



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 547, MP 48, TIS 210, TIS 598)

Sunday 9 am: Family Communion (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: IMP 857, MP 613, TIS 242, MP 936)

* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

Sunday 5pm: Evening Prayer to mark the closure of the Memorial Garden

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of Israel!

John 1.41, 49

Rev'd Timothy writes...

In this season of Epiphany, when we think about the revelation of Jesus, our reading from the first book of Samuel seems very appropriate. We might reflect on what it took for the young Samuel to hear that God was calling him. God was calling, even though he did not recognise it, until his mentor Eli, 'perceived that it was the Lord,' and told Samuel to pray "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."



Our gospel passage, from the gospel of John, gives a similar message. Nathanael cannot see Jesus for who he is, he is blinded by his negative view of all people from Nazareth. It takes Philip to bring him to see Jesus, and then Nathanael has his own epiphany. It clearly makes a big difference to him for he is listed amongst the disciples whom Jesus met by the Sea of Tiberias after his resurrection (John 21:2).

The song that we will sing at 9am, Dan Schutte's 'I, the Lord of sea and sky', takes up this theme. It is inspired by the passage from 1 Samuel 3, and also Isaiah 6:8:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"



We often though stop at this point, with the account of the call, and indeed that is what the lectionary has given us this week. What comes next is equally important. What were Samuel, Isaiah or Nathanael being called for? What are we being called for?

In Samuel's case, and for Isaiah too, it was to speak out against the sin of the people; to speak out against those not following God's commands to follow God's way and live justly and righteously. To do so was, and is, hard. Had we read on in 1 Samuel 3, Samuel was told to speak out against Eli his mentor; which he did, and he continued to speak out Saul and David when they too needed to heed God's message,

Given the current increase in the presence of COVID, if you are feeling unwell please stay home and rest. You can join our 9am service on Zoom. Details of how to do this are included with the weekly parish email.

If you are rostered for a task, don't worry, we will fill your spot.



Readings for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

First reading (7 and 9am)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

¹ Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

⁴ Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶ The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand, you comprehend my thoughts long before.

² You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.

³ For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.

⁴ You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.

¹² For you have created my inward parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹³ I will praise you, for you are to be feared:
fearful are your acts, and wonderful your works.

¹⁴ You knew my soul, and my bones were not hidden from you:
when I was formed in secret, and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁵ Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:
and in your book were all my members written;

¹⁶ Day by day they were fashioned:
and not one was late in growing.

¹⁷ How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:
and how great is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them, they are more in number than the sand:
were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.

Second Reading (7am only)

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

¹² 'All things are lawful for me', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me', but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ 'Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food', and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.' ¹⁷ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you

were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of John

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

John 1: 43-51

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Coming through the Night

The challenge of Ordinary Time is to hold it as dear as we hold to the high feasts and holy days. The readings for this week urge us to stay awake and responsive to our true calling and identity as children of God. We are given Ordinary Time to explore

with urgency so we may grow in this great, green season of the Christian year.

1 Samuel 3:1–10 In this story of God’s call to Samuel. The writer discloses very personal and private information about the nature of Eli’s family dysfunctions, Samuel’s relationship to Eli, and God’s concern for the whole community under Eli’s care. When God calls Samuel, it is clear to Eli that God has remained silent, but will not be patient any longer. We see what happens when a family forgets who they are and what they represent in their community. We come to understand that God will awaken the prophets to hold the priests accountable. There is a sense of urgency in the story: “Wake up!” It seems to say, “know your worth and privilege!” Samuel is asked to guide the people toward self-reflection, repentance, and honesty; because all too often religious leaders and laity alike fall asleep, or we need help to recognize God’s voice.

Psalms 139 focuses on personal growth and identity development through self-reflection. The writer describes what it is like to develop an identity based on knowledge of God’s role in our lives. This psalm is about what it means to know who I am, based on my understanding of who God is.

1 Corinthians 6:12–20 explains how countercultural it is to see each person’s intrinsic value and individual worth. According to Paul, we can grow closer to God and each other when we know and respect our bodies and the bodies of others. Paul explains why our spiritual practices help us to understand our appetites for food or sex. This letter would have been useful to the believers in Corinth who were surrounded by religious traditions that condoned or encouraged gluttonous behaviours as a way to experience or explore the human relationship to gods other than the God of Abraham. It would have been countercultural for followers of Christ to resist overindulging, and they would have been mocked for basing their spiritual identities in justice, equity, respect, and trust in the unconditional benevolence of God. Most people were well aware of how rare it was to seek truth about self and others.

John 1: 43 –51 is another glimpse into what it means to be honest with each other about God’s purpose in an individual. John the baptizer called attention to Christ’s identity. Nathanael makes it clear that John can proclaim whatever he believes is true about Jesus, but there would have been a bias against Jesus because of his hometown. Christ applauds Nathanael’s truth-telling impulse and reflects that this desire to know and be known is a vital part of who he is created to be.

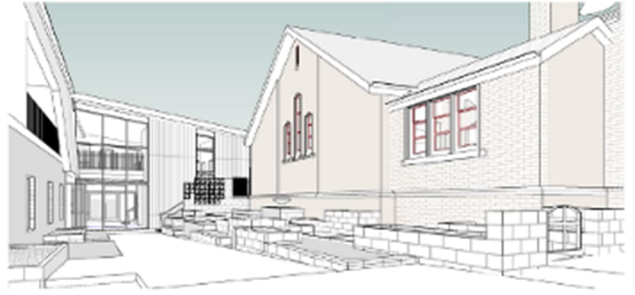
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Stories about awakening to God’s call foreshadow the ways that God brings us through the unknown. God’s ways are mysterious, yes, but these stories hinge on seeking truth and wisdom about ourselves and each other. The unknown does not thwart us; we pursue understanding about God and our call as God’s people.

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Redevelopment News

Following the successful tender result that we received last month, the diocesan team are moving on with preparing the contract. The builder is starting to mobilise his team and we can expect them on site in February 2024.



Between now and then there are a number of things that we must do:

Memorial Garden:

A service of Evening Prayer to formally close the current garden will be held TONIGHT Sunday 14th January at 5pm. After this (but before the builders come onto our site) all the ashes will be removed and stored securely under the church until they can be reinterred in the new Memorial Garden at the end of the project.

Halls and office clear out:

Working bees will be held on Saturdays 20, 27 January and 3 February to clear out the halls and parish centre. We will decide what is rubbish (and a skip will be ordered later in the month), what needs keeping, but accessible during the build (will be stored at the Rectory) and what needs storing until the conclusion of the build. All are welcome to come along and help whenever you are available.

Prayer:

Please join with me in giving thanks to God that our redevelopment project is now going ahead, and pray for all that needs to be done in both the preparation for the build, and to keep our ministries going during the build.

HAMEL THE CAMEL WANTS YOU!

Do you enjoy working with children in a fun, Christian focused way?

Do you have an interest in working with the future of our church?

If you said yes to these questions – Hamel the Camel, Lamba the lamb and their friends Sharon and David would like to invite you to a brief planning chat (with coffee) in the lower hall TODAY Sunday 14th January at 10:30. We will be mapping out the 2024 year for Children's Church and would love you to be involved.

Even if you are not sure if this ministry is for you, come along and have a chat – NO OBLIGATION – We would also welcome parishioner feedback on the Children's Church involvement in services during 2023.



For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Eternal God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, is now exalted as Lord of all, and pours out his gifts upon the Church: grant it that unity which only your Spirit can give, keep us in the bond of peace, and bring all creation to worship before your throne; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The World

Continue to pray for those still recovering from the effects of cyclones and storms in Queensland, in the light of the forecast of more rain to come.

Anglican Communion

The Church of the Province of Southeast Asia

Ministry with the Torres Strait Island People of Australia – Rose Elu

The Parish of Woolloongabba: Rosemary Gardiner

GFS – an Anglican Ministry

St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, Ascot: Principal – Roslyn Curtis; Chaplain – Jasmine Dow; Chair of School Council – Debbie Smith; School Council members; staff & students

Our missionary partners

Leichhardt Chinchilla Anglican Mission Area (supported by the Bush Ministry Fund).

Our parish

Pray for the preliminary meeting to be held with the builder and project manager for our redevelopment project this week, for good relations to be founded.

Local Schools & Colleges

St Elizabeths Primary, St Francis Xavier, Red Hill Special School

All school staff and children on vacation.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn McElnea, June McNicol, Ash and Joh, Cathy, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Rose White

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

15 January: Keith Stewart Smith, Valroy Green; *16 January:* Harold Richards, Bernice Olive Bignell; *17 January:* Beryl Jean Keogh; *18 January:* Rita Isabelle Bliss.

Dates for your diary

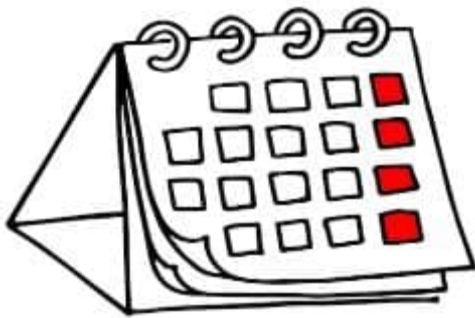
31st January: 9.30am – St Luke's Connect

4th February: 7am and 9am – Episcopal Visit by the Rt Rev'd John Roundhill

13th February: 6pm – Pancake Dinner for Shrove Tuesday (venue TBA)

14th February: 9.30am and 6.30pm – Services for Ash Wednesday

18th February: 10.30am – Annual Parish Meeting



Annual Reports

Reports for the Annual Report Book are due by 28th January. Please submit as Word documents to admin@stlukesekibin.org.au

Children's Church resumes on Sunday 28th January



Services This Week:

Tuesday—Friday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Sunday 21th January 2024
(3rd Sunday after Epiphany)

7am: Holy Communion

9am: Family Communion (St Luke's / Zoom)

No Children's Church (but children ALWAYS welcome)

Readings: Jonah 3: 1-10, Psalm 62: 5-12, 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31, Mark 1: 14-20

Keep in touch:

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-  families@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Children's church)
-  3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)
-  P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121
-  www.stlukesekibin.org.au
-  [@stlukesekibin](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesekibin)

Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)
Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)
Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):
Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820
BSB 704 901

Or scan the QR code to give online:



<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1709377>