



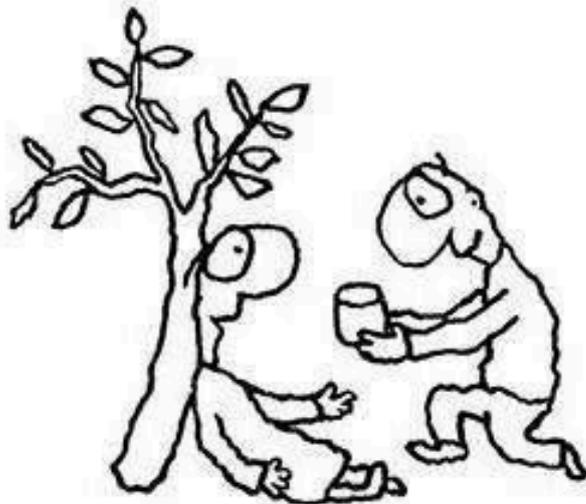
St George's Anglican Church, Malvern

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Love one another and you will be happy.

It's as simple and difficult as that.

There is no other way.



February 20, 2022

8:00 a.m.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The people stand as a bell is rung

President: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation in suitable words, followed by a sentence of Scripture.

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We say together:

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

God of compassion,
keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son,
who prayed even for his enemies.
In our words and deeds
help us to be like him, through whom we pray,
Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book Genesis:

Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?'
But his brothers could not answer him,
so dismayed were they at his presence.
Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.'
And they came closer.
He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves,
because you sold me here;
for God sent me before you to preserve life.
For the famine has been in the land these two years;
and there are five more years in which there will be neither
ploughing nor harvest.
God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth,
and to keep alive for you many survivors.
So it was not you who sent me here, but God;
he has made me a father to Pharaoh,

and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him,
 “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt;
 come down to me, do not delay.
 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me,
 you and your children and your children’s children,
 as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
 I will provide for you there—
 since there are five more years of famine to come—
 so that you and your household, and all that you have,
 will not come to poverty.”....
 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them;
 and after that his brothers talked with him.

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37

Response: The Lord is our strength in time of trouble.

1. Do not vie with the wicked: or envy those that do wrong.
2. For they will soon wither like the grass:
and fade away like the green leaf.
3. Trust in the Lord and do good:
and you shall dwell in the land and feed in safe pastures. **R.**
4. Let the Lord be your delight:
and he will grant you your heart’s desire.
5. Commit your way to the Lord: trust him, and he will act.
6. He will make your righteousness shine as clear as the light:
and your innocence as the noonday. **R.**
7. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him:
do not be vexed when someone prospers,
when they put their evil purposes to work.
8. Let go of anger and abandon wrath:
let not envy move you to do evil.

9. For the wicked shall be cut down:
but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land. **R.**
10. In a little while the ungodly shall be no more:
you will look for them in their place, but they will not be found.
11. But the meek shall possess the land:
and enjoy abundance of peace. **R.**
40. Deliverance for the righteous shall come from the Lord:
he is their strength in time of trouble.
41. The Lord will help and deliver them:
he will save them from the ungodly and deliver them,
because they come to him for refuge. **R.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the church in Corinth:

But someone will ask,
'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?'
Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.
And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be,
but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.
But God gives it a body as he has chosen,
and to each kind of seed its own body.
Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings,
another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.
There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies,
but the glory of the heavenly is one thing,
and that of the earthly is another.
There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon,
and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.
So it is with the resurrection of the dead.
What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.
It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory.
It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.
It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.
If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.
Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being';
the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical,
and then the spiritual.
The first man was from the earth, a man of dust;
the second man is from heaven.
As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust;
and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.
Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust,
we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this:
flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:35–50

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus continued teaching the disciples and the crowds and said:

“I say to you that listen, Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.

If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also;
and from anyone who takes away your coat
do not withhold even your shirt.

Give to everyone who begs from you;
and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.
Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

For even sinners love those who love them.

If you do good to those who do good to you,

what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,
what credit is that to you?
Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
But love your enemies, do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return.
Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High;
for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
'Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Luke 6:27–38

For the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

After the sermon, silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

All stand

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Prayers are offered for the world, the Church, for our local community, those sick or “in any other adversity”, and we remember the faithful departed.

For the Anglican Church

We pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East; Ministry to the Defence Force; Melbourne Grammar School; City on a Hill Melbourne; 40th Anniversary of Tamil Christian Congregation of Victoria.

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you. We pray for Ann, Sam, Ron, Coral, David, Tony, Paul, Christine, Lei and her family, Keith, Erica, Peter, Leon, Josh, Vincent, John, Margaret, Andrew, Joan, Thea, John, Brian, Lloyd, Jackie and Barry, John, George, Ella, David, Nicoll and Jill and others we mention before God in the silence of our hearts.

For the Faithful Departed

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Stanford Ames, Wylie Ames, Barbara Edith Anthonisz, Mariannus (Mac) Cuming, Thomas Duncan, Mary Jean Emery, Victor Field, Adrian Swan, Alexander Wakefield, Kit Watling, Peter Willers.

The President concludes

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence is kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Members of the congregation greet one another in an appropriate way.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The President offers prayers over the gifts, to which the people respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The President then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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 President continues with a prayer appropriate to the season, concluding with:

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy. Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The President continues the prayer until the deacon says:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The President continues the prayer, which concludes:

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

A brief silence is kept.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President breaks the bread, the following is said:

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

We say together:

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion is distributed.

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand

The President offers a prayer, concluding with:

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Please sit for notices.

All stand.

THE BLESSING

The President pronounces a blessing, to which all respond

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Exodus 34:29–35
2 Corinthians 3:12–4.2

Psalm 99
Luke 9:28–43

REFLECTION ON THE LECTIONS

Journeying on in Faith ... The Golden v Platinum Rule.

To understand the part of Joseph's story we read this week, we are wise to consider his whole story told in Genesis chapters 37 and 39-50. Reading these chapters makes it clear that Joseph was someone "to be reckoned with," someone not to take lightly.

From the outset, Joseph dreams big. So big, his dreams put him at odds with his eleven brothers, and with his father, Jacob. Visions that his entire family would bow down to him prove too much for the jealous brothers, even for the father whose favourite he was.

Fast forward, and Joseph's dream becomes reality. At the time of this passage, Joseph is now second only to the Pharaoh himself. The path to this unexpected blessing was not an easy one. He faced false accusations and was put in prison. But after interpreting the dreams of a baker and a cupbearer, he was moved from prison to the palace. His wisdom interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, and his gift for administration, made Egypt the "breadbasket of the world" during a seven-year famine.

Each generation of Israel's founding family, Abraham (Sarah and Hagar), Isaac (Rebekah), Jacob (Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah), found a way to resolve the dysfunction that tore them apart. And in this passage, we read of Joseph reconciling with his brothers, despite their malevolent attempt to kill him and their corrupt deal to sell him off to the Ishmaelites. In Joseph's story reconciliation is front and centre, a major part of the drama.

The need for reconciliation is as necessary in today's world as it was in Joseph's day. In a world filled with so much pain and division, may we never cease to seek, and do the work, to do our part, until reconciliation is a very present reality for one and all.

The words of Jesus as recorded in Luke's Gospel as he continues teaching on the 'Level Place' are quite familiar to us. Indeed, in hospital ministry I have heard many people, both of faith and no faith, indicate that this verse, verse 31 of chapter 6, "*Do to others as you would have them do to you*", to be the code by which they live their lives. This phrase is common to many faiths around the world.

So how might we as Christians take this instruction from Jesus a step further? If we look at the earlier verses Jesus also teaches, "Listen ... Love your enemies ... Do good to those who hate you ... Bless those who curse you ... Pray for those who abuse you ... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful ... Do not judge ... Do not condemn ..."

Every single person is unique [even identical twins], and we are all our own person. We have each had different life experiences, backgrounds, abilities, disabilities, likes and dislikes. We are all individual, special and diverse ... but we are all also made in the image of God and loved and respected by God. As no two people are actually the same, it stands to reason that no two people really want to be treated the same!

I would like to suggest that the 'Platinum Rule', "*Treat others the way they wish to be treated, and uphold the same respect for your own feelings*" might be a way of more deeply expressing the qualities of Love that Jesus was espousing ... a way of showing a deeper respect, thoughtfulness, empathy and the compassion that puts others specific needs and ways they would prefer to be treated ahead of our own ideas or others needs.

Although this might sound like 'common sense' I suspect it is not as common as you might think! This Rule implies that we need to recognize that our support of, or care for, another is not so much about what we want to give, but is more about what the other would prefer to receive.

As we 'Journey on in Faith' from this point in time, we are each at different stages of the journey. Some, like Levi, newly born into the Church of God today, are just starting their journey. In recent weeks, we have celebrated those who, for more than 150 years, have worshiped and journeyed in faith ahead of us in this place and community. Today, we all face change once again, but we have a God who is faithful and calls us on, despite the changes, to, moment by moment, seek to listen and discern, by faith, God's wisdom and direction as we serve God, caring with love and deep respect for ourselves, each other and those in the places we find ourselves.

May the Lord bless you and be with you in this mission,
Brenda

NOTICES

Lenten Study Groups will be offered again this year, on Wednesday evening, via Zoom, or on Thursday morning, following the Eucharist. The book for study is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2019, *Say it to God*, by Luigi Gioia, a Benedictine monk and academic. The studies will aim to 'freshen the practice of prayer'. Books are available from Gregory today and next Sunday, or from Nisha during the week. Each one costs \$21.

Anglican Identity in a Global Context

Trinity College Theological School is offering a seminar which looks at what might be entailed in being and living as a genuinely broad church, which is much more varied than its historical roots in the Church of England. It will ask which doctrines and practices are negotiable (or not), and how a variety of interpretive approaches to Scripture, tradition and reason might be held in tension.

Led by the Revd Dr Fergus King, Trinity College Theological School, Professor Charlotte Methuen, University of Glasgow (joining remotely), and the Most Revd Maimbo Mndolwa, Primate of the Anglican Church of Tanzania (joining remotely).

When: **Next** Saturday 26 February 2022, 9.30am–3.30pm
Trinity College, Parkville
\$50 | \$35 concession (pensioners and theological students)

For more information and to register go to www.trybooking.com/BVMVD or email: theologyevents@trinity.edu.au or call 03 9348 7127.

Message from Elover Bittanga

Many of you will recall the 6 weeks in 2017 that Elover spent with us as a theological student. Her training has spanned about 10-11 years and from my understanding working as a volunteer in the Philippines for nearly 2 decades, this is about average before becoming an ordained priest. They live-in for theological training, minimum 4 years, effectively 7 days per week early morning until late in the night. This includes spending time on the streets living and ministering to the poor. Once graduated, they are sent into the mission field and then becoming a Deacon, given a parish and remote stations to perform their clerical duties. The town, Balbalasang is where she was brought up and is the location of the secondary school in the far North I have been connected to for many years.

Simon Dickie

I am sending you this message to update you the tentative schedule of my upcoming Ordination to the Priesthood. God willing we would be having our ordination in May in Balbalasang. The date is not yet specific because we still have to do some tests, that is the Psychiatric and Medical exam. May I then ask for your prayers in this matter. Thank you and God Bless and may you have good health always.

Deacon Elover

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Prayer</u> in Chapel and by	<u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below)
Monday, 21 February	Psalms 121; 122; 123 Jeremiah 44:1–14 2 Timothy 1:1–14	Psalms 119:129–152 Genesis 31:1–21 Luke 7:24–35
Tuesday, 22 February	Psalms 118:1–18 Jeremiah 44:15–30 2 Timothy 1:15–2:14	Psalms 118:19–29; 120 Genesis 31:22–42 Luke 7:36–50
Wednesday, 23 February <i>Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, Martyr</i>	Psalms 124; 125; 126 Jeremiah 45:1–46:2 2 Timothy 2:15–26	Psalms 127; 128; 129 Genesis 31:43–32:12 Luke 8:1–8
Reflections on the Lections	Via Zoom: see details below	
Thursday, 24 February <i>Matthias, Apostle & Martyr</i>	Psalms 80 Isaiah 66:1–4 Matthew 7:15–27	Psalms 33 1 Samuel 1:21–28 1 Corinthians 4:1–13
Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m.	Acts 1:14–17, 20–26; Ps. 113;	Philippians 3:13–21; John 15:9–17
Friday, 25 February	Psalms 135 Jeremiah 46:27–47:4 2 Timothy 3:10–17	Psalms 136 Genesis 33 Luke 8:19–25
Saturday, 26 February	Psalms 137; 138 Jeremiah 48:1–13 2 Timothy 4	Psalms 139 Genesis 34 Luke 8:26–39
Next Sunday, 27 February Eighth after Epiphany	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist & Meditation

Morning Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRI dm l XWDQ4Zz09>

9:00 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Evening Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRI dm l XWDQ4Zz09>

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Reflections on the Lections

Meeting ID: 926 3986 2120; Passcode: 551393

<https://zoom.us/j/92639862120?pwd=dkpiSX dMa0VvZnVUYm5hUWFzWGcydz09>

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, 23 February