



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 231, MP 48, TIS 203, MP 744)

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

(Hymns: TIS 547, TIS 48, TIS 143, MP 170)

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

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.

Rev'd Timothy writes...

In the gospel reading today, Jesus is starting to speak of what lies ahead of him at the end of his journey to Jerusalem. The disciples find this hard to comprehend. Jesus actions so far, healing and teaching, in a way was a comfortable gospel. But now he speaks of his death as the road to the fulfillment of his mission. Yes, he also speaks of the resurrection, but still before lies the cross.



And then Jesus says that those who aspire to be his followers need to 'take up your cross'. There is a cost to following Jesus, particularly so in some parts of the world where Christians are persecuted. But the reward is eternal life, and so it is more than worth it. We don't live in such places, but still we are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus. What does it mean to us?



Donald Turnbull died last week on 15th February 2024.

His funeral will be held at St Luke's on Monday 26th February at 10am

We give thanks for Donald's life,
and pray for Donald's wife Alma and the rest of his family

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Pastoral Care

With all the changes afoot in the parish over the next year, we want to make sure that we are able to keep in touch with all in the parish and offer support where needed. If you would like to be part of a team to facilitate this, please contact Rev'd Timothy or one of the wardens.



Lent at St Luke's



Sunday services: As we move through this solemn season, I invite you all to arrive early for our Sunday services. I will ring a bell and read the sentence of the day five minutes before the service is due to commence, and then encourage you to sit silently in prayer until we sing the opening hymn. If you arrive after this time, please enter quietly.

Lent study groups: Weekly on Tuesday 10am/Thursday 7.30pm during Lent. "The Imaginary Doorway". For details see later in Notice Paper.

Mid-week communion: Weekly on Wednesday 9.30am throughout Lent.

Readings for the Second Sunday in Lent

First reading (7am only)

A reading from the book Genesis

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'

³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Genesis 17:1-6, 15-16

Psalm 22.24-32

²⁴ O praise the Lord, all you that fear him: hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob, and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.

²⁵ For he has not despised nor abhorred the poor man in his misery: nor did he hide his face from him, but heard him when he cried.

²⁶ From you springs my praise in the great congregation: I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

²⁷ The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him— may their hearts rejoice for ever!

²⁸ Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:

and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

²⁹ For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he shall be ruler over the nations.

³⁰ How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

³¹ But he has saved my life for himself: and my posterity shall serve him.

³² This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

Second Reading (7am & 9am)

A reading from the letter to the Romans

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father

of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ ²³ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Romans 4:13-25

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Mark

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

Mark 8:31-38

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From Generation to Generation

In all generations and all times, God promises to be faithful and invites our response. In the readings this week, God makes a promise to Abram and Sarai, and asks that they be faithful to the covenant; God responds to the psalmist’s cry for help, and the psalmist responds with praise; Paul reminds us to respond to God with faith; followers of Jesus are invited to respond by focusing on the gospel call in our lives.

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 God makes another covenant. This covenant – or promise – is

between God and Abram. God promises that Abram and Sarai will have children and land and generations will follow them. At the time of the promise, Abram and Sarai are both of advanced age. Both Abram and Sarai are incredulous upon hearing God's news. It may have seemed God's promise would be unfulfilled.

Later, when they are even older, the promise is realized. Abram and Sarai, with new names Abraham and Sarah, have a son whom they name Isaac. Part of the story serves as a reminder that God does keep promises, and God's sense of timing may not always be the same as our own. Ultimately, though, we can trust; what may seem impossible for us is not impossible for God!

In this covenantal agreement, Abram and Sarai are promised a child, and they, in turn, are called to be "blameless" and faithful to the covenant. God's renewed promise results in name changes: Sarai becomes Sarah, and Abram becomes Abraham – mother and father of many nations. These new names are symbols and signs of new things and new identities with God.

In this week's passage, it happens to be that Abraham and Sarah were blessed with a child. It is, however, important not to equate blessings and children in today's context solely. There are many people today who remain childless (either by choice or by circumstance) who could be harmed by overemphasizing a connection between having children and being blessed by God. Similarly, it is harmful to suggest that people who do not have children do not have enough faith in God. Blessings come in many different ways and forms. Focusing on the fulfillment of God's promises, even if it seems impossible, is one key theme here. Although the time might feel long, God responds.

In Psalm 22:23–31, God responds to the psalmist's request for help. The psalmist then praises God and invites people from many generations to join in this praise. This writer has been in distress and wondering where God is. Feeling abandoned, they cry out to God and God responds. The psalmist prayed with faith, trusted God to reply, and responds with praise.

Romans 4:13–25 references God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah and their faith. Having faith is not only about doing good things or obeying the law. Rather, faith is about how people live and commit to following Christ.

In Mark 8:31–38, the disciples are also reminded about faith and what it means to follow Christ. Jesus cautions the disciples, telling them that following him will not be easy. The disciples find it hard to believe that Jesus will suffer and die – after all, he is the Messiah! Peter challenges Jesus about this, and Jesus teaches that there is no benefit in gaining riches on Earth if it costs us our souls.

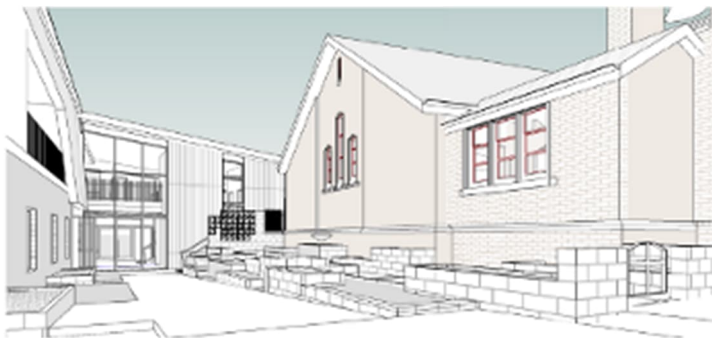
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God's grace reaches across generations, back into the past and forward into the future. God's inclusive love nourishes all creation. This week's passages invite us to increase our faith and follow in God's ways. How do we respond to God's faithfulness in our time?

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Redevelopment News

Our Architect and the builder are finalising the plans which will enable the contract to be signed off. The builders are expected to begin erecting temporary fencing this coming week.



Hall and office clear out

Thankyou to all who have helped with the clear-out over the last few Saturdays, and with moving items into storage. There is still a little to move, both on Saturdays and mid-week. Please contact the wardens if you can help.

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.

Mission News

Please support the ABM Lent appeal, enabling them to be ready to return to Gaza once they are able and provide programs in Child Nutrition. Envelopes are available in church, or see <https://www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2024/>



The next delivery to Careforce's Inala Pantry will be in the first week of March. Please leave your donations in the basket at the back of the church on Sunday 24th and Sunday 3rd. Cash donations are also welcome. Any questions, please speak to Judy or Sharon Moy.

Lent Study

Our Parish Lent study this year is 'The imaginary doorway', from the Australian Board of Mission (ABM). This takes encounters that Jesus has with different people, such as Legion and Zacchaeus and invites us to take an imaginative journey into their lives. As we consider how Jesus made such people whole we see links to ABM's contemporary mission.



Tuesday's 10am or Thursday 7.30pm, started 13th/15th February. Speak to Rev'd Timothy or June if you are interested in joining us.

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life: grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The World

Pray for the people of Gaza in need of humanitarian aid, and those organisations trying to gain access to deliver it.

Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

The Diocese of The Murray: †Keith Dalby; Clergy and People

The Parish of Drayton: Rick Gummow, Dorothy Daniels, Richard Penny, Des Potter, Ross Ellwood

Anglicare SQ Community Aged & Disability, Brisbane North (Caboolture)

All Anglican Schools Business Managers/Bursars and Senior Leaders

Our missionary partners

The work of the parish Acts 1:8 group in fostering knowledge and support of our missionary partners.

Our parish

Pray for the builders as they begin to establish their work site on our campus this week.

Local Schools & Colleges

Marshall Road Primary, Salisbury Primary, Yeronga Primary

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., Margaret Sheehan, Don Rennie, Denis Galloway

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

25 February: Dorothy Maud Hamilton, Hazel Eileen McLean; *26 February:* Vivian Henry Blakeney Phipps; *27 February:* Howard Geoffrey Sinden; *29 February:* Delle Joy Stinton.

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday March 1st - 10.30 am at Annerley Baptist Church.

The service has been written by the women of Palestine.

Please bring a plate of food to share.



Children's Church

continues
each Sunday
during
school term



St Luke's Connect

The next St Luke's Connect will be held this week on Wednesday 28th February.

Service at 9.30am,
followed by a time of
fellowship.



Services This Week:

Tuesday-Friday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 27th February

1.30pm: Holy Communion (Regis)

Wednesday 28th February

9.30am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

Sunday 3rd March

(3rd Sunday in Lent)

7am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

9am: Family Communion (St Lukes's / Zoom) with Children's Church

*Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22*

Keep in touch:

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✉ admin@stlukesekibin.org.au (Office)

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📘 @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

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code to give
online:



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