



St Philip's
Come & See



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

5 February 2023

Welcome to St Philip's

We acknowledge the Ngambri and Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we worship, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who worship with us.

St Philip's COVIDSafe Plan We are asking folk not attend church if they feel unwell, to be aware of their hand hygiene and to be mindful of social distance. Thank you. Masks are available for those who wish to wear one.

Pew sheet & Order of Service: the full Pew sheet with more news and reflections is available on our website. The QR code in the pews will direct you to the current edition, please use your phone/tablet and follow along. Service cards, Pew Bibles and Prayer Books are also available.

Offertory: at the offertory when our gifts are brought forward, there is an opportunity for you to make your contribution. A self-serve Eftpos machine is available in the foyer, you can use it before or after the service. St Philip's EFT details are also available if you would like to make a direct transfer: 702-389 05202512. Giving cards are in the foyer if you wish to place something in the offertory bag after giving electronically.

Communion: if you are baptised you are welcome to receive communion. If you would like to receive a blessing please cross your hands on your chest as you come forward.

If you'd like to volunteer as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer or another role on the Roster, then please email rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

This weekend Canon Scott and Lisa leave for the US for a time of academic study, writing and reflection, we wish them both Godspeed. They will be returning to Canberra in early May. Canon Scott will preach at our Patronal Festival this year on Sunday 7 May.

Demolition work has been completed adjacent to the Parish Precinct. Two houses have been removed and will be replaced by five public housing units. We are waiting to see what will happen

with the fencing that we share with this property. The fence near the Storage Shed is in poor repair and bamboo is lifting some of the pavers in that area, please be careful if you are moving around that area.

On Thursday afternoon last week our Missional Spirituality 'project' commenced with the first Rector's 'Learning and Development Circle' here at St Philip's. The four Rectors gathered with Tracey Matthews to look through the material, to introduce ourselves to each other and to speak about our hopes for the coming year. If I were to try and sum up what was said, it was that each of us are searching for a spirituality – a way of *being* Church, that better resonates with the communities around us. We all understand that increasingly the lives of the people and families in our parishes are far removed from the life of faith we profess, how do we bridge that divide. With today's gospel in mind how might we be 'salt and light?' Much food for thought!

Every blessing, Martin

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au
0478 619 911

Eucharist for the fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Setting: St Philip's Eucharist, Colin Forbes

Introit hymn 658 (TiS) (10am)

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,
I Have Heard My People Cry.
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,
My Hand Will Save.
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?
Whom Shall I Send?

*Refrain: Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.*

I, The Lord Of Snow And Rain,
I Have Borne My People's Pain.
I Have Wept For Love Of Them,
They Turn Away.
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,
Give Them Hearts For Love Alone.
I Will Speak My Word To Them
Whom Shall I Send? *Refrain*

I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.
I Will Set A Feast For Them,
My Hand Will Save
Finest Bread I Will Provide,
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.
I Will Give My Life To Them,
Whom Shall I Send? *Refrain*

Daniel Schutte 1947-

Entrance antiphon

**'Is not this the fast that I choose,' says the Lord: 'to loose the bonds of injustice,
and to let the oppressed go free?'**

Isaiah 58:6

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

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.**

As we prepare the mystery of Christ's love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

**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.**

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.

Kyrie

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

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

Let us pray:
Faithful God,
you have appointed us your witnesses,
to be a light that shines in the world:
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,

but tell everyone your love,
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Today's readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (58:1-9a)

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Psalm 112

O praise the Lord. Blessed are they that fear the Lord:
and greatly delights in his commandments.

**Their children shall be mighty in the land:
an upright race who will be blessed.**

Riches and plenty shall be in their house:
and their righteousness shall stand for ever.

**Light arises in darkness for the upright:
gracious and merciful are the righteous.**

It goes well with those who act generously and lend:

who guide their affairs with justice.

**Surely they shall never be moved:
the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not fear bad tidings:

their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

**Their hearts are confident and will not fear:
they will see the downfall of their enemies.**

They give freely to the poor:

their righteousness stands for ever, their head is uplifted in glory.

**The wicked shall see it and be angry:
they shall gnash his teeth and consume away;
and the hope of the wicked shall fail.**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2:1-13)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

The Gradual hymn 426 (10am) (TiS)

Spirit of truth, essential God,
who did your ancient saints inspire,
shed in their hearts your love abroad
and touch their hallowed lips with fire,
to you that through all ages live
our worship without end we give.

Still we believe, almighty Lord,
whose presence fills both earth and heaven,
the meaning of the written word
is by your inspiration given;
you only do yourself explain,
the secret mind of God make plain.

Come then, divine Interpreter,
the scriptures to our hearts apply;
and, taught by you, we God revere
and in three persons magnify;
in each the triune God adore,
who was, and is for evermore.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

The Gradual (8am)

Alleluia,

alleluia!

No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.

Alleluia!

1 Corinthians 2:9

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew (5:13-20)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the church

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he
suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

✠ **and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the people

In our prayers we remember all in need, particularly: John, Ben, Hugh, Sarah, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Deborah, Sue, Molly, Katherine, David & Margot, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital or residential care.

We pray for our international mission, the Vanuatu Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project. We pray especially:

- for the small staff of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and their many volunteers working on this project;
- for the communities whose health will benefit from the project;
- that we will be generous in supporting this important work of our sister Anglican Church in Vanuatu.

We commend to God the recently departed especially Lynette Grady, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Nancy Ingle* (9/2/1961), Alison Done (10/2/1953), the victims of war, disaster, pandemic and tragedy, all whose memories are dear to us, and those who have no one to remember them.

*The High Altar at St Philip's is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Ingle.

The greeting of peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Offertory hymn 398 (TiS) (10am)

Come down, O Love divine,
seek now this soul of mine,
and visit it with our own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

There let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
my outward garment be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace
till we become the place
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco de Siena d 1434

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Faithful God, receive all we offer you this day. May we so live the life of Christ that your Church may be a sign of salvation to all the nations of the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

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.

All thanks and praise, glory and honour
be yours at all times, in every place,
holy and loving Father, true and living God.

We praise you that through your eternal Word
you brought the universe into being
and made us in your own image.

You have given us this earth to care for and delight in,
and with its bounty you preserve our life.

We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race
with the promises of a gracious covenant
and called us to serve you in love and peace.

Above all we give you thanks for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
born as one of us, he lived our common life
and offered his life to you in perfect obedience and trust.

By his death he delivered us from sin, brought us new life,
and reconciled us to you and to one another.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
with apostles and prophets,
with holy men and women of every age,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing/saying:

Sanctus & Benedictus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth and full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do, this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
Proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Memorial acclamation
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament
renew us by your Spirit,
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom;

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

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

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.

The breaking of bread and communion

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 757(f) (TiS)

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.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Communion antiphon

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Isaiah 58:9

The sending out of God's people

Let us pray:

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

As salt and light that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in
the risen life of Christ our Savior.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge
and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the
Father ✕ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional hymn 545 (TiS) (10am)

Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;
Heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;
Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;
God the Spirit fills us with new worth.

No more doubting, no more senseless dread:
God's good self has graced our wine and bread;
all the wonder heaven has kept in store.
now is ours to keep for evermore

Celebrate with saints who dine on high,
witnesses that love can never die.
'Hallelujah!' thus their voices ring:
nothing less in gratitude we bring.

Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,
praise the Spirit - three yet ever one;
praise the God whose food and friends avow
heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!

John Bell 1949-

News

From The Rev'd Tracey Matthews: Missional Spirituality Project 2023

A new initiative will be launched in February 2023 to introduce congregations to the theology and practice of Missional Spirituality. The project will be led by The Rev'd Tracey Matthews who is currently completing a PhD focussed on the role of Spirituality and Transformative Discipleship in 21st century Australia. This joint parish project will involve Holy Cross Hackett, Holy Covenant Jamison, St. Philip's O'Connor and Narooma/Bodalla and is being funded through a Pelican Foundation Grant.

Missional Spirituality describes our response to the reality of God's grace through holistic discipleship that embodies the teaching of Jesus to Love God and Neighbour with heart, mind, soul and strength. Despite different approaches to spirituality, mission and evangelism across the Christian Tradition, there is ecumenical consensus that transformative discipleship is critical for the Church to participate in God's restorative mission in the world today.

The primary purpose of the Missional Spirituality program is to cultivate whole of life discipleship that integrates Christian spirituality and missional praxis* for individual and communal transformation. Mission is the most urgent task for the church, because to be Christian is to participate in God's life and vision for a reconciled world.

The key objectives of the six-month learning journey are to:

- Introduce participants to a range of Christian spirituality and practices that connect them to God, self and neighbour
- Show how theology (drawing on scripture and tradition) shapes spirituality, ecclesiology** and missional praxis
- Demystify discipleship and demonstrate what it might look like to learn and live out the way of Jesus in contemporary Australia
- Introduce participants to contextual theology and praxis that enables a congregation to connect the gospel with their particular local contexts
- Provide theological and practical tools for congregations to re-imagine their relationship to their local communities and learn how to co-create with neighbours

The project will be delivered over the following timeline to support formation and learning here at St Philip's on the following Saturdays from 2-4pm - here are the dates for your diary:

Module 1 – 25 February, 2pm – 4pm

Module 2 – 25 March

Module 3 – 27 May

Module 4 – 24 June

Module 5 – 5 August

Module 6 – 2 September

Check out this link to a YouTube clip about the project we are embarking on: [Missional Spirituality - Loving God, Self and Neighbour from the Inside Out - YouTube](#)

* Praxis is simply the practice of our faith

** Ecclesiology is the study of the Church

The Parish AGM will be held on Sunday 26 February following the 10am Eucharist. If you are compiling a report can you please forward it to rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au during the week, thank you. Please consider also nominations for the roles of Warden, Councillor, Synod Rep and Parish Clergy Appointments Board, nomination forms are available in the foyer.

Our commitment to supporting **St John's Care** continues this year. Over the coming weeks we will provide more information on how best we can support this ministry.

From the Bishop's Desk: Are you looking for an opportunity to use your gifts to equip others to engage our world with the love and truth of Jesus? Our Diocesan Bishop's Office team is seeking a committed Christian who will provide high quality administrative and communication support. In particular you will be working closely with Assistant Bishop Carol Wagner and Diocesan Archdeacon Tom Henderson-Brooks in their oversight of parish ministry, chaplaincy and mission. For further information please go to

www.anglicandiocesan.recruitment.com.au/Vacancies/6235937/title/Bishop-s-Office-Executive-Assistant or contact Bishop Carol Wagner on 0427267242.

Blessings, +Mark

The funeral for Lynette Grady, Beryl Blaseotto's daughter, will be held at 1.30pm this Monday, 6 February, at Norwood Park Crematorium. We assure Beryl and her family of our prayers at this time. May she rest in peace.

The Men's group will commence for 2023 this Tuesday, 7 February in the Lamerton Centre 10-Noon. A time for fellowship, conversation, walks and sharing of experiences of life and former occupations. Morning tea provided.

Reflection

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

What did Jesus mean by salt here? Was he talking about salt's preserving qualities, its seasoning flavour, or something else? To answer this question, let's consider the roles salt played in the Hebrew Bible:

In the Old Testament, salt is associated with the following meanings: purity (Exodus 30.35; 2 Kings 2.19-23); covenant loyalty (Leviticus 2.13; Numbers 18.19; 2 Chronicles 13.5; Ezra 4.14); an element to be added to sacrifices (Leviticus 2.13); a seasoning for food (Job 6.6). A preservative is the least likely meaning; it is not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures, but by Ignatius, well after the time of Jesus.

Although not likely referring to its preserving quality, salt could stand for purity, loyalty, sacrifices, or seasoning. Because of how Jesus talked about salt losing its taste, I'm inclined to agree with Craig Keener who said, "the use of salt here is as a flavouring agent." Jesus wanted his followers to be salty. If they lose their saltiness, then they become as useful as flavourless salt. Can you imagine how pointless tasteless salt would be? You go to shake it onto your scrambled eggs and take a bite, but everything is bland. So, you sprinkle some more on—still you taste nothing but plain eggs. You pour some into your hand and lick it and still it has no flavour. In such a bizarre situation what would you do with that salt? You'd probably dump the whole contents of the shaker into the trash and refill it with fresh salt. And there's the punch line. Jesus is saying that's you! You're either the briny flavourful person he's called you to be or you're the bland tasteless compromiser that blends right in with the world.

But what is the flavour Jesus wants us to bring to the world? Is it wearing WWJD bracelets, rocking the Jesus fish on our car bumpers, or sporting a clever Christian t-shirt? Thankfully, we don't have to guess, because our text about the salt of the earth (Matthew 5.13) comes right after a series of virtues known as the beatitudes (Matthew 5.3-12). Jesus had already explained the distinctive flavour of his followers, including humility, mourning, meekness, seeking righteousness, showing mercy, purity of heart, making peace, and getting persecuted for righteousness' sake. These beatitudes mark us out from the world's ways of doing life. Richard Hays explains:

The Beatitudes pronounce Jesus' blessing upon those who are meek, merciful, and pure, those who make peace, and particularly those who suffer for righteousness' sake (Matthew 5.3-12). The counterintuitive paradoxes of the Beatitudes alert us to the fact that Jesus' new community is a contrast society, out of synch with the 'normal' order of the world. What sense does it make to say, 'Blessed are those who mourn?' Such a judgment can be made only in view of the eschatological promise that accompanies it: "...for they will be comforted." The community of Jesus' followers lives now in anticipation of ultimate restoration by God. They do not seek to enforce God's way through violence; rather, they await God's act of putting things right. To be trained for the kingdom is to be trained to see the world from the perspective of God's future—and therefore askew from what the world counts as common sense."

If we are salty, we are a "contrast society." If we are tasteless, we blend in with society. Jesus calls us to a distinctive calling that is out of tune with those around us, but in tune with the age to come when God makes everything wrong with the world right. He's calling us to live out now what the world will be like then. N. T. Wright explains:

We are to pray that God's kingdom will come, and God's will be done, 'on earth as it is in heaven.' The life of heaven—the life of the realm where God is already king—is to become the life of the world, transforming the present 'earth' into the place of beauty and delight that God always intended. And those who follow Jesus are to begin to live by this rule here and now. That's the point of the Sermon on the Mount, and these 'beatitudes' in particular. They are a summons to live in the present in the way that will make sense in God's promised future; because that future has arrived in the present in Jesus of Nazareth.

I love how Wright put that! We "live in the present in the way that will make sense in God's promised future." This means our calculus for deciding what to do is not the immediate reward or consequence of an action, but how well it fits in with God's vision for the future. To live this way is to be salty.

<https://restitutio.org/2021/07/09/salt-light/>

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</i>	
8am		Eucharist (followed by Breakfast)
10am		Sung Eucharist (followed by Morning tea)
Tuesday 7 February	<i>Feria</i>	
10am-12Noon		Men's Group
Wednesday 8 February	<i>Feria</i>	
10am-Noon		Pandora's sorting & preparation
7pm		Parish Council
Thursday 9 February	<i>Feria</i>	
10am		Eucharist (followed by Morning tea)
Saturday 11 February	<i>Feria</i>	
10am-1pm		Pandora's - OPEN
11am		Eucharist – Canberra Aged Care - <i>Subject to restrictions</i>
Sunday 12 February	<i>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</i>	
8am		Eucharist (followed by Breakfast)
10am		Sung Eucharist (followed by Morning tea)
		<i>Readings: Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Ps 119:1-8, 1 Cor 3:1-9, Matt 5:21-37</i>

Rosters

		5-Feb-23	12-Feb-23	19-Feb-23	
	Sunday of Month	1st	2nd	3rd	
	Liturgical Season	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration	
	Flowers	Flower Team	Flower Team	Flower Team	
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	8am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				
	Sidespeople	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	Rhonda & Susan	
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Ellie P	Rev'd Martin	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Russell M	Alistair D	Rebecca P	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Margaret M	Alison D	Julianne S	
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	10am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Fred A, Katie C	Helen & Hardy	Jeannette M, Laura W	
	Liturgical Assistant		Rebecca K		
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Richard G	Sarah B	Tim G	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Ashton R	Brian M	Colin D	

	Morning Tea	Ann M & Barbara G	Jan G	Janene B	
	Additional details/notes				

For your Diary

Wednesday 22 February		Ash Wednesday
Saturday 25 February	2-4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 1
Sunday 26 February		Parish AGM
Saturday 25 March	2-4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 2
Friday 7 April		Good Friday
Sunday 9 April		Easter Day
Sunday 7 May		SS Philip & James
Saturday 27 May	2-4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 3

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