

Bible Readings next week Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7 Psalm 40.1-14 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: inspire us, your children, who are born again of water and the Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Nola Watson, Stanley Owen, Gregory Edmund Campion Gibson, Cynthia McInnes, Florence Scott, Ross Rampling, Elsie Frances Summons, Ethel Hawker-Blyth, Frederick Southcott, Kenneth Mountford, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

January 10 William Laud (1573-1645). Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the most learned and interesting figures of the English Reformation period. He was martyred by the Puritans

January 12 Hilary of Poitiers (c. 315-368). Bishop and teacher and a strong defender of orthodoxy.

January 14 Sava (c. 1176-1235). Patron saint of Serbia. He became a monk at Mt. Athos in Greece, and in 1219, he established an independent Serbian Church and became its first archbishop.

January arrangements

Parish groups are in recess in January.

During the week the Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Thursday at 10.15am. The Parish Office reopens 9 January with limited hours.



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

The Baptism of our Lord

8 January 2017

Sentence A voice came heaven, saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' *Matthew 3.17*

Collect

God of freedom, your Beloved meets us where we are, immersed in the flow of life:
by his humility and solidarity raise us from fear and guilt;
may the arc of the Spirit's flight make us a people of peace; through Jesus Christ, the Son of Righteousness. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Isaiah

Scholars have long held that Isaiah is three books or collections of oracles. This reading is from the first of four so called 'servant songs' in Isaiah found in chapters 40-55, called Second Isaiah. Who is the servant? It is not clear, but it may be Israel, meaning the nation itself. The mission of the servant is to bring God's teaching and restore justice. Israel is to be a light to other nations living in the darkness of ignorance.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
 to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
 I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
 See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them. *Isaiah 42.1-9*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord
ALL Thanks be to God

Psalm 29 APBA page 248

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles

Luke-Acts is one book which above all testifies to the reality that the Church was not 'created' by entrepreneurial men and women but by the Spirit at work in the lives of the most unlikely assortment of people. Cornelius is a Roman soldier and Peter a Galilean fisherman but they are brought together by God! Cornelius is the first Gentile convert. Peter must learn that God has no favourites, not even the Jews; God welcomes all peoples into the new Israel, the Church being formed by the Spirit through baptism.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius the centurion. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put

him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name'. *Acts 10.34-43*

Reader May your word live in us
ALL and bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!
 With many exhortations, John the Baptist proclaimed the good news to the people.

ALL Alleluia!
 Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you
 Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew
ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

All four gospels place Jesus with John the baptizer at the Jordan River before Jesus' own ministry began. Matthew alone includes this interaction between Jesus and John. The descent of the dove and the voice from heaven are poetic images of a profound spiritual experience for Jesus. Matthew will make it clear in his gospel that the suffering servant songs first uttered by Isaiah, will come to life in the trusting death and subsequent resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matt 3.13-17

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