

Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 245, TIS 270, vv1,2,5, TIS 447, TIS 569)

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

(Hymns: MP 367, TIS 418, The Summons, TIS 147)

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

A voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matthew 3.17

Rev'd Timothy writes...

We have barely put away the Christmas decorations, and seen the wise men back on their way to the East, and, in our gospel reading Jesus is already grown up and approaching John at the Jordan to be baptised.



The theme of Epiphany is the revealing of who Jesus is, and this too is the aim of Matthew's gospel. Hence in this weekend's reading, the author continues to illustrate this by showing that Jesus, son of David and Abraham, is indeed God's son, and God's agent (the Christ). Hence the words from heaven: 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This marks the time when Jesus took up this role in earnest, and it was appropriate that this was marked by baptism. John was baptising people at the Jordan as a sign that they wanted to turn back towards God (the word translated as 'repent' in John's preaching also means 'to turn' or 'return'). It implies a commitment to God's way. In his exchange with John, Jesus says that he needs to 'fulfil all righteousness'. In the scriptures this implies being consistent with or faithful to the covenant commitments. Thus Jesus being baptised signifies his commitment to his God-given commission.

The start of a new year is also a good time for us to recommit to following God's way. 2026 for us in the parish will not be as fraught as 2025, but there will be new challenges. The ELC is still waiting for all the relevant licenses to begin to operate, and we need to start using our new facilities as part of God's mission to our neighbours. But in all this we need to remember why we are doing all this, what is our commission, inaugurated by our baptism.



As a New Year thought, I share a hymn by Timothy Dudley-Smith which starts:

*We turn to Christ anew
who hear his call today,
his way to walk, his will pursue,
his word obey.
To serve him as our King
and of his kingdom learn,
from sin and every evil thing
to him we turn.*

Readings for Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1–9 This is the first of what is known as the Servant Songs in Isaiah. It proclaims that the servant of God will be called to bring righteousness and justice to the nations.

Psalm 29 The psalmist honours the power that is revealed when God speaks, moving over the waters and the earth, creating and breaking, and in all things demonstrating God's glory.

Acts 10:34–43 In response to Cornelius' visit, Peter explains the inclusiveness of God, who brings forgiveness to all who believe.

Matthew 3:13–17 John baptises Jesus, despite John's hesitation about his own worthiness. As Jesus rises from the water, the Holy Spirit is visible and likened to a dove.

First reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a
dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the
earth; and the coastlands wait for his
teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord
who created the heavens and stretched
them out, who spread out the earth and
what comes from it, who gives breath to
the people upon it and spirit to those
who walk in it:

⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in
righteousness, I have taken you by the
hand and kept you; I have given you as a
covenant to the people, a light to the
nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon, from the prison those who sit
in darkness.

⁸ I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise
to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to
pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of
heaven:

ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

² Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to
his name:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his
holiness.

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the
waters:

the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon
the great waters.

⁴ The voice of the Lord is mighty in
operation:

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert, the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

⁸ The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees, and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'

⁹ The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

¹⁰ The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

Second Reading

A reading from the book of Acts

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Acts 10:34-43

Gospel Reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matthew 3:13-17

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Word of the Day

In this week's gospel story, we hear that a voice from heaven declared, 'This is my Son whom I dearly love.' Just before this, the gospel writer tells us that 'heaven was opened.' When we talk about the heavens opening, it is often in the context of torrential rain, thunder and lightning. When we listen to the words of Psalm 29, the voice of God might sound terrifying. Both the psalm for the day and the gospel talk about God's voice. How might we understand these two passages in conversation with each other?

Ideas for Reflection

- According to Matthew 3:16, 'Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him.' When have you had a sense of God descending/resting on you?
- A voice rings out over the waters, 'This is my child whom I dearly love.' (v. 17) How does it feel to imagine God saying those words to you today?
- What might the voice of God sound like in our lives today?
- Psalm 29 speak of a powerful, thundering voice over the waters. How do you experience God's voice—gently, boldly/thundering, in nature, in people, in moments of quiet and stillness?
- Do you think God always speaks the same message? What might God's message be for today?
- How might you embody God's love in your community, family, or workplace? If you could speak God's love into one situation in your life today, what would that look like?

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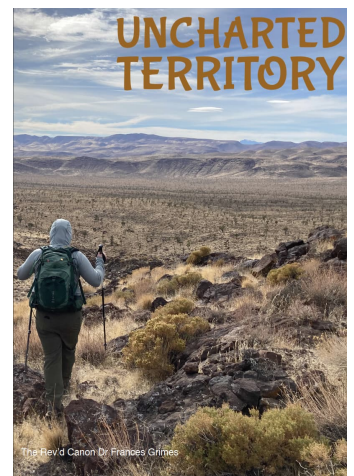
Lent studies 2026

Our Lent Study this year is "Uncharted Territory" by the Rev'd Dr Canon Fran Grimes. The author writes of her course:

This series of Lenten studies will take us on a journey through uncharted territory to find that in all life's uncertainties Jesus Christ can show us the Way. Drawing on Sunday's lectionary readings for Lent during Year A we are invited to walk with Jesus into some of His many encounters and realise that He was charting a brand new map for the tired old ways of life.

Everything about Jesus was laying out a new map for the people of first century Palestine and it is the same today. The temptation is to use maps that the world lays out for us and never find the way to Life in all its fullness. In each of the studies we will explore how Jesus can lead us out of the old life negating paths that the world offers into the path of life that God created each one of us to live.

The studies run for six weeks, Tuesday at 10am (starting on 17th February) and Thursdays at 7pm (starting on 19th February). Please speak to Rev'd Timothy or June if you would like to join us.



Our Archbishop has shared this, from the book "How the stars get in your bones", by Jan Richardson, as a New Year blessing...

THE YEAR AS A HOUSE

Think of the year
as a house:
doors flung wide
in welcome,
threshold swept
and waiting,
a graced spaciousness
opening and offering itself
to you.

Let it be blessed
in every room.
Let it be hallowed
in every corner.
Let every nook
be a refuge
and every object
set to holy use.

Let it be here
that safety will rest.

Let it be here
that health will make its home.
Let it be here
that peace will show its face.
Let it be here
that love will find its way.

Here,
let the weary come,
let the aching come,
let the sorrowing come.

Here,
let them find their rest,
and let them find their soothing,
and let them find their place,
and let them find their delight.

And may it be
in this house of a year
that the seasons will spin in beauty.

And may it be
in these turning days
that time will spiral with joy.

And may it be
that its rooms will fill
with ordinary grace
and light spill from every window
to welcome the stranger home.



Children's Church

Children's Church will restart for
2026 on Sunday 1st February
when the school term starts.

But children are ALWAYS
welcome in church. The
9am service includes a
children's message and
there are some quiet
activities for children
available at the back.



For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptised into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The World

Pray for a deescalation of tension in the world over border conflicts.

The Anglican Communion

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

The Diocese of Gippsland: †Richard Treloar; Clergy and People

The Parish of Hamilton: David Ruthven, †Phillip Aspinall, Amanda Goldsworthy

Sudanese & South Sudanese Congregations in Anglican Church Southern QLD

(ACSQ): Bishop Daniel Abot

Goodna Anglican Welfare Ministries

St Hilda's School, Southport: Principal – Virginia Warner; Lay Chaplain – Naomi Armstrong; A/g Chair of School Council – Nick Ryan; members of School Council; staff & students

Our missionary partners

Parishes in the Western Region (Bush Ministry Fund).

Local Schools and colleges

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

Our parish

Continue to pray for the Little Angels Tarragindi team as they prepare to launch the ELC early this year, in particular that all the required licenses are obtained promptly.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn and Maxine McElnea, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Margaret Sheehan, Don & Deb Rennie, Georgina Crawford, Glenda, Sue, Liz and Angie Lockhorst, Rev'd Shane Hubner, Natalie McHue, Lynette Coop, Sue, Rose, Al, Jennifer D, Sandy Tonello. Mary Bickerdike, Lee.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

11 January: Ronald Victor Casey; *12 January:* Joan Audrey Crittall; *13 January:* Una Joy Burns, Paul Miller Spice; *15 January:* Keith Stewart Smith, Valroy Green; *16 January:* Harold Richards, Bernice Olive Bignell; *17 January:* Beryl Jean Keogh.

St Luke's Connect

The first St Luke's Connect for 2026 will be held on Wednesday, 28th January from 9.30am.

Service of Holy Communion followed by morning tea. All welcome.

Please come with ideas for future St Luke's Connect meetings.



Containers for Change

Donate your '10c refund' bottles and cans to St Luke's. Either by bring them to church or take them direct to TOMRA (9/655 Toohey Road, Salisbury) and use the parish code: C10686424

Services This Week:

Tuesday –Friday

6pm: Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Tuesday 13th January

1.30pm Holy Communion
(Regis Salisbury)

Sunday 18th January 2026
(2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

7am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

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

*Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-14,
1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42*

Also part of St Luke's:

**Little Angels
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare
opening early 2026:

littleangels.qld.edu.au




St Luke's Theatre Society:
stlukestheatre.asn.au

Keep in touch:

 priest@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Rector, Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson)


 admin@stlukesekibin.org.au (Office)

 families@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Children's church)

 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

 P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121

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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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