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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1st October 2023





Sunday Services - Taree & Old Bar

ST JOHN'S 294 Victoria St. Taree OUR LADY OF FATIMA 18 Hall St. Old Bar

9am - SUNDAY

4pm - SUNDAY

11am - SUNDAY

| PARISH CONTACTS: | | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| MINISTRY TEAM | Reverend Natalie Quince - 6552 1310-0411 763 448 Fr Bill Green | | | | |
| | prieststjohnstaree@gmail | .com | | Fr Ivan Ransom | |
| WARDENS | Beryl Fenwick - 0414 527 075 | Colin Rose- | 6552 2775 | David Denning - 6552 6825 | |
| PC SECRETARY | Beryl Fenwick - 0414 527 075 | TREASURER | | | |
| PARISH OFFICE | PARISH OFFICE CLOSED | | | | |
| | (All General enquiries) Email: officestjohnstaree@gmail.com | | | | |
| HALL MANAGERS | Ken Park - 0412 138 985 | | Bruce Walker - 0405 697 690 | | |

| DIARY DATES | | | | | |
|---|--------|---|-----------------|--|--|
| 3rd October | 3.15pm | Blue Cross Shop Team Leaders Meeting | Blue Cross Shop | | |
| 12 th October | 10am | Mothers Union | Latham Centre | | |
| 17 th October | 7pm | Parish Council | Latham Centre | | |
| 26 th October 10am Old Bar Morning Tea | | Village Café - Old Bar | | | |
| 29 th October | 5.30pm | Pot Luck Dinner | Parish Hall | | |

Mission of God's People

This week, as part of our Mission of God's People series, we are looking at the church as people who care for creation and people who are a blessing to the nations.

Creation is often considered a hot topic of conversation. However, once we settle upon an understanding of creation in terms of who made it, who it is for and the end goal, all these different ideas of humanity tend to fall into insignificance.

Paul says in his letter to the Colossians 1:16 that:

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

Everything in creation belongs to God, and our faith is not about the mechanics by which it is formed, or the historical accuracy, it is about the relationship that we share with our Lord and Father.

This relationship is borne out of God's love and his choice to spread the blessing of his love throughout the nations, with its fulfilment being the promise of a place to live in eternity with him.

This was the Gospel, the Good News, even before Christ, as it was given to Abraham, and it continued from that day until eternity. Not just for the Jew, but for everybody who believes in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jay Quince



WORLD: People & communities affected by violence & conflict, racism & discrimination, oppression, poverty, natural disasters. We pray for those impacted by COVID19. Please pray for President Zelensky, the people of Ukraine, Aung San Suu Kyi & for the detained peoples of Myanmar, Lebanon, the Philippines & Papua New Guinea.

CHURCH: Bishop Peter, Assistant Bishops Sonia & Charlie; John Barriga, Alison Dalmazzone; The Cathedral - Katherine Bowyer; Parish of Adamstown - Chris Bird, John Dring, Parish of All Saints ANeW - Arthur Copeman, Rebecca Bishop, Sam Broadfoot, Kate Rogers and Amy Soutter.

The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Bps Denise Ferguson, Tim Harris and Chris McLeod).

The Archbishop of Canterbury (Justin Welby).

COMMUNITY: For the homeless, and agencies supporting the vulnerable. For the victims of abuse and violence. For those affected by the impacts of COVID 19, floods & other challenges. The First Peoples of the Diocese especially the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Geawegal, Kamilaroi, Worimi & Wonnarua peoples.

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: Suzanne, Leonie, Coralie, Diane, Vera, Lyn, Joyce McMullen, Ted Hill, Wendy McKeogh, Norrie Spicer, James, Jamison, Ian, Joan, Alex Platt & Margaret McDonald.



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

SENTENCE:

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1.19-20.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Thankyou Lord, for the endless ways you reveal yourself to us. We are so quick to separate heaven from earth, but you shine forth in all things created by your hand. Teach us that to delight in the beauty of the earth is another way of praising you. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 2. 1-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung upfor the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-7then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. 8And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; ¹²and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104. 28-35

- 24 When the sun rises, they retire: and lay themselves down in their dens.
- 25 Human beings go out to their work: and to their labour until the evening.
- 26 Lord, how various are your works: in wisdom you have made them all, and the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the wide, immeasurable sea:there move living things without number, great and small;
- 28 There go the ships, to and fro: and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep.
- 29 These all look to you:to give them their food in due season.
- When you give it to them, they gather it:when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things.
- 31 When you hide your face, they are troubled:when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit they are created: and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever: may the Lord rejoice in his works.
- 34 If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble: if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:I will praise my God while I have any being.

Second Reading

Colossians 1. 15-23

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers —all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— ²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Revelations 21. 1-4, 22. 1-5.

A reading from the book of Revelations

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' ²²Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COME INTO THE GARDEN

There is a reason why gardening is ingrained in the human psyche.. It goes back to the first person and his relationship with the Creator. A race -memory of this persists, even in the Technology Age

There are two accounts of the creation of the human race in the first book of the Bible. Some authorities say they were written by two different people. But I think it is simply that time-honoured technique in recitation of oral history: recapitulation (going back over the story to cover details which would have spoiled the flow of the story if dealt with in their logical order).

There are several mysteries at the beginning of Genesis, chapter Two, mainly due to problematic translation, which is not surprising, given the traditional process of Hebrew into Greek, Greek into Latin and then Latin into English. The first concerns the description of the Earth before the creation of humankind. There were no trees. Springs, not mist, moistened the ground and it never rained, like much of Arabia, today.

Then there is the location of the Garden of Eden. The Four Rivers named, only Two are familiar: the Tigris and the Euphrates which flow East, out of what is now South-eastern Turkiye. The other two rivers are unable to be identified with any certainty. The Pishon River defines Havilah, which is defined elsewhere as Egypt. But whatever gold and precious stones there are in Egypt are all imported. Not so, Upper Egypt. (modern Sudan). But what relevance to Adam are gold and jewellery ? Not much ! But they do focus the attention of the audience in a recitation. The First Two rivers flowing out of Eden are possibly the White and Blue Nile. In any case, the rivers only tell where the Garden of Eden is NOT.

The real point is that the representative human was charged with working the garden and keeping it in good order as a tenant, not the proprietor. The private property in the Garden was the two trees at the centre. Adam had an obligation to tend them but was under a prohibition regarding eating the fruit of just one tree. The Tree of Life, that other tree, reappears at the end of the Bible. Its leaves are for healing.

There is only one truth. There can't be both "truth" and "alternative truth". Truth may be expressed in various languages and styles which give the impression of being incomplete (truth minus) or embellished (truth plus) Real truth is not the alleged "facts". Ethical scientists will, for instance, postulate theories and hypotheses rather than lead people down yet another shady dead-end alley. Truth is actually a person who asserted "I am the way, the truth and the life". This relationship is eternal and therefore utterly reliable. All other "truth" is subject to circumspect testing.

Fr Ivan

| | HOLY EUCHARIST READINGS | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| SUN | SUNDAY 1 st October - Pentecost 18 | | | | | | |
| | Genesis 2. 1-15, Psalm 104. 24-35 | | | | | | |
| | Colossians 1. 15-23; Revelations 21. 1-4, 22. 1-5 | | | | | | |
| SUN | SUNDAY 8 th October - Pentecost 19 | | | | | | |
| Confirmation with Bishop Charlie | | | | | | | |
| Isaiah 5.1–7, Matthew 21.33–46 | | | | | | | |
| WELCOMERS | | | | | | | |
| | ay 1 st October | | ay 8 th October | | | | |
| 9am | Bruce Walker | 9am | Di Woollard | | | | |
| | David Denning | | lan Woollard | | | | |
| 4pm | Beryl Fenwick | 4pm | Beryl Fenwick | | | | |
| READERS | | | | | | | |
| Sunda | Sunday 1 st October | | Sunday 8 th October | | | | |
| 9am | Hugh McCrindle | 9am | Janella Leotta | | | | |
| 4pm | Sue Prentice | 4pm | Greg Anderson | | | | |
| MORNING TEA | | | | | | | |
| Sunda | Sunday 1 st October | | Sunday 8 th October | | | | |
| Margaret Griffis | | Kylie Sanderson + | | | | | |
| + Les Griffis | | David Denning | | | | | |
| HYMNS: 1 st October | | | | | | | |
| TIS 185, 204, 161, 675 | | | | | | | |
| BRASS CLEANING for October | | | | | | | |
| Pat N | Pat Minto | | | | | | |



The Psalmist talks to us today of evangelisation within families: 'What we have heard and known, what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from their children, but declare to a generation yet to come the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works'. Sometimes people think evangelisation as the concern of a crazy few, and as something done primarily overseas. Nothing could be more wrong. Evangelisation concerns every member of the Church. It begins at home, with parents and grandparents (and, of course, godparents) talking to their children about Jesus Christ, his life, his death, his resurrection. The home is the primary place where the next generation of the Church is nurtured.

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

The Anglican Parish of Taree works to build Faith & Hope in our community despite the struggles around us. Your help to continue this work is essential so please give what you can.

Gifts can be offered for the Parish or for Mission in 2 ways:

- Directly into the appropriate baskets before or after each service OR
- By Electronic Funds Transfer

Many People are finding that this is an easy, fuss free way to maintain their support.

Donations this way can be easily arranged by speaking to your bank directly or set it up through internet banking.

Bank: Westpac

Branch: Taree NSW

Account Name: St John's General Account

BSB: 032-587

Account Number: 120 816

Reference: Parish or Mission recipient eg: ABM

Some give freely yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.

A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. Proverbs 11:24-25

