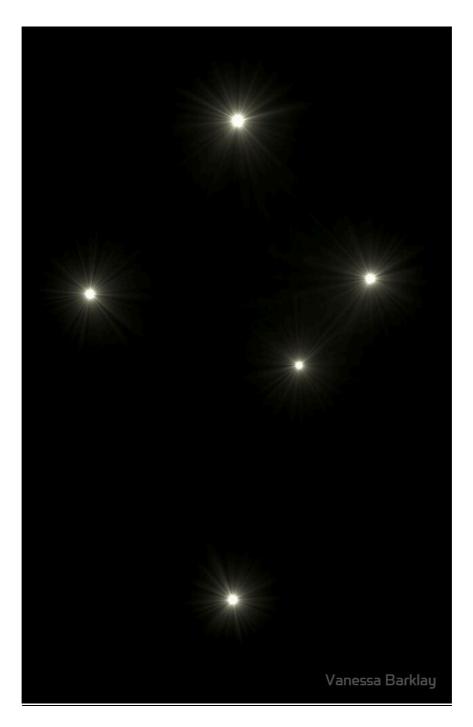


Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 29 January 2023

Liturgical Commemoration of Australia Day



The Southern Cross – a sign for all in this land

A Reflection

Today, as every Sunday, on the final page of our Order of Service are these words:

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.

Today, we will use a version of those words at the beginning of our service. Sometimes, week by week, it is easy to notice these words (though easier still *not* to notice them) each week, and pass on without absorbing what they say and the implications they have. We can, perhaps, dismiss such 'acknowledgements of country' as a piece of 'virtue signalling' (as the phrase is – though I still can't quite fathom why 'signalling virtue' is something to be sneered at; acknowledging that practising virtue would be better than simply 'signalling' it!)

The final word of the acknowledgement of country is 'reconciliation'. That is a word which is at the heart of the Christian gospel: week by week we meet to give thanks to God that, in Christ and by the power of the Spirit, we have been reconciled to God. At the end of each liturgy, we are bidden: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." A significant element to that bidding is to spread the gospel and peace of love and reconciliation. We 'spread' that message chiefly by what we do: how we show love to all created in God's image, acknowledging that, with us and by the action of God, all things are reconciled to God.

For Australians, for all who live in this land, a significant part of 'reconciliation' must be with those who originally inhabited this land – lived in it for at least 60,000 years – and who are representatives of the oldest and longest living culture in the world. I suggest that this is a crucial (the word is chosen deliberately) part of what it is to be a Christian in Australia. We are called to 'respect' those who have been here for millenia, acknowledge – and learn from – their spiritual relationship with this corner of God's creation, and work to be reconciled.

Our faith teaches us that 'reconciliation', though already achieved by God, is made present to us through repentance – a confession of what has been done wrong, and a request for forgiveness. Each of us must reflect that, while we may never, personally, have done wrong to any Indigenous Australians, our national structures and all that we treasure have been built, fundamentally, on what was taken. Of course, no one can deny the extraordinary achievements that have occurred in the years since the establishment of the British colonies, and the formation of the federation and Commonwealth of Australia. These should be celebrated, and we should give thanks for them. But we need also to remember at what cost they have come – to all involved.

At every Christian eucharist, we repent of all our sins, of all we have done wrong; we also rejoice in what has been done – the miracle of God's reconciling. The Cross of the night sky in this Great Southern Land marks this. Let us live its reconciling message: as individuals, as a church, as a nation.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We stand to sing the following hymn:

- Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand, where sun turns to gold the grass of the land, let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell their joy in the One who made everything well.
- 2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm, where green things grow lush and oceans are warm, let every sea-creature and tropical bird exult in the light of the life-giving Word.
- 3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain, where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain, let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.
- 4. Now people of faith, come gather around with songs to be shared, for blessings abound! Australians, whatever your culture or race, come lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (1956–) Music: 'Hanover' melody prob. by William Croft (1678–1727)

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, then this formal welcome is read:

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation, traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet, whose culture and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, acknowledging their continuing connexion to Country.

We honour the abiding legacy of these ancestors,

who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation. We pray that we may walk together on the path to reconciliation.

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:

Bountiful God, we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land:

a land of despair and hope,

a land of wealth and abundant harvests,

a land of fire, drought and flood;

we give thanks for those who nurtured this land for millenia beyond counting, and those who came to find a home of peace and hope.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land

and bring forgiveness, reconciliation and an end to all injustice;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:5-14a

A reading from the book Deuteronomy:

Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the LORD your God disciplines you. Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God

for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God,

by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes,

which I am commanding you today.

When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied,

and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God....

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

Psalm 125

Response: The Lord stands about his people for ever.

- 1. Those who put their trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion: which cannot be shaken, but endures for ever.
- 2. As the mountains stand about Jerusalem, so stands the Lord about his people: from this time forward for evermore.
- 3. For the sceptre of wickedness shall have no sway over the land apportioned to the righteous: lest the righteous set their hands to do evil.
- 4. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good: to those who are upright in heart.
- 5. As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, let the Lord lead them away with the evildoers: and in Israel let there be peace.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8-16

R.

R.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself by faith, received power to conceive, even when she was too old, because she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from these people, though they were as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had

left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;

and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you

and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,

for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

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

All sit

The Sermon

Silence is kept

All stand

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

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

For the Anglican Church

The Church of Pakistan; The Anglican Church of Australia; St John's, Camberwell; St Mark's, Dromana; Archdeaconry of Maroondah

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you especially: Ann; Anne; Christina; Coral; Dorothy; Erica and Keith; Joan; John; John; Manci; Margaret; Peter; Ron; Tom; +John Parkes; +John Stewart; Elizabeth and the Cuming family as they grieve.

For the Faithful Departed

Those who have died recently: Bruce Cuming; and those anniversary of death occurs this week: Alan Baxter (whose anniversary occurs today); Eric Angliss, Charlotte Bayley, Robin Francis Martin Brown, Betty Dowsey, Constance Francis, Maxwell Glover, Frank Hansen, Peter Jackson, Caroline Leonard, Ethel Manning, Grace Martin, Mary Moline, Lyndsay Nettlefold, Valentine Price, Louise Willsmore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations, and in the Cross that fills the night skies of this Great Southern Land.

Silence is kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins of ignorance, prejudice and complacency in penitence and faith, confident of 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 President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond **Amen.**

All stand

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.

We greet one another with an appropriate sign of God's peace.

We sing the following hymn, as the table is prepared:

- Blest are the pure in heart, For they shall see our God, The secret of the Lord is theirs, Their soul is Christ's abode.
- The Lord, who left the heavens Our life and peace to bring, To dwell in lowliness on earth, Our pattern and our King;
- Still to the lowly soul He doth himself impart, And for his dwelling and his throne Chooseth the pure in heart.
- Lord, we thy presence seek; May ours this blessing be:
 Give us a pure and lowly heart, A temple meet for thee.

Words: John Keble (1792–1866), et al Music: 'Franconia, W. H. Havergal (1793–1870)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set on the altar and the President offers this prayer:

Generous God of Holy Dreaming, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **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.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise, be yours now and always, Lord of every time and place, God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the dawn of creation your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land: you spoke and the gum tree grew. In the vast desert and dense forest and in cities at the waters' edge, creation sings your praise. Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

In the fullness of time you revealed your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us. When Jesus hung upon the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed, the refugees.

We give you thanks that in him you have revealed to us your presence in the vastness of this land, your love in its fruitfulness, and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life. The sunrise of your Son colours the earth anew, and bathes it in glorious hope.

And so, with angels and archangels, with people from every nation, country, tribe and language, and with the Church throughout the ages, 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.

Merciful Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in obedience to our Saviour Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may be partakers of his body and blood, and be made one with him, with each other, and with all who set foot on this country, in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament, renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

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

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:

As this broken bread was once many grains which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

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.

All are invited to receive the sacrament.

During Communion, the choir sings the following anthem:

I For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. 3 For the joy of human love brother, sister, parent child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, 4 For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heaven:

> Words: F. S. Pierpoint (1835–1917) Music: John Rutter (1945–)

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand and the President prays:

God of Holy Dreaming, we thank you for this sacred meal we share together on this day of mixed emotions; a meal that brings the spirit and reality of Christ into our hearts and brings us closer to you and closer to each other. May our lives be lit up by your love, and may your love light up others through us.

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.

- Almighty God, lift up our eyes; inspire us all with visions brave; from mountain heights' grey driven skies, to cities hemmed with sunlit wave, from bushlands green to desert plain, recall us to your truth again.
- We do not seek the power, O Lord, to wing swift death with greater speed; but love, to be your love's reward, your love, to match our spirit's need – grant this; but human wrath repeal, and all the troubled peoples heal.
- Let not our land a tyrant know, nor shackled freedom give us shame; strongholds of selfishness o'erthrow: God, light in us your Spirit's flame – now fire this nation's heart and will your mighty purpose to fulfil.

Words: William Courtenay Saunders Johnson (1907–87) alt. Music: 'Melita', John Bacchus Dykes (1823–76)

THE BLESSING

Life is short;

we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of the One who made us and loves us and goes before us be upon you and all those whom you love, this day and always in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

National Anthem for Australia

Australians all let us rejoice, For we are one and free; We've golden soil and wealth for toil; Our home is girt by sea; Our land abounds in nature's gifts Of beauty rich and rare; In history's page, let every stage Advance Australia Fair. In joyful strains then let us sing: Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross We'll toil with hearts and hands To make this Commonwealth of ours Renowned of all the lands; For those who've come across the seas We've boundless plains to share; With courage let us all combine To Advance Australia Fair. In joyful strains then let us sing: Advance Australia Fair.

Go, walk gently on country, learning to love and serve our God. In the name of Christ. Amen.

We look forward to sharing time together over lunch under the trees in the garden.

NOTICES

Thanks to all those, ably led by Ewan and Sandra Morgan, who set up for this morning's liturgy and for the lunch to follow.

A reminder: on Saturday, February 4 there will be a service of Ordination at St Paul's Cathedral at 10:30 a.m., at which our (soon-to-be) Assistant Curate, Dr Aaron Ghiloni will be made a deacon through the laying on of hands by the Archbishop. Pray for him as he undertakes his retreat from Wednesday afternoon, and for all who will also be on retreat at that time; and for the retreat leader, The Reverend Christine Barren.

There is a 'post-ordination party' in the Parish Centre following that service. A reminder that any last minute attenders at that should, for catering purposes, give their names to Judy Mallinson as soon as possible, and certainly by Wednesday morning of this week.

Next Sunday, February 5 is the first in the parish for Dr Aaron. We will welcome him liturgically at both the 8.00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. At the 10:00 a.m., we will also commission our new Director of Music, Tom Baldwin; the Wardens, Parish Council and Incumbency Committee; and members of Aaron's Field Committee. There will also be an opportunity to welcome Aaron and Jodie, and Tom, over a special morning tea following the 10:00 a.m. service. Any additional offerings for that morning tea will be gratefully received – please confirm with Sandra Morgan.

Lenten Study

There will be another book available for Lenten Studies this year; and at least two occasions on which those studies will take place. Please speak with (or email) the Vicar in the coming week if you are

(a) interested in participating in a Lenten Study; and/or

(b) leading a Lenten Study

Scripture Readings next week

5[™] SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (SEPTUAGESIMA)

Isaiah 58:1–12 I Corinthians 2:1–13 Psalm 112 Luke 5:13–20

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Day	Morning Prayer in Chapel and by	<u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below)
Monday, 30 January Charles I, King of England	Psalms 54; 55:1–12 Genesis 13 Luke 1:1–12	Psalm 55:13–28 Jeremiah 8:4–17 James 2:1–13
Tuesday, 31 January	Psalm 59 Genesis 19:12–38 Luke 2:8–21	Psalms 58; 79 Jeremiah 13:1–17 Philippians 1:12–20
Wednesday, I February	Psalm 74 Genesis 20 Luke 2:41–52	Psalm 122; 123 Exodus 13:1–2, 11–14 Hebrews 10:1–10
Thursday, 2 February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas	Psalm 8 I Samuel I:1–20 Galatians 3:28–4:7	Psalm 48 I Samuel I:21–28 John 2:13–21
Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m.	Malachi 3:1–4; Ps. 84;	Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40
Friday, 3 February First Anglican Service at Sydney Cove	Psalm 78:16–38 Genesis 22:1–24 Luke 3:15–22	Psalm 78:39–70 Jeremiah 14:17–15:9 Philippians 2:12–18
Saturday, 4 February Anskar, Missionary Bishop in Sweden	Psalm 80 Genesis23 Luke 3:23–38	Psalm 81 Jeremiah 15:10–21 Philippians 2:19–30
N.B. Ordination at St Paul's Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.		
Next Sunday, 5 February Fifth after Epiphany	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist & Meditation

Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283 https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWR1dm1XWDQ4Zz09

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283 https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09

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The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach Phone: Email: Day off:

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ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Dr Aaron Ghiloni (from Sunday, February 5) Phone: Email: curate@stgeorgesmalvern.org

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The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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WARDENS

Judy Mallinson Ravi Renjen Meg Winter 0414 752 957 0412 399 897

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.





Your Presence, O Lord, endures as the Rock at the heart of our land.