



**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
WILLIAMSTOWN**

**29 March 2020
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Prayer and Reflection



Holy Trinity has been a faithful Christian presence in Williamstown since 1854. Holy Trinity welcomes everyone regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background. Thank you for being part of our faith community.

If you would prefer to participate in a live stream Eucharist please go to www.htw.org.au/services for a list of recommendations.

REFLECTION

The readings set for this Fifth Sunday in Lent talk about life coming from death. Jesus' friend Lazarus, was dead, really dead. Jesus speaks and Lazarus emerges from his tomb. Ezekiel has a vision of a valley full of bones, a sign of utter devastation and despair. God calls to the prophet to speak, and the bones come together with flesh and sinew, but more still is needed – the breath of God, the breath of life, which can also be interpreted at spirit. We are mortal, that doesn't change even after Jesus' resurrection at Easter, but we as humans are more than flesh and blood. Humans are also creatures of spirit.

As the world contends with the covid-19 pandemic, the focus has rightly been on physically protecting people, particularly by large scale efforts requiring physical distance from each other. These physical measures, which for many reasons are essential, do have their mental, emotional and spiritual effects as well. Many will be grieving that they cannot gather in their places of worship, I am too. We can still nourish our spiritual selves in prayer, by reflecting on God's word. It may feel like a lean diet, but it is sustaining, and we can look forward to feasting again in the future. Yours in Christ - Rev Elizabeth

PARISH PRAYER POINTS

For the Church:

- Season of Prayer and Repentance in the Anglican Communion
- Diocese of Rockhampton
- Archdeaconry of Stonnington
- St Mary's Melbourne North
- St John's Sorrento w. St Andrew's Rye
- St Columbs Hawthorn
- St Stephen's Werribee

In our Community: As part of our regular cycle of prayer, we pray for Joan and Rod Healey, Barbara and Brett Hingston, Shirley Hunt, Carol and Jack Huren, Jewel Lobbe, Lailey and Meekie Macrae, Marlina Singh, Ian Stewart, Sue Wragg

We pray for those who are suffering or unwell at this time, including: Gordon and Audrey Beal, Ron and Joan Bates, Anne Mulholland, Helen, George Hodges, Heather Jobling, Bryan Matty, Laurie McLay, Robert Mander, May Kofoed, Diane Robinson, Marjorie Todd, Carol Williams, Robert Vial.

AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

As you enter into this time of prayer and reflection, you are invited to light a candle as a sign that this time you set aside is sacred.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church is on the sovereign lands of the Yalukit Willum of the Kulin Nation. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

THE SENTENCE

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord, 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

CONFESSION

Return to the Lord your God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace we have been saved. Ephesians 2: 4-5

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to God's call, we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore, we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Life-giving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He

said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

For the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 130

- ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
- ² Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
- ³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
- ⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
- ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.
- ⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
- ⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

THE SECOND READING Romans 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

For the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

THE GOSPEL according to Saint John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she

got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON Rev Elizabeth Murray

A recording of the sermon will be available from Sunday morning.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is

seated on the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of the

saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life

everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Intercessory prayers are available with this service sheet.

You are welcome to pray as you wish.

This time of prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

A BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; give honour to all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

THE PARISH AT A GLANCE

Vicar: Rev Elizabeth Murray
Email: vicar@htw.org.au Phone: 0419 106 457
Day off: Friday

PARISH OFFICE: office@htw.org.au **POSTAL:** PO Box 515, Williamstown 3016 **ADDRESS:**
255 Nelson Place Williamstown 3016 **WEBSITE:** www.htw.org.au
NOTE: The Parish Office will NOT be open until after Easter

Wardens:

Sally Burt 0402 332 844
Tom Verghese 0419 999 292

Honorary Lay Minister to Men:

Scott Phillips..... 0411 751 755

Treasurer:

Laurence Gray 0431 322 490

Bookkeeper:

Ian Stewart 0438 070 439

Parish Council Secretary:

Judy White 0434 250 411

Administration:

Judy White..... 0434 250 411

Pastoral Care:

Janice Schmidt..... 0409 180 144

Baptism Arrangements:

Parish Office, Wed & Fri 9 - 4 9397 5330

Weddings:

Judy White, Parish Office
Wed/Fri 9397 5330

The Pilot - Parish Journal:

Judy White 0434 250 411

Community Lunch Programme :

(Mon & Fri 10 - 1 pm):

Wilma Roberts..... 0409 862 292

Christine Hurwood..... 0428 589 092

HTW/Anglicare Emergency Relief

Partnership:

Carol Willis 0439 458 096

Organists:

Craig Douglass..... 0425 774 307

John Rivers..... 0473 029 187

Women of Holy Trinity:

Liz White 0407 850 501

Neralie Hoadley

Music Group:

Carol Huren..... 0410 476 607

Ada Cambridge Book Group:

Wilma Roberts..... 0409 862 292

Tapestry Group:

Joan Crook..... 9393 9478

Interfaith Dialogue:

Scott Phillips..... 0411 751 755

Synod representatives:

Val Dripps 0412 372 52

Scott Phillips 0411 751 755

HOLY TRINITY PASTORAL CARE

The Parish is divided into zones to cover the wide areas of pastoral care.

For those living in the **Village**, your team representative is **Christa Fatouros. Nursing Homes: Rev Elizabeth Murray, Williamstown Central: Valerie Dripps 0412 372 524,**

Victoria St/Hannan St areas: Ann Hodges 0417 581 662 In Newport/The Strand:

Janice Schmidt 0409 180 144, Yarraville: Pamela McFadyen, Pt Cook/Altona

Meadows: the Rev'd Margaret Burt: 0432 711 336. If you are in need or know of

someone who does need help, please contact either the above person in your area or call Judy 0434 250 411.