ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

ORDINARY 25
20 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Season of Creation
~ September ~

WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice for all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. We hope you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter the church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

- If there is a queue for the wine, please pause to avoid congestion.
- If you do not wish to drink the wine, you may wish to pause before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.
- The priest will come to you for communion or prayers, if need be.
- For health reasons, dipping bread into the wine is prohibited.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on YouTube. We endeavour not to show communicants coming forward for Holy Communion.

SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY

St Theodore's depends on donations to sustain our ministry. You can contribute in person with Cash (Offertory Bowl) or Card (Eftpos Machine) at the church entrance. You can offer via bank transfer a regular gift to our Planned Giving account, or a donation to our FSP Donations account. We very much value your support.

Please email office@theodores.church to subscribe to our mailing list.

Please stand in body or in spirit

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 311 "LORD, ENTHRONED IN HEAVENLY SPLENDOUR"

1 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.

2 Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

3 Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.

4 Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

5 Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

Tune: St Helen
Music: G C Martin (1844-1916)
Words: George Bourne (1840-1925)
© Common Praise 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kaurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.
May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. (John 1:3)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIES

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

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.
O God, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator of the fruitful earth,
you made us stewards of all things.
Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness,
and steadfast wills to use your bounty well,
that the whole human family,
today and in generations to come,
may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: EXODUS 16.2-15

2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and
Aaron in the wilderness. 3 The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had
died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the
fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this
wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for
you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that
day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction
or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will
be twice as much as they gather on other days.' 6 So Moses and Aaron
said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was
the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning
you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your
complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain
against us?' 8 And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in
the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has
heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your
complaining is not against us but against the Lord.'

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the
Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your
complaining."' 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the
Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of
the Lord appeared in the cloud. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses and said,
12 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At
twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of
bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."'

13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the
morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the layer of
dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky
substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it,
they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was.
Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105.1-6, 37-45

Response: Sing to the Lord, sing praises to him



1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
2 Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works. **R**
3 Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
4 Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually. **R**
5 Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
6 O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one. **R**
37 He brought Israel out with silver and with gold:
and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.
38 Egypt was glad at their going:
for dread of Israel had fallen upon them. **R**
39 He spread out a cloud for a covering:
and fire to lighten the night.
40 The people asked, and he brought them quails:
and satisfied them with the bread from heaven. **R**
41 He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed:
and ran in the parched land like a river.
42 For he had remembered his holy word:
that he gave to Abraham his servant. **R**

43 So he led out his people with rejoicing:
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
44 He gave them the land of the nations:
and they took possession of the fruit
for which other peoples had toiled,
45 So that they might keep his statutes:
and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord. **R**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1.21-30

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or in spirit

GRADUAL HYMN: TIS 609 "MAY THE MIND OF CHRIST MY SAVIOUR"

1 May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling
All I do and say.

2 May the word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his power.

3 May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self denying,
This is victory.

5 May I run the race before me
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

Tune: St Leonard's
Music: Arthur Cyril Barham Gould (1891–1953)
Words: Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859–1928)
© Together In Song 1999

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment / says the Lord
love one another as I / have loved you

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20.1-16
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Jesus said, 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went
out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. 2 After
agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into
his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others
standing idle in the market-place; 4 and he said to them, "You also go into
the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. 5 When
he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the
same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing
around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all
day?" 7 They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them,
"You also go into the vineyard." 8 When evening came, the owner of the
vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their
pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." 9 When those
hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily
wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive
more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when
they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, "These
last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who
have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." 13 But he
replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not
agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and
go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not
allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you
envious because I am generous?" 16 So the last will be first, and the first
will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers are followed by a time of silence for reflection.

Conclusion:
Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 501 "LIGHT OF THE MINDS THAT KNOW HIM"

1 Light of the minds that know him,
may Christ be light to mine!
my sun in risen splendour,
my light of truth divine;
my guide in doubt and darkness,
my true and living way,
my clear light ever shining,
my dawn of heaven's day.

2 Life of the souls that love him,
may Christ be ours indeed!
the living bread from heaven
on whom our spirits feed;
who died for love of sinners
to bear our guilty load,
and make of life's brief journey
a new Emmaus road.

3 Strength of the wills that serve him,
may Christ be strength to me,
who stilled the storm and tempest,
who calmed the tossing sea;
his Spirit's power to move me,
his will to master mine,
his cross to carry daily
and conquer in his sign.

4 May it be ours to know him,
that we may truly love,
and loving, fully serve him
as serve the saints above;
till in the home of glory
with fadeless splendour bright,
we serve in perfect freedom
our strength, our life, our light.

Tune: Llangloffan
Music: From Humnau a Thonau (1865) Composer unknown
Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
©Common Praise 2001

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Eternal Creator, Holy Wisdom,
all creation yearns in hope to be set free.
Receive all we offer you this day
and through this Eucharist
lead us to be servants of your justice and truth
in the name of Jesus.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of power and might,
you spoke the Word
and all that is in heaven
and on the earth came to be.
Your Spirit hovered over the primal elements,
and you brought forth life in forms innumerable,
including this fragile earth
and our selves, our souls, and bodies.
As our past is in you,
so our hope for the future rests with you.

As we have turned from your way,
so we turn again to the warmth of your love.
Through you all things are brought to new life.
And so with all creation,
we raise our voices to proclaim your great and glorious name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
† Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you for Jesus,
whose first bed was a feed trough.
He was baptised into the Jordan,

tested in the wilderness,
he travelled in fishing boats
and told parables of farmers and seeds,
labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
food of the poor, the work of field and hearth;
he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you,
do this to remember me.

Again after supper
he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land,
gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying:
This is my blood, which is shed for you.
When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection
and awaiting his coming kingdom,
we offer you this bread and this cup.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

† Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts
so that we know Jesus in them
and are gathered together with everyone
who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,
that we may strive for justice and peace,
respect the dignity of every human being,
and safeguard the integrity of creation.

All honour and glory are yours,
Creator, Saviour, and Spirit,
now and in the world to come.

Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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 for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate.
So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;
those who have been here often
and those who have not been for a long time;
those who have tried to follow Jesus;
and we who have failed.
Come.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Households can come forward together if they wish.

At the entrance of the church you are welcome to receive anointing for healing or to use our two stations of prayer, the bowl of water with stones and the bowl of candles.

After Communion has concluded, please stand in body or in spirit.

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done. (Psalm 105.1)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creator of all,
in the death and resurrection of Jesus
you have reconciled all things in heaven and on earth.
May this bread and wine open our eyes
to your love and justice woven through all of creation.
We ask this through Jesus, your creating Word.

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING (ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BRAZIL)

May the God who sprung water from a rock,
quenching the thirst of
those who wandered in fear,
spare us from the drought of a senseless life.

May the God who flows from the wells of salvation,
and who is Living Water to the foreigner,
the stranger, and the unknown, keep us in peace.

May the God who rolls on like a river,
changing the course of the world with streams of righteousness
that guide the Church's vessel in this world,
empower us to work for transformation.

And may the blessing of God,
† Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL: CP 455 "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT REDEEMER"

1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.

Tune: Cwm Rhondda
Music: John Hughes (1873-1932)
Words: Welsh, William Williams (1717-1791)
tr. Peter Williams (1727-1796)
© Common Praise 2001

POSTLUDE: PRELUDE 1 FROM *EIGHT SMALL PRELUDES AND FUGUES*, ATTRIBUTED TO JS BACH

Liturgy from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © Broughton Publishing 1995. All Rights Reserved. The Scripture is from the **New Revised Standard Version** of the Bible, © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. CCLI Licence #421001. CCLI Licence #22055450 for live-streaming. Psalm Response © Stewart Perkins. All rights reserved. Collect from St Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, Ontario, Anglican Church of Canada. Eucharistic prayers from the Anglican Church of Canada.

Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say "‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ", you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.

Community of Poets

The way a robin or oriole
might weave string or yarn
into its nest to create integrity
or an anchor, that is the way
I weave an imaginary red ribbon
through each square
on the zoom screen.
My friend has just invoked
a Japanese legend
about how we are all connected
by a red thread, and though
I have not heard this legend before,
I can imagine a deep crimson stitching
moving even now through all
of our backgrounds,
making of this gathering
a most wondrous nest,
a sturdy place made of wet poems
and fresh music, song and mess,
a durable creation in which we might
all rest, a sturdy, safe place
to find spaciousness.

– Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer