



AUSTRALIA DAY *transferred*

28 January 2018

**Sentence.** What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. *Psalm 116.12-13.*

**Collect of the Day.**

Bounteous God,  
we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land,  
a land of despair and hope,  
a land of wealth and abundant harvests,  
a land of fire, drought and flood.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.**

*The people who were taken into exile in Babylon in 597BC were being misled by baseless assurances of a speedy return home. Jeremiah wrote this letter to the elders with radical instructions to settle in the strange land and even pray for the welfare of the state. He says the exile will last seventy years—a lifetime—but that God will not abandon them even as they ask how can they sing the songs of Zion in a strange land?*

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says

the LORD. For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

*Jeremiah 29.4-14*

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm tba**

**A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.**

*This is Paul's earliest letter, probably written around 50AD to encourage the young church in Macedonia strategically located on land and sea routes in the Roman empire. He is urging them to live ordered lives and to do whatever good they can while being grateful to God in every circumstance.*

We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*1 Thessalonians 5.12-24*

Reader: May your word live in us.  
**All And bear much fruit to your glory.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**All Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Jesus said, "If you continue in my teaching  
you are truly my disciples."

**All Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Reader The Lord be with you.

**ALL And also with you.**

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*It is truth telling and facing truth that sets us free from the untruths that enslave us. We know this in our individual lives, but we struggle to know how to apply this to our national life so that indigenous and incomers may become one in this south land.*

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. *John 8. 31-36*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Prayer for the Week.**

O Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

**Bible Readings next week. 4 February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple *transf.***

Malachi 3.1-4 Psalm 24 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40

**Pray for the Faithful Departed**

**We remember before God:**

*whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**Commemorations of the week.**

**January 30** Charles, King of England, beheaded by the Puritans 1649 for refusing to sign the Bill abolishing the office of Bishop in the Church of England. Most of his reign, which began in 1625 was a struggle with Parliament over taxation during which civil war broke out in England. The successful army, led by Oliver Cromwell had accused King Charles of opposing religious liberty but once he gained political control, Cromwell proved to be no friend of the English Church, or of religious freedom. He abolished bishops, the Book of Common Prayer, the celebration of Christmas and many other practices Cromwell deemed to be 'Popish'.