



Tertullian: 'Look how the Christians love one another.'
Tertullian. Born: 160 AD, Carthage, North Africa

The fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 103 September 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' our gifts are brought forward, an opportunity for you to make your contribution. A self-serve EFTPOS machine is available in the foyer. St Philip's EFT details are also available if you would like to make a direct transfer or support us through a regular transfer: 702-

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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.

To volunteer as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer or another role on the Roster then please email rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Flowers: Today we remember Pat Forbes and commend her once again to God's love; the flowers in church are in loving memory.

St Philips O'Connor, ACT

www.stphilipsoconnororg.au

email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au
Rector: The Rev'd Martin Johnson

@stphilipsoconnor 0478 619 911

From the Rector

Dear Friends

As you can imagine I have received many emails, texts and phone calls following my announcement last week. I have heard from former and current parishioners and clergy as well as others near and far. We have been heartened by the responses to what is a difficult decision, thank you. Susan and I left our home in Melbourne 25 years ago with two young children - one at Kinder the other in primary school. In the intervening years they have grown up and married, we have moved at least nine times. I have ministered in many different locations from urban Canberra to rural Afghanistan and sometimes it seems, everywhere in between! Other than annual leave we have not really stopped and we both realise that we need to return and take stock, touch base again with family, enjoy a Christmas with them and prayerfully and carefully consider what we are being called to do.

Such decisions are never easy, leaving a much-loved workplace is one thing but leaving a much loved home and a community as well, is quite another. We have some busy weeks ahead as we prepare to move on, but rest assured ministry will continue until our final Sunday on 26 November, the feast of Christ the King. I have chosen to depart on this Sunday as it marks the end of the liturgical year, Advent Sunday following is the beginning of a new season. I was ordained to the priesthood on this feast day so I shall celebrate 21 years of priestly ministry. I hope you can put this date in your diaries and come along and celebrate this great festival.

Interregnums offer opportunity for parishes to consider the direction in which to travel, what kind of community they are and what they aspire to be.

I hope and pray that it will be a time of prayerful reflection.

Every blessing to you all, Martin

Eucharist for the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Introit Hymn 477 (t.590)(TiS) (10am)

Jesus calls us here to meet him as, through word and song and prayer, we affirm God's promised presence where his people live and care. Praise the God who keeps his promise; praise the Son who calls us friends; praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him Word of life and Lord of all, sharer of our flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy human story; tell his tales that all may hear; tell the world that Christ in glory came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other, found in him are no divides. Race and class and sex and language such are barriers he derides. Join the hand of friend and stranger; join the hands of age and youth; join the faithful and the doubter in their common search for truth.

John L. Bell 1949-Graham Maule 1958-

Entrance Antiphon

'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among you.'

Matthew 18:20

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.

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

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 righthand 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:

Go before us, O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works Begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our 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 Ezekiel (33:7-11)

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our

transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes: and I will honour it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law: that I may keep it with my whole heart.

Guide me in the path of your commandments: for therein is my delight.

Incline my heart to your commands: and not to selfish gain.

Turn away my eyes from looking on vanities:

as I walk in your way give me life.

Make good your promise to your servant:

the promise that endures for all who fear you. Turn aside the taunts that I dread: for your judgements are very good.

Lord, I long for your precepts: in your righteousness give me life.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (13:1-10)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are

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due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn 437(TiS) (10am)

Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you. By your gospel pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded, till your Spirit breaks our night with your beams of truth unclouded. You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart; Light of Light, from God proceeding, open lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's leading. Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Tobias Clausnitzer 1619-84

Gradual (8am)

Alleluia,

Alleluia!

Lord, I long for your precepts: in your righteousness give me life. **Alleluia!**

Psalm 119:40

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:10-20)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'
For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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: Ben, Hugh, Sarah, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Deborah, Sue, Molly, Katherine, Matt, Wendy, David & Margot, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital or care.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose year's mind falls at this time: Pat Forbes (10/9/2019), Cecil Warren *bishop* (13/9/2019); the victims of war, disease and tragedy, those whose memories are dear to us and those remembered only by God.

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 one another a sign of Peace

Offertory Hymn 474(TiS) (10am)

Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness, vanished away, see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat, the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away, but here in this space, the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever; gather us in, and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; you bring forth bread from the earth.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; you create the fruit of the vine.

Blessed be God for ever.

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, 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

Marty Haugen 1950-

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
and with all the company of heaven,
we 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.

Holy God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,
and be one with him and with each other
in peace and love.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament renew us by your Holy 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, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

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

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Communion Antiphon

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

The sending out of God's people

Let us pray:

We thank you, God, for all the blessings of this table:

for the life-giving story, the living bread and the wine of new creation.

Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal, to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers with creative words and compassionate service, walking the way of Christ.

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 the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional hymn 420(t.153)(TiS) (10am)

Holy Spirit, go before us, every mind and heart prepare for good news of life in Jesus, for the joyful hope we share. Gently lead the lost to safety, gently teach them wisdom's way, till they come to seek you gladly, till we find the words to say.

Holy Spirit, come and help us, give us words to speak of Christ.

Teach us how to tell all people: deepest darkness can be light!

Help us tell how faithful God is, and how Jesus sets us free; take our words, and make them gospel, so that many may believe.

Holy Spirit, stay to show us how to serve as Christ served us. May our words of love be grounded in love's actions, first and last. Your good news is news of justice, and the strong befriend the weak in your service, till compassion builds the peace the nations seek.

Elizabeth Smith 1956-

News

St John's Care are in need of quality bedding: linen, doonas, or blankets in good clean condition, they are also in need of pet food which is very much in demand. Donations are also now being sought for Christmas.

Food Items... Coffee jars, Hot chocolate, Tinned Tuna 425g, Tuna Bake Sauce, Tinned Fruit 800g, Tea bags.

Christmas Presents... Gift cards for teens, Lego, Sports Equipment, Dolls, Figurines, Board games, Arts & Crafts

Embracing Ministries is seeking Mentors and Volunteers for their spring holiday program – 25-29 September.

The Spring Holiday Program is a week-long event that gives Children of all abilities the opportunity to come together, worship, and experience the Gospel with our mentors and leaders. All aspects of the program are designed to give children with disabilities an optimal experience. The daily schedule includes sensory-friendly daily prayer services, modified learning of bible stories, crafts, singing, and dancing. We also invite external providers such as dance or drumming workshops, flower arranging, craft, and animal encounters. If you think you can assist, or know someone who could, please email EmbracingMinistries@gmail.com, or call Brianna on 0418341555.

Care for Creation: Listening to First Nations and Celtic Voices

Iona Community Leader, Rev. Ruth Harvey is engaging in a listening pilgrimage around Australia and engaging in dialogue on the topic of caring for Creation. The Canberra leg of the Pilgrimage will include an event at The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture on 20 October. Ruth Harvey will be joined by Brooke Prentis and Canberra First Nations Friends. This is a free event but bookings are essential. To secure a place, book through Humanitix

here: https://events.humanitix.com/the-spirituality-of-care-for-creation
For enquiries please email: marjoriehouston33@gmail.com

Brooke Prentice, who is an Aboriginal Christian Leader, will also lead a discussion at Burgmann College Chapel at ANU on Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm. This event is being sponsored by the ANU Chaplaincy Board. Brooke will be reflecting on the Voice Referendum which will have just taken

place.

All Saints Ainslie is hosting two Quiet Days on Saturday 7 & 14 October. The days will be led by Bishop John Stead under the title 'How is St Francis' ministry relevant to the Church today?' There is a poster in the foyer with details on how to register.

The Diocesan Synod sits this weekend at Canberra Grammar School. We welcome visitors from all parts of the Diocese to Canberra for this gathering.

Reflection

On the offensive

The first great North African theologian was **Tertullian** (ca. 160–220). Raised in a pagan family, he was educated in Latin grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy—the standard curriculum for boys who wished to become lawyers or civil servants in the Roman government. Sometime in middle age he converted to Christianity and was ordained a presbyter (i.e., priest or elder) in Carthage.

Tertullian is now called the "Father of Latin Theology," but he was not the first theologian of the West. Justin Martyr (ca. 100–ca. 165) and Irenaeus (flourished second century), bishop of Lyons, preceded Tertullian, but they wrote in Greek—the primary language of commerce and philosophy in the eastern part of the empire.

Tertullian was the first major theologian who wrote extensively in Latin—bringing new challenges to the theological enterprise. His earliest works defended Christian beliefs and practices that pagans often misunderstood.

Ever the lawyer, Tertullian the apologist subscribed to the view that the best defence is a good offense. His treatises *To the Gentiles* and *Apology* directly attacked pagan beliefs and practices as superstitious and immoral, and argued that the Christian life as taught in Scripture and practiced in the church was morally superior. He imagined pagans looking at Christians and saying, "Look . . . how they love one another (for they themselves [pagans] hate one another); and how they are ready to die for each other (for they themselves are readier to kill each other)."

Things have changed little. What of us today, how do folk outside the Church perceive us? Like Tertullian are we still imagining them saying 'Look how they love one another.'

This week @ St Philip's

Today Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Eucharist 9am Parish Breakfast

9.45am-4pm Diocesan Synod concludes

10am Eucharist and hymns (followed by morning tea)

Tuesday 12 September Feria

2pm Eucharist – Sir Leslie Morshead Manor

Wednesday 13 September Feria

10am-Noon Pandora's preparation

7pm Parish Council

Thursday 14 September Holy Cross

10am Eucharist (followed by morning tea)

Saturday 16 September Feria

10am-1pm Pandora's

11am Eucharist - Canberra Aged Care Noon Baptism - Tommy James Matthews

Sunday 17 September Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Eucharist 9am Parish Breakfast

10am Eucharist and hymns (followed by morning tea)

Readings: Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:8-13, Romans 14:1-14, Matthew 18:21-35

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Rosters

		10-Sep-23	17-Sep-23	24-Sep-23	
Sunday of Month		2nd	3rd	4th	
Liturgical Season		15th Sunday after Pentecost	16th Sunday after Pentecost	17th Sunday after Pentecost	
Flowers		Flower team	Flower team	Flower team	
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Scott		
Sidespeople			Rhonda & Susan	Shane & Tim	8am
Liturgical Assistant	8am	Ellie P (Liturgical assistant)		Brian M (Lit assistant)	
Audio Visual Operator					
1st Bible reader - OT		Alison D	Julianne S	Shane W	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Alistair D	Rebecca P	Shane W	\dashv
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Scott	Rev'd Martin	
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)					
Sidespeople & Welcomer		Helen & Hardy	Jeannette M, Laura W	Sally A & Richard G	
Liturgical Assistant	0am	Rebecca K (Lit assistant)	Rev'd Martin (Lit assistant)	Leighton (crucifer)	
Audio Visual Operator	10				
Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist		Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
1st Bible reader - OT		Fred A	Jeanette D-T	Jos G	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Laura W	Liz D	Lyn P	
Morning Tea		Janene B	Liz D & Ann M	Helen P	
Additional details/notes				School holidays	

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1 October ANU Choral Society @ St Philip's

Sunday 26 November Christ the King