



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 432, vv1,3-5, TIS 342, TIS 161, TIS 155)

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

(Hymns: MP 881, MP 375, MP 988, MP 708)

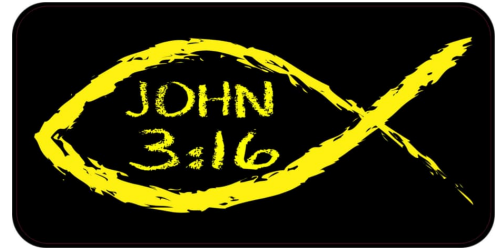
* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3.14-15

Rev'd Timothy writes...

John 3:16 is one of the best known verses in the bible (and one of the few that people remember the reference to). It has been called a summary of the whole gospel message. But herein lies a mystery. The writer of the gospel says that 'God so loves the world', and 'everyone who believes...may have eternal life'. The first is a statement of God's grace, freely given; the second a declaration of the necessity of faith for salvation. Apparently contradictory, but both necessary. As we reflect on this verse we find it is more than something just to put on a bumper sticker, but something that invites us to probe more deeply into the truth of God's relationship with humankind.



Loane Lilley died last week on 28th February 2024.
Her funeral will be held at George Hartnett Funerals,
42 Gaza Road, Holland Park
at 10am on Monday 11th March
We give thanks for Loane's long life,
and pray for her family at this time.
May she 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".

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

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

First reading (7am only)

A reading from the book Numbers

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

¹⁷ Fools were far gone in transgression: and because of their sins were afflicted.

¹⁸ They sickened at any food: and had come to the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their distress: and he took them out of their trouble.

²⁰ He sent his word and healed them: and saved their life from the Pit.

²¹ Let them thank the Lord for his

goodness:

and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam;

²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving: and tell what he has done with shouts of joy.

Second Reading (7am & 9am)

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

¹ You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of John

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him

are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

John 3:14-21

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Choose to Give Thanks

This week's readings are all about making choices. The wilderness wanderers choose to complain against God. A psalmist writes of God's response to their prayers and the people choose to give God thanks. A letter to the church in Ephesus reminds us that we can choose to respond to God's grace by doing good in the world. The gospel of John tells us that God chooses to love the whole world and promises life.

God guided the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt, and it is these same people who are encountered once again in Numbers 21: 4 –9. Earlier, the now-freed people had seen a miraculous parting of the waters so that they could cross to the other side. They encountered God in dramatic ways (in a pillar of fire, in a cloud, and as smoke). The people are now wandering in the wilderness and perhaps have forgotten both their liberation and God's promise to guide them to a new land. Instead, they grumble and complain to Moses about a lack of food and water. The storyteller tells about poisonous serpents that bite and kill. These serpents have the power to destroy, yet faith in the bronze serpent crafted by Moses has the power to save. The people face and look at what they fear.

It might be hard to wrestle with the notion of God sending snakes to bring death upon a people. Why would God do this? This reality may be particularly challenging to reconcile with an understanding of an all-loving and grace-filled God. Perhaps the good news in this story is that God brings healing and saves the people.

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22 opens with people choosing to give thanks because God has saved them (vv. 1–3). After this initial introduction, the psalm follows a distinctive

pattern. First, the people describe an issue or trouble, then pray to God to save them. They then describe God’s saving actions and end with thanks for God’s love. The psalm notes a variety of troubles: people lost in the desert (vv. 4–9), prisoners in misery and irons (vv. 10–16), people who are sick (vv. 17–22), and caught in a storm (vv. 23–30). In each instance, God responds.

The particular focus for this week’s reading is on the people who are in distress because they are sick and anxious. They cry to God, and God saves and heals. They choose to give. This thanksgiving psalm reminds us that part of the nature of God is about restoring, saving, and liberating.

Ephesians 2:1–10 also focuses on what it means to be saved – through God’s grace and not good works. There is God-action, and then our response: Grace is poured out upon us, and we are inspired by God’s love to do good works. Works alone are not what saves; rather, we work towards justice in response to God’s loving actions.

The passage describes the difference in life with Christ. Now, people are “dead” to other ways of being and are alive in Christ. They now walk in good works. The “saved” in this passage is not about personal morality; instead, it is about God’s good work in us and through us.

John 3:14–21 reminds us of God’s good work in Christ. Jesus talks with Nicodemus about what it means to be saved and draws on the image of the bronze serpent that brought healing to the wilderness wanderers. The same serpent that brought death also brought life. Similarly, Jesus would also experience death, and would also bring new life. The God of love experiences life with us.





God hears our cries of distress, outpours love over us and then invites us to respond. How will we respond to God’s love and grace in this Lenten season? In what ways can we choose to give thanks?

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ABM Lent Appeal

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/>

Church News

The March edition of Church News is available on our website at <https://www.stlukesekibin.org.au/church-news>

Printed copies will be available this Sunday.



Anglican Church News
March 2024



St Luke's Theatre Society presents...

Agatha Christie TOWARDS ZERO

By Arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on Behalf of Samuel French, A Concord Theatricals Company

By Agatha Christie and Gerald Verner Directed by Sharon White

8-23 March 2024

7.30pm : 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 March

2pm : 9, 16, 23 March

at Christ Church Hall, 10 Cork St, Yeronga

When a house party gathers at Gull's Point, Neville Strange finds himself caught between his wife Audrey and his new flame Kay. A nail-biting thriller that probes the psychology of jealousy in the shadow of a savage and brutal murder.

book now

Book and pay online at
stluketheatre.asn.au

or call 0493 778 379

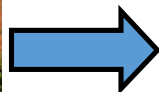


Redevelopment News

It is finally here! Our redevelopment project has officially started with the handover of part of our site to the builders and temporary fencing being erected last Monday.

There is now no parking on site, but we are working with the builders to provide a drop-off zone close to the church. Fully serviced temporary toilets have been provided to the north of the church. Our regular Sunday services and mid-week activities will continue (with Zoom streaming as usual).

Rev'd Timothy and the Wardens recognise that over the next year there will be challenges for us to live together as a parish community, so please contact us if there is anything we can do to help, or if you have suggestions of new ways in which we can do things. However this is but a season, and at the end of the project in 2025, in our centenary year, we will be able to reap the benefits of the missional opportunities that our redevelopment will deliver.



For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Everlasting God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The World

Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine as the war enters its third year. Pray for those attempting to find a just and peaceful solution.

Anglican Communion

The Episcopal Church

Ministry to the Defence Force: †Grant Dibden; Chaplains & Members of the Defence Force

The Parish of Green Hills Anglicans: Bruce Boase

Christ Church Caring Ministries, Bundaberg

St Andrew's Anglican College, Peregian Springs: Principal – Chris Ivey; Chaplain – Gary McClellan; Chair of College Council – Rosalyn Cheales; members of College Council; staff & students

Our missionary partners

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

Our parish

Pray for our architect, Matthew Patterson, as he manages the start of our building project.

Local Schools & Colleges

St Elizabeths Primary, St Agnes Primary, Red Hill Special School

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

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

4 March: Samuel Smith; *5 March:* Daphne Muriel Sacre, Jack Williams, Cyril Thomas Stafford; *9 March:* Donald Sacre, Margaret Simmons.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday:

7am Palm Procession and
Holy Communion

9am Palm Procession and
Family Communion

Daily in Holy Week:

Monday-Saturday: 9am Morning Prayer

Monday-Thursday: 6pm Evening Prayer
(Zoom)

Maundy Thursday:

7.30pm Holy Communion and the Watch

Good Friday:

10am Family Service

2pm Devotions at the Cross

Holy Saturday:

6pm Easter Vigil (Zoom)

Easter Day:

6.30am Lighting of Paschal Candle and
Holy Communion

9am Family Communion

Bush Ministry Stall
after both services



Children's
Church

**continues each
Sunday during
school term**



Services This Week:

Tuesday-Friday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 12th March

1.30pm: Holy Communion (Regis)

Wednesday 13th March

9.30am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

Sunday 17th March

(5th Sunday in Lent)

7am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

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

*Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16,
Hebrews 5:5-14, John 12:20-33*

Keep in touch:

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☎ 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

✉ P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121

🌐 www.stlukeseकिन.org.au

📘 @stlukeseकिन

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](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1709377)