



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday am: Holy Communion
(Hymns: TIS 10, TIS 342, TIS 584, TIS 275)

Sunday 9am: Family Service (also streamed via ZOOM*)
(Hymns: TIS 821, vv1-3, TIS 659, TIS 242, TIS 537)

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

'The water that I will give,' says the Lord, 'will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

Rev'd Timothy writes...

On our Lenten journey through the bible we come this week to Samuel anointing David in the Old Testament, and Jesus meeting and healing a man born blind, and making pointed comments about blindness and light in the gospel of John.



David plays a key part in the story of God and God's people in the Old Testament. He foreshadows the coming of Jesus in many ways. He is from Bethlehem, he is anointed king, but he is not, initially, king in the way that people would expect. His predecessor Saul was 'head and shoulders taller than all people' (1 Samuel 9:2), whilst David was an eighth son, not even considered to be presented to Samuel. He was out keeping sheep, which would have a symbolic meaning for those who lead the people of God (it is no accident that Psalm 23 is chosen for the psalm of the day by the lectionary compilers).

Then in the long chapter 9 of John's gospel, returns us to the question of sin and evil in the world that we read in Genesis 2. Jesus, the son of God and the son of David has come as the light of the world, but yet we still have the continued paradox in that while Jesus brings light and healing, even in the midst of this joyous, grace filled, event, there are those who want to turn it into a trial over worldviews. Such is still the case today.

Lent at St Luke's

As we travel through Lent, here are some of the ways in which we aim to add meaning to our journey:

Sunday services: 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.

Every Wednesday at 9.30am: Eucharist at St Luke's (St Luke's Connect on the last Wednesday of the months).

Tuesdays 10am or Thursdays 7pm, starting 17/19 February: Lent study group using the book "Uncharted Territory" by Rev'd Dr Canon Fran Grimes (in the Boardroom). *If you are unable to come to the sessions, but would like a copy of the book, please see June Nicholson.*



Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1–13 God tells Samuel, as spiritual leader, that it is time to take the next step in succession planning for the nation's king. In trepidation, but with a clear sense of guidance that goes beyond first impressions, Saul selects the youngest son of Jesse.

Psalm 23 This well-loved psalm invites us to see and trust God as a shepherd, providing, caring, accompanying, and nurturing us.

Ephesians 5:8–14 The writer of the letter to the Ephesians uses the image of light and darkness to encourage Christians to live with an awareness of God and leave behind a life that shuts out the divine presence and illumination.

John 9:1–41 Jesus heals a blind man but encounters opposition and ultimately excommunication from the religious leaders. He shows courage in speaking out as a witness to what has happened to him, and Jesus comes alongside him to help him see at a deeper level.

First reading

A reading from the first book of Samuel

¹ 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.' ² 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."

³ 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.' ⁴ 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?' ⁵ 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.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed

is now before the Lord.' ⁷ 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.' ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' ¹¹ 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.' ¹² 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.' ¹³ 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 16:1-13*

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd:
I shall not want.

² In green pastures he gives me rest:
beside still waters he leads me.

³ He restores my soul:
he guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies:
you anoint my head with oil
and my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of
the Lord forever.

Psalm Copyright © Matthew P. Anstey. All rights reserved. These psalms are being trialled and we invite you to submit feedback online at www.ansteypsalter.com

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;
¹³ but everything exposed by the light

becomes visible,¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Reading

A reading from the gospel of John

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³ Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.'

⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹ Some were saying, 'It is he.'

Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹ He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹² They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the

mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰ His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵ He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶ They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your

eyes?' ²⁷ He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?'

²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' ³⁰ The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴ They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶ He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' ³⁷ Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' ³⁸ He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains. *John 9:1-41*

Word for the Day

Have you ever seen the road safety sign that reads 'Where you look is where you go'? It's a short phrase that brings home the dangers of taking our eyes away from the road and ending up driving off it! Perhaps it's another way of expressing the need to be intentional as we travel through Lent. As with any journey, it is pointless to look back at where we have been or to look sideways at where others might be. Unless we focus on what is ahead, we may well lose our way.

The writer of the letter to the church at Ephesus uses images of contrasts: night and day, asleep and awake, death and life. They are linked to what is worthless rather than to what is good, honest, and truthful.

In our contemporary world, we often don't see such sharp contrasts: there is a time to welcome night and escape the glare and heat of the sun; we need sleep to restore our bodies; death brings an end to physical pain and suffering and comes to us all eventually. So let's look beyond the images and hear the summons to walk with a clear purpose, on the road with Christ.

These verses in the letter talk about belonging to God, but don't suggest it is an easy commitment or that it is something we achieve once and for all. There is plenty of encouragement to be active participants in the process. To suggest that we should 'act like' doesn't mean we are being deceptive. Can you think of a time when you acted in a way that you didn't feel? We may put on a brave face because that is what we want to be, even if we are fearful. We may smile at others when giving a speech, even if our knees are shaking. Being people of the light, followers of Christ, does not come naturally; it requires a conscious effort, a positive intention.

Similarly, 'making our light (lives) shine' might bring to mind that a dusty lampshade or light bulb will be more effective when cleaned, or that a flickering wick needs careful protection from strong blasts until it is established. Treating others with respect when it is not reciprocated, being a good role model when we are tired or short of time, and going out of our way for others—all require effort. Actively working out how goodness, honesty and truthfulness can be expressed in our lives requires constant attempts!

There is a plea in these verses for justice too—recognising when worthless and degrading practices are affecting others or ourselves. Calling them out and showing them up takes courage. Waking up to injustice can prompt us to get up and take action.

Ideas for Reflection

- Lent invites us to explore our lifestyle, our motives, our commitment to God's ways. We often think of the Lenten journey as a solitary one, walking with Christ as individuals. However, travelling is best done in company, whether it is a physical excursion or a spiritual path.
- What is happening in your community, in business or politics, in trade or social groups that is less than good, honest and true?
- Is there anything that you can identify and avoid, or call to account?
- Who can be your companions as individuals or as a faith community, as you travel through this stage of your life's journey?
- Are there other faith or secular groups that share your values and concerns?
- How could you work together on a project to help your community become a better place?

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever . Amen.

The World

Pray for an end to the hostilities spreading throughout the Middle East region and for those affected directly or indirectly by what is happening.

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Kenya

The Diocese of Melbourne: †Ric Thorpe; Assistant Bishops – †Genieve Blackwell, †Paul Barker, †Kate Prowd; Clergy and People

The Parish of Tara:

Liturgical Assistants in parishes and schools

St Paul's School, Bald Hills: Principal – John O'Sullivan Williams; Chaplains – Nicki Colledge; staff & students

Our missionary partners

The Church Missionary Society and missionaries sent from the QNNSW branch

Local Schools and colleges

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

Our parish

Pray for Little Angels Tarragindi as they continue to work towards getting their operating license and planning to open.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Sandy Tonello, Ryan, Sharon L, Rev'd Shane, Mary Bickerdike, David F, Peter G, Lauren, Rita, Honor, Don, Margaret, Peter F., Maxine and Robyn McElnea, Rose, Mon McNeill.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

15 March: Edna Elizabeth Geary; *16 March:* Edith Amanda Miles, Lindsay Robert Graham; *17 March:* Simon Roderick Eric Newsome, Veronica Evangeline Rodger, Edith Isabel McComas McKinnon; *18 March:* Michael Richardson, Shirley McLaren; *20 March:* Barbara Agnes Small, Alan Maurice Johnson.



Inala Careforce. Donations of non-perishable food (nor baked beans) are being collected for Inala. They will be delivered by the Moy's this week. Cash donations are also gratefully appreciated.

Containers for Change

Donate your '10c refund' bottles and cans to St Luke's. Either 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)

Wednesday 18th March

9.30am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

Sunday 22nd March

(Fifth Sunday in Lent)

7am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

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

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Also part of St Luke's:

**Little Angels
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare
opening soon:

littleangels.qld.edu.au



St Luke's Theatre Society:
stluketheatre.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

🌐 www.stlukesekibin.org.au

📘 @stlukesekibin

Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

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>