



## Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7am: Holy Communion

*(TIS 275, MP 59, vv 1,3, MP 757, TIS 215)*

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

*(TIS 547, MP 613, MP 549, MP 1346)*

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

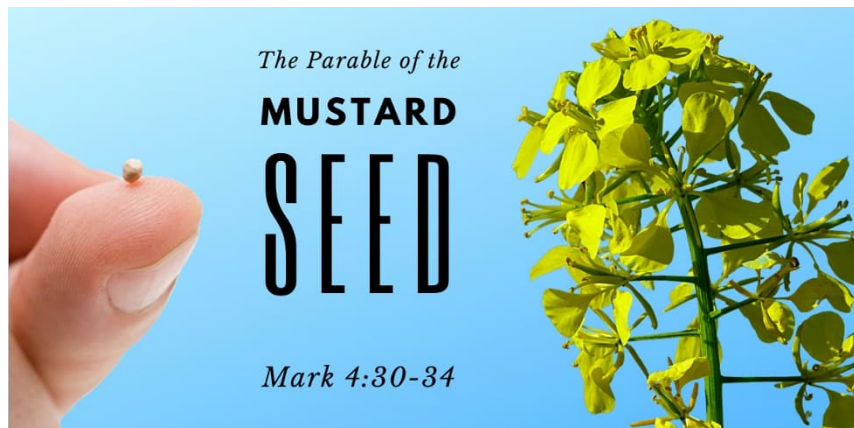
In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

*2 Corinthians 5.19*

Rev'd Timothy writes...

It's the mustard seed gospel this week. I was always puzzled about the bit where it "the greatest of all shrubs", as my first experience of mustard was growing it, alongside cress on blotting paper on the kitchen windowsill, to add to egg

sandwiches! But I was perhaps being impatient. I read that it takes around three months to grow to a shrub and produce seed. The largest producer of mustard seed in 2021 was Nepal where 220 tonnes were produced.



*Inspired by the first part of our gospel passage (Mark 4:26-29) and St Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 3:6:*

Holy hello

I plant the plant.

Intone a chant:

'Grow, grow, grow'

then let it be.

It's not for me

to know how it will go.

I have no power

to make buds flower.

But I say even though

the seeds are sown,

what is grown

is God's love saying 'Hello'.

*Stuart Barrie,  
From 'Summer', Wild Goose Publications*



The image of the mustard seed as something insignificant is an oft used image. Not only is it used by Jesus in his parables, but it also features in Jewish, Buddhist and Islamic texts. We might think that the message of the parable is that from an apparent insignificant start, big things can grow, as an encouragement to faith.

But there are some odd things about this parable. In 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine mustard was prolific, a sturdy and common weed, that could and would multiply anywhere. How's that for a description of the Kingdom of God? Then, rather than saying the seed grows into a mighty tree (as in the Luke version of this parable), we have 'the greatest of all shrubs', where the word translated as 'shrub' also means 'vegetable'! This gives another view on what it means to be great in the Kingdom.

## Readings for Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### *First Reading (7am & 9am)*

A reading from the First book of Samuel

<sup>15 34</sup> Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup> Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

<sup>16 1</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord."

<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' <sup>5</sup> He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' <sup>8</sup> Then

Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*1 Samuel 15:34-16:13*

### *Psalm 20*

<sup>1</sup> May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble:

the God of Jacob lift you up to safety.

<sup>2</sup> May he send you his help from the sanctuary:

and be your strong support from Zion.

<sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings; and accept with favour your burnt sacrifices,

<sup>4</sup> Grant you your heart's desire: and fulfil all your purposes.

<sup>5</sup> May we also rejoice in your victory and triumph in the name of our God: the Lord perform all your petitions.

<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the Lord will save his anointed:  
that he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with the victorious strength of his right hand.

<sup>7</sup> Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses:  
but we will trust in the name of the Lord our God.

<sup>8</sup> They are brought down and fallen:  
but we are made strong and stand upright.

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, save the king:  
and hear us when we call upon you.

### *Second Reading (7am only)*

A reading from the second letter to the Corinthians

<sup>6</sup> So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight.

<sup>8</sup> Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

*2 Corinthians 5:6-10*

### *Gospel Reading*

A reading from the gospel of Mark

<sup>26</sup> He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

<sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

<sup>30</sup> He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Mark 4.26-34*

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June issue of Church News now available on our website!  
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# Unexpected Leadership

Changes in leadership can be accompanied by anxiety and uncertainty, both in public life and church life. Saul, Israel's own choice for king, ultimately disobeyed God. Change in leadership was needed. Israel's next king would be one of God's choosing, and God's choice would surprise everyone. God, we are told, looks to the content of the heart, not external qualities. Are we willing to embrace unlikely leaders? Can we worship an unpredictable God?

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13 God regrets allowing Saul to become Israel's first king and solves the problem by providing for a new king. This time, the people would not get a vote. The process for selecting as well as the result would surprise everyone. God looks beyond superficial attributes and sees deep into the heart.

That God had regrets about allowing Saul to become king is surprising in and of itself. Surprising, too, that God provides a pretext for Samuel's visit with the people of Bethlehem so as not to arouse Saul's anger or suspicion. A pattern emerges: God is always faithful and remains engaged with God's people, but not always in predictable ways.

One by one, God evaluates seven of Jesse's sons in search of Israel's next king and rejects them all. The exterior – skin colour, ethnicity, age, gender – can sway decisions when we hire people or invite others to join our cause. God does not use physical characteristics, birth order, or other standard criteria. The core of one's character and intentions is what matters to God. Samuel anoints the almost overlooked young person, David.

That God chooses unexpected leaders says as much about the nature of God as it does about the qualifications of the people God calls. Who might we overlook when choosing leaders because we stereotype and prejudge?

Are we willing to *be* the unexpected leader to answer an unexpected call? Though often frightening, we need not fear. Psalm 20 affirms that God is with us. Those who trust in God's provision live strong and joyful lives.

2 Corinthians 5:6–10, (11–13), 14–17 reminds us that we live with confidence, trusting that Christ's death and resurrection assure us a purpose higher than that of our own limited capabilities – we are made new in Christ. Old ways of understanding are gone. We live not just for ourselves, but for Christ; Christ's love urges us on.

Mark 4:26–34 Jesus tells the parable of the tiny mustard seed to reveal God's surprising, unexpected plan to use even small communities of faith to accomplish God's will.

Similarly, God used David, the youngest in his family, to accomplish God's will. God's realm may seem unattainable at times, but Jesus assures us that it is alive – growing and spreading even from small acts of faith until everyone finds a home in it.

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Leadership is not an end unto itself. If it is, then we need to carefully examine our motivation for wanting it or running from it, especially if we see that God is the one calling us to lead. When unexpected authority is given to us or placed into our midst, what can we do to understand better how this might be part of God's plan?

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## Diocesan Synod

Next weekend is the annual meeting of the diocesan synod. This is the chief decision making body in our diocese. Details of topics to be discussed can be found at: <https://www.anglicanchurchsq.org.au/synod>.

Our synod representatives are Rev'd Timothy, Jen Basham and Elizabeth Lamb.

Synod starts on Friday evening at 7pm at the Cathedral with the Synod Eucharist which will include the consecration of the Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman as the new Bishop for the Northern Region. All welcome.

# Last weekend - book now



St Luke's Theatre Society Presents...

## BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE


By arrangement with Samuel French  
with Concord Theatricals

Written by John Van Druten  
Directed by Nigel Munro-Wallis

**7 - 22 JUNE 2024**  
7.30pm: 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 June  
2:00pm: 8, 15, 22, June  
at Christ Church Hall, 10 Cork St, Yeronga

Book and pay online at  
[www.stluketheatre.asn.au](http://www.stluketheatre.asn.au)  
or call 0493 778 379

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## For our Prayers

### *Prayer for the day*

Almighty God, without you we are unable to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *The World*

Whilst we continue to pray for the people of Gaza and Ukrain, often in the news, we pray too for other parts of the world where there is ongoing conflict, such 14 monh long civil war in Sudan.

### *Anglican Communion*

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

The Diocese of Newcastle: †Peter Stuart; Assistant Bishops – †Sonia Roulston, †Charlie Murry; Clergy and People

The Parish of Bramble Bay: Howard Smith

SAILS Anglican Sailing Adventures in Life Skills Ministry – Gold Coast, Bayside, Sunshine Coast

The Glennie School, Toowoomba: Principal – Mary Anne Evans; Chaplain – Vacant; Chair of School Council – Paddy Nicholls; members of School Council; staff & students

### *Our missionary partners*

Bruce and Libby, serving with CMS in South Asia

### *Our parish*

Pray for our children as they come to the end of term 2, and for all those who mentor and teach them.

### *Local Schools & Colleges*

Yeronga High, Mansfield High, Holland Park High, Mt Gravatt High, Brisbane State High

### ***Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed***

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn and Maxine McElnea, June McNicol, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Margaret Sheehan, Don Rennie, Georgina Crawford, Glenda, Sue, Liz and Angie Lockhorst, Rev'd Shane Hubner, Robyn Maxwell.

### *From the Parish Book of Remembrance*

*17 June:* John Douglas Lose; *18 June:* James Fitzgibbon Hunter; Marjorie May Hankey; *19 June:* Catherine Billie Mackenzie; *20 June:* Isabel Teresa Stoney, Violet May Day; *21 June:* Eula Stone; *22 June:* Lewis James Frederick Simmons.

## Parish Camp

The camp is booked for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August, back at Glengarry Boys Brigade campsite, so mark these dates in your diary NOW!

Booking forms (online or paper) will be available from next Sunday.



## 100<sup>th</sup> year planning

2025 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish (as well as the opening of our new facilities).



If you would like to be part of a group researching the history of the parish and planning celebrations for next year, you are welcome to a meeting on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 11am.

## Children's Church

Today is the final Children's Church for term 2, but Children's ministry continues every Sunday at 9am.



## Services This Week:

Tuesday-Thursday

6pm: Evening Prayer on Zoom

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

*(5th Sunday after Pentecost)*

7am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

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

*Readings: 1 Samuel 17: 32-49, Psalm 9:9-20, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41*

## Keep in touch:

✉ priest@stlukesebibin.org.au  
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✉ families@stlukesebibin.org.au  
(Children's church)

☎ 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

✉ P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121

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📘 @stlukesebibin

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

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BSB 704 901

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