

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona
St Clement's Altona Meadows
O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

3rd July 2022 **Feast of the Apostle St Thomas**

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Wominjeka :: Haere mai
Welcome



A warm welcome to our worship today, especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting from elsewhere. Please do stay to share refreshments at the end of the service.

This booklet contains the full order of service: please join in the parts printed in bold type.

Our parish lies on the country of the Kulin nation. We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

Gathering in God's name

We meet in God's name, as God's people – children of God in all our rich diversity, with all that we carry from the complexity of our lives.

We turn to God in praise and prayer; this includes recalling all that has separated us from God, and claiming the love and forgiveness that is always held out to us.

The Collect then 'collects' these prayers and turns our attention towards the Bible readings which will follow.

HYMN 161 Tell out my soul
*(at 10:30am only, to the tune of hymn no. 425, found in the red hymn book
Together in Song)*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

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.**

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.**

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Almighty and eternal God,
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,
allowed the apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son
until word and sight convinced him:
grant that we, who have not seen, may also believe,
and so receive the fullness of your Son's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Opening the Scriptures

The readings come from different parts of the Bible: different perspectives on the great story of God's presence and purpose among us. In the psalm we respond with the ancient words of prayer of God's people.

The sermon adds to our own reflections on the readings, and then we respond by affirming the faith as handed to us from previous generations.

We bring our prayers for the world and the Church, trusting that all things and all people are in God's hands.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Habakkuk.

I will take my post;
I will position myself on the fortress.
I will keep watch to see what the Lord says to me
and how he will respond to my complaint.
Then the Lord answered me and said,
Write a vision, and make it plain upon a tablet
so that a runner can read it.
There is still a vision for the appointed time;
it testifies to the end;
it does not deceive.
If it delays, wait for it;
for it is surely coming; it will not be late.
Some people's desires are truly audacious;
they don't do the right thing.
But the righteous person will live honestly.

(2.1-4; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Praise the Lord. O praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his abundant goodness.

Praise him in the blast of the ram's horn: praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him on the high-sounding cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord: O praise the Lord!

(150)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

(2.19-22; CEB)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 409 O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He

said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

(20.24-29; CEB)

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

Let us together 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

The prayers may include this or another response:

**Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer

**God of this ancient land,
holy beyond time and place,
you search us out and name us your beloved children.
Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person.
Send your Spirit to renew our life,
and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls.
Amen.**

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.**

Everyone is invited to turn to those around, and offer a greeting of peace from where you stand.

Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the basket/box provided.

Celebrating at the Lord's table

Our offerings of money and groceries remind us that we are called to participate with our lives and livelihoods in the coming of God's kingdom of justice, healing and peace.

In the Great Thanksgiving, the priest voices the prayer of the whole assembly, recalling the mighty acts of God, Jesus' saving death and resurrection, and his last meal with his friends. The prayer calls on the Holy Spirit to make Christ present in our sharing of bread and wine, and to remake us as Christ's body in the world. We respond with the Lord's Prayer, as the crucified and risen Jesus prays anew through us.

Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.

HYMN 624 Christ be my leader by night as by day
(found in the red hymn book *Together in Song*)

Prayer over the gifts

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

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.

The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:

**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.**

The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:

...Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God. All join in affirming:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread and says

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.

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.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

This is the Lord's table. All who seek God's mercy are welcome.

Everyone is invited to share communion or to receive a personal blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. All the communion bread will have wine added to it, but if you also wish to drink from the common cup then please remain and it will be brought to you. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a personal blessing, please indicate when the priest comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

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Going into the world

The Eucharist is food for the journey of faith, whatever awaits us as we go out to the rest of our lives. We have been renewed, transformed, and blessed: now we take that blessing to share with others, in our words and actions, our hearts and lives.

'The Eucharist never ends — it must be lived.'

NOTICES

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

HYMN 210 O for a thousand tongues to sing
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations,
bring you, with all the saints,
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;

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.

Material for this service is taken from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (1995) and *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000) and is reproduced by permission.

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WEEK

Praying together and at home

READINGS

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings beforehand. Some things to notice might be:

Is anything here particularly relevant to my situation at this time?

Is there anything here that doesn't immediately make sense to me?

What comes just before and just after this section of the Bible?

Does this remind me of something elsewhere in the Bible?

Readings for weekday Eucharists:

2 Samuel 5.1-10; Psalm 48; Luke 13.31-35

Readings for next Sunday: 10th July (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)

Amos 7.1-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37

DAILY PRAYER

Morning and Evening Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's during the week: see the back page for times this week. Anyone is welcome to these short services.

For our prayers:

The world and nation: For foreign ministers preparing for next week's G20 meeting in Bali.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Melbourne (Abp Philip Freier, Asst Bps Paul Barker, Bradley Billings, Genieve Blackwell, Kate Prowd, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: St Thomas' Werribee (vacant incumbency, Nisher Kunoo).

Agencies supported by our parish: Anglican Overseas Aid – their work in Gaza at the Ahli Arab Hospital and in East Jerusalem at the Spafford Children's Center.

Our parish & community: For single parents.

Those with particular needs at this time:
Stuart, Anthony, Sharilyn, Jill, Denise, Carol.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Eileen Nevitt (6), Kyle Glynn Hudson (6), Linda Norman (7), Alma Lauer (7).

To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, for those needing prayers now or to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact one of the clergy.

If you have a prayer request to be included as we gather for prayer throughout the week, please find the prayer box near the church entrance and fill out a card, or contact one of the clergy.

SHARING THE PATH OF FAITH

reflections from the clergy and our parish community

Dear fellow pilgrim,

It's so cold! So cold! I do not complain, however, because the cold has led me to a beautiful discovery... I don't know about you, but in weather like this, I find myself gravitating toward heaters, and bright windows—all things light and warm. Last week a faery showed Rev'd Gail that the best room to heat at St Eanswythe's is the meeting room. You can close all the doors and the gas heater warms it up very nicely. Thus informed, I have set myself up to work in it over many afternoons.

It is, well, it's the best. It's a funny room, lined with photo portraits of past incumbents, parish events—filled, for me, with thoughts of all the Tiddlers who gather here to sing during the term. (Granted, often the adults are the ones singing... The Tiddlers look at us, alternately curious and exasperated—until we get to 'Wheels on the Bus', and then everyone livens up!) The meeting room is the Sunday school room, I realise: home to too many giggles and laughter while the rest of us are breaking open the Word in church. It's where we have coffee and shortbread biscuits after Thursday worship. And working in here has given me a beautiful window into the life of the op shop, and the colour and warmth in there. In short: the meeting room is a space that is filled with people, even when it's empty.

And it strikes me—it strikes me that our souls are a bit like this. We are social beings. Give yourself a moment, and moment where you just let yourself be, and what faces, people, events and places swim up into your consciousness? Each of our souls is filled with the life and knowledge of others. In other words, we exist in communion.

When you belong to the body of Christ, each solitary prayer – each “lone” act of effort or patience – takes place in the company of saints. Even the ones we've never met, even the apostle Thomas. They live in us. And we live to them. For we all live in Christ Jesus, who, in a sense, has gathered us all together in his soul, as a hen gathers her young beneath her wing. Christ is the great meeting room, summoning all times and places, people and things, together in himself, in the presence of the eternal Father. As St Paul writes to the church in Ephesus:

So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Let us seek to embody this reality, in our life together on earth, as in heaven...

Yours in Christ Jesus, Kathryn

NOTES AND NEWS

for your information and prayers, from around and beyond the parish

Midweek Eucharist & Small Group

Over winter at both our midweek Eucharists and Tuesday evening small group we have been undertaking a journey of sorts to a much warmer land (ancient Israel), through some of the significant moments in the life of David. David was the second king of Israel who, through his music, devotion and what one might call his magnanimity as a leader, had a formative impact on the spiritual life of his people. Indeed, on all who have come into contact with him through the historical books of the Bible and the tradition of psalms, which he helped to inspire, foster, and elevate to reach the spiritual heights and depths we find in them.

If you are free of a Wednesday or Thursday morning, or of a Tuesday evening, why not come along? To worship our Lord, dip into David's story, and reflect on its enduring relevance for us as people who 'seek God, as in a dry and thirsty land' (Ps. 63). Contact Kathryn with any queries.

Safe ministry training

Thank you to those of you who completed the level one safe ministry training last Sunday and Thursday. You are a legend!

Long service leave & locum vicar

Chris is currently on long service leave until Monday 8 August. During this time, the Rev'd Gail Bryce will be part-time locum vicar, working alongside Kathryn. For pastoral matters their details are on the back page.

COVID restrictions

There are now no vaccination restrictions on who can attend our gatherings or help to serve and host them. The diocese continues to commend current health advice: to maintain good hygiene and care, to use sanitiser, and stay at home if you have any symptoms. (And let other parish folk know if you need supplies or support!)

Keeping in touch...

- ⇒ Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ If you are or have been away for a Sunday, you can see recent pew sheets on our website at anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and updates.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, please send your email address to parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au

THOMAS THE APOSTLE



*"We do not know... how can we know the way?"
Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.
Because He loved your awkward counter-point
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.*

(Malcolm Guite, Anglican poet & priest, 2012)

Giving...

⇒ Deposits can be made to the parish Bendigo Bank account at any time (BSB 633 000, account number 157 594 722, account name "St Eanswythe's Altona with St Clement's Laverton Anglican Churches"). For pledge giving please include your name or envelope/reference number. For further details see anglicanaltlav.org.au/giving

The Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

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Vicar: The Rev'd Chris Lancaster (on long service leave)

Locum Vicar: The Rev'd Gail Bryce (Sun, Wed +1)
0458 254 882 gaildbryce@icloud.com

Assistant Curate:

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse (Sun-Fri)
0416 378 748 kathryn.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

Assistant Priest & Maori Minister:

The Rev'd Danny McRoberts
0448 841 196 dann.mcroberts@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Lily Griffin
Anita McAnda
Scott Pitcher

Child Safe Officer:

The Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse

This week in our parish:

Sunday 3rd July

Feast of the Apostle St Thomas

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Evening Service, St Clement's

Tuesday-Friday

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

Tuesday 5th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
7pm Small Group, for details contact
Kathryn

Wednesday 6th

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

Thursday 7th

10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1.15pm Estia Nursing Home Service

Friday 8th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's

Sunday 10th July

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Evening Service, St Clement's

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am St Eanswythe's

Groups meeting regularly in the parish:

Youth Group: Fridays fortnightly in term time, at St Clement's or online. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse.
Altona Tiddlers Playgroup: Tuesdays in term time, 10am at St Eanswythe's. Contact Jan Lee (9398 2993)
Clementines Playgroup: Fridays in term time, 9:30am at St Clement's. Contact Louise (9395 5472)
Small group: Tuesday evenings, online or in person. Contact Rev'd Kathryn Bellhouse.
Reflective Bible Study: monthly at the Vicarage, first Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.
Mothers' Union: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Thursday at 11am. Contact Sandra Hansen (0410 040 661)
Caritas: monthly at St Eanswythe's, 2nd Tuesday evening at 7pm. Contact Joan Meiers (9398 1906)