



Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 25th Sunday

As we belong to the day, let us put on faith ...

Pentecost Growth

Acknowledgement of Country

As we gather in the presence of God, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet. In his wisdom and love, our heavenly Father entrusted this estate to the stewardship of the Awabakal people. As we continue to learn to live together on these ancestral lands, we acknowledge and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, and pray that God will unite us all in knowledge of his Son, in whom all things were created, in heaven and on earth, whether visible or invisible – for all things have been created through him and for him.

Cantor: Today we finish our series in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians where he calls us, as God's holy people, to live as children of the kingdom of light. We are so pleased you decided to join our service today. We also welcome Reverend Andrew Allan-Johns, who is the Chair of the international Anglican Mission agency, Sharing of Ministries Abroad as he visits Australia. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Song | We have come into His House

We have come into His house
and gathered in His name
to worship Him. *[Repeat x 2]*

We have come into His house
and gathered in His name to
worship Christ the Lord.

Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

Let's forget about ourselves
and magnify His name and
worship Him. *[Repeat x 2]*

Let's forget about ourselves
and magnify His name
and worship Christ the Lord.

Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us lift up holy hands
and magnify His name and
worship Him. *[Repeat x 2]*

Let us lift up holy hands
and magnify His name and
worship Christ the Lord.

Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

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Minister's Welcome

We are the church of God, a holy people, called in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Christ let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God
the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Let us rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence set our hearts on fire with love for you.

The Sentence

God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:9, 11)

Prayer of Preparation

Deacon: Knowing the goodness of God and His generous love towards us, let us approach His throne of grace,

Almighty God,

you pour out your Spirit of grace and love on all who desire it.

Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from cold hearts and wandering minds, that with steady thoughts and kindled passion we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Great Father of Light, you have made us your children, so we no longer belong to the night nor to the darkness. As we belong to the day of your salvation, give to us the grace that we may be alert and awake, always awaiting your return, and through our lives enthrone you as Lord. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

Instead of the reading from the book of Judges, a reading from the prophet Zephaniah shall be read. Chapter 1 verses 7 and 12 to 18.

Zephaniah was an Israelite prophet who lived in the 7th century BC and was a descendant of King Hezekiah. He prophesied in Jerusalem during the reign of King Josiah, before Josiah's reform of the worship practices. He announced the coming judgment of God on the people and the nations.

⁷ Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near.

The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.'

¹³ Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly.

The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—

¹⁶ a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities.

¹⁷ "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung.

¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath."

In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

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

Psalm of the day is number 123.

¹ I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit enthroned in heaven.

² **As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy.**

³ Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.

⁴ **We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.**

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The second reading is from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5 verses 1-11.

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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

Gospel Song: Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
break me, melt me, mould me, fill me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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The Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 25 commencing at verse 14 to 30. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is teaching about what it will be like at the coming of the Son of Man.

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

²⁸“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

An Interview with Rev Andrew and the Sermon |

Rev Andrew Allan-Jones, SOMA International Chair, will share a reflection

Offertory Hymn: | Father I place into your Hands

Father, I place into your hands
the things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
the things that I’ve been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
and in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
and in your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
and do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
that you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
that you will draw to you,
for I know that I am one with you.

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Giving and Offerings

The Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void: give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, knowing that your kingdom shall come and your will be done, to your eternal glory. May our lives be an expression of your Kingdom and our mouths filled with the good news of your Gospel of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community.

The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:
-the world and for those in authority ...
-the universal church, and our new evening service ...
-our missionaries and the persecuted church ...

-our community, and those on our prayer list ...

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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 forever. Amen.

Making a confident Confession

Confident that he who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion, let us bring the confession of our sins before him.

**God our Father, you have taught us that if we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us:**

we humbly confess our sins to you.

Now, we ask, do as you promise and forgive us our sins,

and cleanse us from every kind of wrong;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Deacon: Please stand to hear God's promise of forgiveness.

Promise of Forgiveness

You have drawn near with a sincere heart and a sure faith: therefore, through your trust in Jesus Christ and his cleansing blood, your guilt has been purged far from you. Hold onto this hope and trust in the promise of God which brings about your eternal transformation. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. Therefore we rejoice in the Lord and in the power of his resurrection.

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

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

Thanksgiving and Communion

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 thanks and praise.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy his bounty.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you,

you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin,

all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels

we rejoice and praise you, saying:

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

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share in his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said:

'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,

'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ,
and to remember all he has done for us.

We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.**

We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing peace to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Communion Song | Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

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Second Communion Song: | Lord Jesus Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
you are one with us, Mary's son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
pouring your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for you we sing, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
born as one of us, Mary's son.
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see, you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives, your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life, your power breaks through,
living Lord.

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Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

You call us to live as bright lights in the world. **May your glory shine through us.**
You have given yourself to us, Lord. **Now we give ourselves for others.**
Your love has made us a new people.

As a people of love, we will serve you with joy.

Your glory has filled our hearts. **Help us to glorify you in all things.**

The Blessing

God stir up within you the gift of the Spirit that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim the joy of the everlasting gospel wherever you may be and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Deacon:

Go in the strong name of Jesus Christ,

Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph.

Closing Hymn: | Your Hand, O God, Has Guided

1 Your hand, O God, has guided
your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written
full clear on every page.
Your people owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one church, one faith, one Lord!

2 Your heralds brought the gospel
to greatest and the least;
they bade them rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast.
And this was all their teaching
in ev'ry deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming:
one church, one faith, one Lord!

3 Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nations life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one church, one faith, one Lord!

4 Your mercy will not fail us
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us
the victory shall be won.
And then by all creation,
your name shall be adored;
and this shall be our anthem:
one church, one faith, one Lord!

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Ministry of the Spirit with Anointing with Oil

Reverend Andrew and Reverend Melinda will be available at the conclusion of the service for prayer ministry, with the anointing of oil.