



## Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 457, vv.1,2,4,5 TIS 143, TIS 233, TIS 569)

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

(Hymns: MP52, TIS 156, MP 1259 , MP 936)

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

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

Rev'd Timothy writes...

One of the good things about the season of Easter in our lectionary is that we read through parts of the book of Acts. There is great encouragement to be found in how the fledgling church, very much a beleaguered minority, spread so rapidly. The stories here are some of the most compelling evidence for the truth of the Easter message; the risen Christ, working through the holy spirit, to bring faith to so many.

Our reading from Acts 17 this week is one of my favourite passages in this book. It sees Paul in the city of Athens. This was a major centre of Greek learning (think Cambridge or Harvard), full of people eager to debate and explore ideas of all sorts. Tied up with all of this was a pantheon of gods that they worshipped, and we read that Paul found one altar dedicated to 'an unknown god', almost as if the Athenians wanted to ensure that they did not offend a god, by omitting them!



Paul's subsequent address to the Areopagus (which was a governing council), takes this 'altar to an unknown god' as his starting point. Whilst in the synagogues he would start by talking of Abraham and Moses, and of how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the prophets, but here in Athens they are not part of that worldview and so such an address would be meaningless. Even to start with the story of Jesus would not have been useful. Rather he begins by reminding them that they acknowledge that they don't know everything, and then moves to a topic that he was sure that they had long debated—the creation. From here he can then proclaim

God as a source and sustainer of all that is, whom no human construction could contain. Even as he begins to speak of what Israel has known of God, Paul emphasizes that this God has already gifted the listening Athenians with something near and dear to them: life and breath.



A message perhaps for us today, when we can no longer assume that those we meet know the language of the Judeo-Christian tradition, but yet are seeking something transcendent.

## Readings for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22–31 At the Areopagus, Paul stands among the Athenians and recognises their searching, naming God as the One in whom ‘we live and move and have our being.’

Psalm 66:8–20 The psalmist remembers God’s faithfulness through struggle and so vows to continue worshipping God.

1 Peter 3:13–22 encourages gentleness and respect as we bear witness to hope.

John 14:15–21 Jesus assures his friends that the Spirit—Advocate, Helper, and Comforter—will remain with them, grounding their love in God’s abiding presence .

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

A reading from the book of Acts

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

*Acts 17:22-31*

### *Psalm 66: 7-19 (7 am only)*

<sup>7</sup> O bless our God, you peoples:  
and cause his praises to resound,

<sup>8</sup> Who has held our souls in life:  
who has not suffered our feet to slip.

<sup>9</sup> For you have proved us, O God:  
you have tried us as silver is tried.

<sup>10</sup> You brought us into the net:  
you laid sharp torment on our loins.

<sup>11</sup> You let our enemies ride over our  
heads, we went through fire and water:  
but you brought us out into a place of  
liberty.

<sup>12</sup> I will come into your house with burnt-  
offerings:

and I will pay you my vows,

<sup>13</sup> The vows that opened my lips:  
that my mouth uttered when I was in  
trouble.

<sup>14</sup> I will offer you burnt-offerings of  
fatted beasts, with the sweet smoke of  
rams:  
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of  
goats.

<sup>15</sup> Come then and hear, all you that fear  
God:  
and I will tell what he has done for me.

<sup>16</sup> I called to him with my mouth:  
and his praise was on my tongue.

<sup>17</sup> If I had cherished wickedness in my  
heart:  
the Lord would not have heard me.

<sup>18</sup> But God has heard me:  
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

<sup>19</sup> Praise be to God:  
who has not turned back my prayer, or his  
steadfast love from me.

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

A reading from the first letter of Peter

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit,  
sympathy, love for one another, a tender  
heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay  
evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on  
the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is  
for this that you were called—that you  
might inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For

‘Those who desire life  
and desire to see good days,  
let them keep their tongues from evil  
and their lips from speaking deceit;  
<sup>11</sup> let them turn away from evil and do  
good;  
let them seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the  
righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.  
But the face of the Lord is against those  
who do evil.’

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager  
to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do  
suffer for doing what is right, you are  
blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and  
do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your  
hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be  
ready to make your defence to anyone  
who demands from you an account of the  
hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup> yet do it with  
gentleness and reverence. Keep your  
conscience clear, so that, when you are  
maligned, those who abuse you for your  
good conduct in Christ may be put to  
shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for  
doing good, if suffering should be God’s  
will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For  
Christ also suffered for sins once for all,  
the righteous for the unrighteous, in  
order to bring you to God. He was put to  
death in the flesh, but made alive in the  
spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made  
a proclamation to the spirits in prison,  
<sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey,  
when God waited patiently in the days of  
Noah, during the building of the ark, in  
which a few, that is, eight people, were  
saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism,  
which this prefigured, now saves you—  
not as a removal of dirt from the body,  
but as an appeal to God for a good  
conscience, through the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven  
and is at the right hand of God, with  
angels, authorities, and powers made  
subject to him.

## Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of John

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

*John 14:15-21*

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## Word for the Day

Paul is very clear that God is not in human buildings or shrines and does not need anything from people. God made the world and everything in it. God is in all places and is accessible to anyone who searches for God. Sometimes Christian rhetoric sounds like only Christians know God or are the only ones who know the right way to be in relationship with God. How does today's reading from the book of Acts challenge that idea?

## Ideas for Reflection

- Paul reminds the Athenians that God 'does not live in shrines made by human hands.' If God is not contained in temples, shrines, or even churches, how might this reshape our relationship to sacred buildings? How does it challenge assumptions about where God is found, or how the church uses its resources?
- Paul begins with the Athenians' longing.' He honours their searching and listens before speaking. How might curiosity, deep respect, and deep listening transform the way we engage with beliefs and practices different from our own? How might our Christian assumptions limit our ability to perceive God's presence elsewhere?
- Paul quotes the Athenians' own poets to build a connection. What might it look like for us to notice God's wisdom and truth expressed through neighbours, artists, thinkers, or communities we might not expect?
- For those of us living on land where indigenous cultures have long known and honoured the Creator, this is a powerful invitation. How might today's reading encourage us to recognise God's presence in the wisdom, stories, and spiritual practices that existed long before Christianity arrived? What responsibilities arise when we worship on the land shaped by those traditions?
- Where do you sense God's nearness in your own life? Where might you look again with openness, expecting to find God where you had not noticed God before?

St Luke's Community Hall, 193 Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi

*Lilly-Lee Gallery &*

**Anglican**  
Church  
St Luke's Ekibin

# ART EXHIBITION 2026

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Opening hours :**

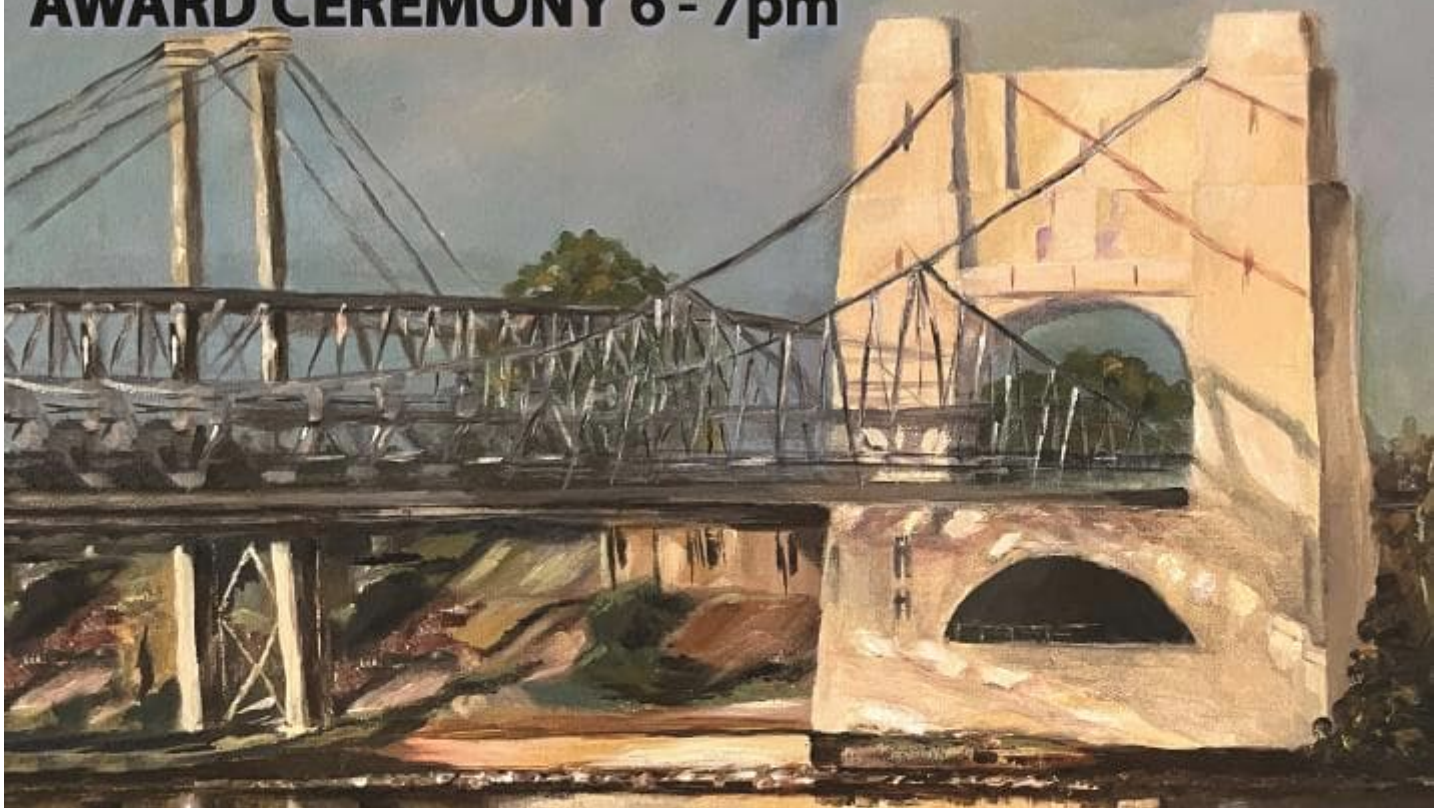
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 10am - 9pm,**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 9am - 3pm**

**OPENING NIGHT : Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 5 - 9pm**

**AWARD CEREMONY 6 - 7pm**

*Free attendance*  
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Refreshments available throughout - Sausage Sizzle Saturday AM

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# For our Prayers

## *Prayer for the day*

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding; pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen

## *The World*

Pray for continued moves towards the peaceful and just settlement of the crisis situations throughout the world.

## *The Anglican Communion*

The Church of Pakistan (United)

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

The Parish of East Redland: Cameron Freese, Shan Vierow, Aubrey Pedwell, Allan Goodwin, Bill Guttormsen, George Roberts, Peter Moss, Bruce Henzell, David Lamont, Clive Cooper, David Cox, Susan Crothers-Robertson, Kate Littmann-Kelly  
Diocesan Council

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

## *Our missionary partners*

Parishes in the Western Region (Bush Ministry Fund).

## *Local Schools and colleges*

St Elizabeths Primary, St Francis Xavier, Red Hill Special School

## *Our parish*

Give thanks for the opportunity to welcome our local community to our campus for the Art Show next week.

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

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

## *From the Parish Book of Remembrance*

10 May: Frank Merlin Wemyss, Leonard Alfred Bignell; 13 May: Keith Alfred March;

14 May: Olive Illingworth, Norma Mary McKenna, Brenda Desmond Shields;

15 May: Margaret Frances Priscilla O'Brien

## Children's Church

Children's Church continues each Sunday in term 2.

All welcome!



## 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

## Also part of St Luke's:

**Little Angels  
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare  
*opening soon:*

[littleangels.qld.edu.au](http://littleangels.qld.edu.au)



St Luke's Theatre Society:  
[stlukestheatre.asn.au](http://stlukestheatre.asn.au)

## Services This Week:

Tuesday-Friday

6pm: Evening Prayer on Zoom

(NOTE: Zoom service on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May will **celebrating Ascension Day**)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

1.30pm: Holy Communion at Regis,  
Salisbury

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

11am: Memorial service for the late  
Ronald Spencer

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

(7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter / Ascension)

7am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

9am: Family Service with Holy  
Communion and on Zoom  
(with Children's Church)

*Readings: Acts 1:1-14, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53*

## Keep in touch:

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(Rector, Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson)


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 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

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

 [www.stlukesekibin.org.au](http://www.stlukesekibin.org.au)

 @stlukesekibin

Parish Warden:

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