

As a Christian community, meeting together to worship God, we affirm our commitment to ensuring the safety of each child who interacts with our community.

Our statement of commitment for Child Safety is available on our website or in the Narthex of each Parish Centre.

Mission Statement: *To live as disciples of Christ embracing his teaching of love and service to all.*

Vision Statement: *To be known as God's people of prayer, to be welcoming of all our sisters and brothers by being inclusive and sensitive to diversity, open to change and growing as a community by the love and grace of Christ.*

The December issue of *The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)* is now available in the foyer/narthex.

DIARY THIS WEEK

Wednesday 12h. December 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Thursday 13th. December 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'
Lucy, martyr and virgin (d.304) 11.00 am. Reserved Sacrament at Plumpton Villa
Aged Care Facility

Friday 14th. December
John of the Cross, mystic and teacher (d.1591)

Sunday 16th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,
7.00 pm. Nine Lessons & Carols at St. Matthew's

CHRISTMAS in the PARISH

Sunday 23th. December - 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'

Sunday 23th. December - 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Monday 24th. December - 5.00 pm. All age Christmas Eve service
with a Eucharist, at St Linus'

Monday 24th. December - 11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St Matthew's

Tuesday 25th. December - 10.00 am Christmas Day Eucharist at
St Matthew's

The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield / Merlynston



St. Matthew's
cnr. Widford St. &
Melbourne Ave.
Glenroy 3046

with

St. Linus'
cnr. Glyndon Ave. &
Delta Ave.
Merlynston 3058

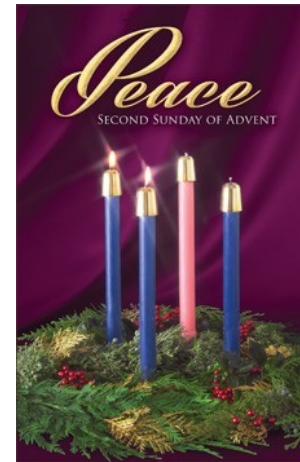


PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Jo-Anne Wells
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PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.org.au

Honorary Lay Pastoral Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers
Bev. Lacock 9309 2775
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159
Kerry Pratchett 0409 306 818



SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

9th. December
2018

WELCOME

*Our service begins on page 119 of 'A Prayer Book for Australia' (green book)
Hymns are found in 'Together in Song' (red book)
The number of each hymn is clearly displayed in the Church.
At St. Matthew's the service can be followed on the screens.
Please join us for morning tea, following the service.*

During the 10.30 am. Service at St. Matthew's each Sunday,
opportunity will be available to receive one-on-one prayer
for any personal needs.
Please go to the Chapel area after you have received Communion

Acknowledgement of Land

(An act towards reconciliation by the Parish of Glenroy/ Hadfield / Merlynston)

For thousands of years indigenous people have walked in this land.
Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,
for their stewardship throughout the ages.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE

If you require Gluten free wafer,
please speak to the Lay Assistant or a Welcomer, BEFORE the Service,

**PLEASE OBSERVE SILENCE
PRIOR TO OUR SERVICE, DURING HOLY COMMUNION
AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE**

Catch up with one another in the Narthex or at Morning Tea

Sentence: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1. 78-79;

Collect: God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin: keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Malachi 3.1-4;

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

For the Psalm - Song of Zechariah page 10 APBA

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel;
who has come to his people and set them free.
The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour;
born of the house of his servant David.
Through the holy prophets, God promised of old;
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.
To show mercy to our forebears;
and to remember his holy covenant.

MISSION NEWS

CHRISTMAS BOWL

The Christmas Appeal of Act for Peace, the International aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Donation envelopes are available in the Narthex
of St. Linus' and St. Matthew's
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Also, the following were recently delivered to the Parish letter-box -

ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID - A gift fir for a King - donation request to their 2018 Christmas Appeal, to provide water, food and medical aid, through the Rapid Response Emergency Fund.

www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

OR mail cheque to PO Box 389, Abbotsford Vic. 3067

BIBLE SOCIETY - Sower magazine & donation request to help Indigenous Australians share the Bible their way, in their words.

www.biblesociety.org.au

OR mail cheque to GPO Box 4161, Sydney NSW 2001

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE - donation request to help create more opportunities for children, teenagers, singles and families. www.bsl.org.au

OR mail cheque to 67 Brunswick St. Fitzroy Vic. 3065

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY - donation request toward St. Andrew's Hall redevelopment project.

www.cms.org.au/vic OR mail cheque to PO Box 2150 Rangeview Vic. 3132

SCRIPTURE UNION VICTORIA - 'Outreach' newsletter, and donation request.

www.suvic.org.au

OR mail cheque to 455-457 Springfield Rd. Mitcham Vic. 3132

THE FRED HOLLOWES FOUNDATION - as little as \$25 could help to restore the sight of one person. Donations to - www.hollows.org OR ph. 1800 266 861

OR mail cheque to - level 2, 61 Dunning Ave. Roseberry NSW 2018

Pew Leaflet Notices:

Please give to, or phone Glenda Owen,

Or e-mail: - gonana7@bigpond.com - by 8 pm. Tuesday



Please come and join us

at

St. Matthew's Anglican Church

cnr. Widford St. & Melbourne Avenue

Glenroy

for

NINE LESSONS

&

CAROLS

SUNDAY 16th. DECEMBER 2018

at

7.00 pm.



This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear;
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation;
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God;,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Philippians 1. 3–11;

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL Luke 3.1–6;

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9th. December 2018

MAKE READY

Make ready! John the Baptizer implores those gathered at the banks of the Jordan River – and those gathered in churches this Sunday – to remove any obstacles that are hindering openness to the renewed ways of peace and justice that God has promised to reveal through the Child to come. John speaks a bold word in anticipation of such saving love: Prepare!

Focus Scripture

Luke 3:1–6: According to the gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer is firmly located within history. Luke lists Tiberius, Emperor of Rome; Herod, the ruler of Galilee; Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea; and high priests Annas and Caiaphas as contemporaries of John. These details would have offered credibility to John's prophetic word in the minds of the first readers of Luke's gospel and, in turn, would have strengthened the authenticity of the stories attributed to Jesus in this gospel. Luke was probably written shortly after 70 CE for a Gentile audience. One of the key themes in Luke is that God's salvation – manifested in Jesus – is for all people.

John travelled in the region around the Jordan River, "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Such a baptism was not new with John. Beginning around the 6th century BCE, Gentiles who became Jewish were expected to undergo a ritual of immersion that came to be called "proselyte baptism." Later, some groups of Jews connected these immersions with repentance. Repentance is translated from a Greek word that means "have a change of mind" or "go beyond the mind you have." Repentance depicts a change of life and heart.

John's words recorded in verses 4–6 echo Isaiah 40:3–5. The phrase, "the word of God came to John" identifies John as God's prophet. John recalls the words of the great Hebrew prophet Isaiah, and reaffirms that the promise of God's salvation is for "all flesh." One way to understand this salvation is being "delivered from evil or danger," especially any evil or danger that would separate us from God. Salvation shares the same roots as the word salve, a treatment for wounds that enables healing.

John's father, Zechariah, also proclaimed the ways of God. Luke 1:68–79 reports the Spirit-filled prophecy of Zechariah. When the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son, Zechariah did not believe it (Luke 1:5–25). Because of his unbelief, the angel made Zechariah unable to speak until the prophecy was fulfilled. These words from Zechariah – his first in months –

proclaim all that God has done and will do through John and through God's promised "mighty saviour," for whom John will prepare the way.

In **Malachi 3:1–4**, the prophet proclaims that God, "whom you seek," is coming. John the Baptizer, as well as many of his listeners, would have been familiar with Malachi's words. Both Malachi and John call God's people to prepare for the fullness of God's refining judgment and mercy.

In **Philippians 1:3–11**, Paul gives thanks for the Christians in Philippi. Paul is grateful for God, who began this "good work," and for their ongoing work of sharing the good news of Christ. Paul is confident that God is still working, and will not stop until the "day of Jesus Christ," that future time when all the promises of God's reign will be fulfilled.

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God's prophets call us to prepare the way – in our lives and in our communities – for the gift of God's saving love in Jesus the Christ. Part of this preparation is repentance, turning again to God. What does it mean to you to prepare yourself for God's new way in Christ? Where is the voice of God's prophets heard today in church and society? How do people of faith help prepare the way for God's saving love?

REFLECTION

**Prepare us to embrace your presence and your leading,
 O God of promise.**

**Open our hearts to the words of your prophets,
 who bid us to journey in your wise ways of justice and peace. Amen.**

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ACT for PEACE - CHRISTMAS BOWL
Bible Study Guide for Advent - Peace

Malachi 3. 1-4; -

Long ago, Malachi declared God's promise, 'See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me ...' But will we recognize the messenger? The Russian writer, Tolstoy told the story of Martin, who was encouraged by a Christian pilgrim to live for God rather than his own pleasure. One night he heard a voice in his sleep, 'look into the street tomorrow, I am coming to visit you.' The next day, one by one, needy strangers crossed his path, and he gave them food and shelter. But Jesus had not come as he had promised - until Martin realized that Jesus had indeed come in the form of his needy visitors.

John the Baptist was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord...'

He may have been an unlikely messenger, but he understood that the gift of peace was in many ways dependant on conditions of social justice being met. A war torn country like Pakistan presents its own issues, including the need of education for girls and the closure of the gender gap generally.

It may be said that Jesus the Christ is both messenger and message; but will we recognise him? The angelic declaration of 'peace on earth' requires us to be messengers of peace, indeed to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation, and one way we can respond to that calling is through the Christmas Bowl.