord said to my Lord : ‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’”’ ⁴⁵ If then David calls him “Lord”, how can he be his son?’ ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Reflection on Matthew 22:34-46

Once again, Jesus has a confrontation with religious leaders attempting to trick him. This incident is really the culmination of the recorded debates between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. “Which commandment in the law is the greatest?” they asked.

But Jesus again avoided their schemes and emphasised the love of God and love of neighbour summarized in the entire law. Then Jesus concluded this discussion by asking a question of the leaders that summarised his claim to be the expected Messiah, the son of David - but more importantly, the Son of God who came to bring salvation to the world.

Jesus' interrogators believed that their salvation depended upon how well they kept the law contained in the Torah. They lived by the letter of the law, turning God's word into rules by which they rigidly lived – and by which they judged others. And now in these debates they were using the law to try to trick and condemn Jesus.

But Jesus lives by the Spirit. He not only knows God's Word, but he also knows God's heart. So he responds by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. '*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind*'; and '*Love your neighbour as yourself*.'

If these two commandments summarise the law that had to be obeyed to achieve eternal life, then the Pharisees, and in fact every person, is just not going to make it! We all struggle to love God '*with all our heart, soul and mind*' - our entire being (including me). And we all struggle to love our neighbour as Jesus loves us. We confess this failure each Sunday in our liturgy.

The fact is that nobody can possibly merit eternal life through their own efforts. We simply cannot do it without Jesus! The Pharisees should have seen the lesson in this - it is only by the grace of God and receiving the forgiveness available through Jesus' death on the cross that we can achieve eternal life. Jesus was the Messiah and is our Saviour.

Jesus then asked the leaders the question which summarised the claims that he had been making about himself in the parables and debates. '*What do you think of the Messiah?*' '*Whose son is he?*'

The reply given by the Pharisees was the generally accepted view in Judaism. They said to him, "*The son of David.*" Their expectation of the Messiah was that he was to be primarily a political deliverer - a descendant of David's line who would arise, gather the people in

revolt, throw off the Roman yoke and restore independence and theocracy to the Jewish nation.

But Jesus wanted them to think a little bit deeper than that. Yes, the Messiah is born into the Davidic line; but he is more than that. He is also the Son of God.

So, Jesus asked a further question drawn from Psalm 110:1 which the Jewish leaders accepted as being both Davidic and messianic: '*How is it then that David calls the Messiah "Lord"?*' In Psalm 110:1 David had written, '*The Lord (ie God) says to my Lord (ie the Messiah) ...*' etc. So, how can he be David's son if he is David's Lord?

Clearly, the 'son of David' is an inadequate title for the Messiah – he is the 'Son of God'. As such, he is David's, and your and my, Lord.

And the implication of Jesus being our Lord is that we must acknowledge his authority over us and follow him as disciples.

However, most of the Jewish religious leaders were blind to the message that Jesus was holding out to them. Jesus is the Son of God, and he came to be Saviour and Lord for all people. He came bringing salvation through the grace and love of God. It is through love that we are saved – not through a rigid application of the law. In fact, without love all laws become either meaningless or dangerous.

As we respond to God's love, and seek to live as disciples of Christ, we should look to Jesus for an example of how to live as his followers. His example is one of unconditional love, accepting all people who come to him.

Sadly, some Christians have used the Bible, to judge, exclude and even to destroy - just as the Pharisees were doing. Many honest seekers after Jesus have been driven away from faith through a

religious application of the law as a test by those Christians who would wish to live by the letter of the law as the Pharisees did.

Jesus encourages us to live, not by the letter of the law, but by the Spirit; not judging, excluding, and condemning others, but by following Jesus' example and extending God's love to all people. Salvation is offered to all through God's grace; but of course, we have a choice of whether to receive it or reject it.

And those who accept the salvation available through God's love and grace, and acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Saviour, are then called to live as his disciples, looking to Jesus' example in how to live our own lives, and called to extend God's love to others.

Amen.



Collect

O God,
 whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
 stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
 and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
 so that we may love you with our whole being,
 and our neighbours as ourselves;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers 25th October 2020 – Thank you Geoff Minett.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH- Macksville

The Congregation's response is *Lord in your Mercy* **Hear our prayer.**

Let us Pray:

Almighty God your son Jesus Christ has promised that you will *hear us*, when we ask in faith: to receive the prayers we offer.

We pray for the world

The world is in turmoil, shock and panic as regards the spread of Covid 19, throughout many countries and the rise in death toll, especially in the USA, Europe and England

It reminds us that viruses have been around a long time with Spanish influenza a rampant epidemic in 1919 world-wide including Australia with up to 150 million people dying

We pray for your assistance in eradicating the pernicious disease

Lord in your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Nation:

We give thanks and Pray for our Queen Elizabeth, her representatives in the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor General the Honourable David Hurley, and the Governor of NSW Her Excellency Margaret Beazley,

WE especially pray for the Prime Minister Scott Morrison in the Federal Parliament, our Premier of NSW Gladys Berejiklian, as they have been leaders in the community, together with the Health Authorities in the fight against this insidious disease.

Guide with your wisdom and power the above-mentioned leaders who have the responsibility and authority of this Nation and State incorporating the troubled world we live in so that this insidious disease may be broken so that, everyone may live in peace and in mutual trust sharing with justice the abundance and resources that Australia and the world has to offer.

Lord in your Mercy-**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the Nambucca Valley

Lord, we offer our prayers for all people in the Nambucca Valley, especially those people who have lost their employment, their mental, financial and frustration period of despair.

WE especially pray that our Nambucca Valley Council district that we have been Covid 19 free so far.

We pray for the Church

We give thanks for the good news of salvation for all people.

Strengthen us for our work of the clergy, our Bishop Martin of Grafton Diocese, and our Rector Rev. Clyde and his wife Linda to proclaim the gospel in service, word and sacrament within and without Macksville Parish Church's Congregation.

Rev Clyde in his continuing work in steering the proposed mergers in the diocese. Send out the light of your gospel to them, so those who minister amongst us, bishops, priests, deacons, LLMs and SRE teachers to commend your truth and justice by their example and teaching

May they gladly receive and obey your word

WE acknowledge those sick with illness and adversities, appearing in the Holy Trinity Church Pew Sheet, at their request, and remember and pray for them accordingly

Lord in your Mercy -Hear our prayer

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, you 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 a time of trial

And deliver us from evil

For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

Now and forever.

AMEN