The Anglican Parish of St Luke Toowoomba



Jeremiah 31:13 – *I will turn their mourning into joy!*

Second Sunday after Christmas 2 January 2022

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit: 'As with gladness' (TIS 314)

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold, as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright: so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your glory see.

As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to your lowly bed, there to bend the knee before one whom heaven and earth adore: bring our ransomed souls at last so may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at your cradle rough and bare: so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and, when earthly things are past, where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide;

in the heavenly country bright need they no created light: you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down. There for ever may we sing hallelujahs to our King.

William Chatterton Dix 1837-98 alt.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also with you.

Sentence:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Isaiah 60.1

Prayer of Confession

Lay Assistant:

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

Kyrie:

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

A short time of silence is held.

Absolution

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.

The Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas

Everlasting God, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising:

fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The First Reading, from the Old Testament, Jeremiah 31:7-14.

⁷ For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.' 8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' 11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. 14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Notes on Jeremiah 31:7-14.

Epiphany falls on 6 January and this year it is between Sundays. Yet the readings for this Sunday echo the joy and the expectations which began to be fulfilled in the broadening of vision of who constituted the people of God expressed through the Epiphany. Yes God has and will always care for the people who were descendants of Abraham. AND the love of God reaches far beyond those people to include everyone.

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem: sing praises to your God, O Zion.

¹³ For he has strengthened the bars of your gates: and blessed your children within you.

¹⁴ He makes peace within your borders: and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth: and his word runs very swiftly.

¹⁶ He gives snow like wool:

and scatters the hoar-frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He sprinkles his ice like morsels of bread: and the waters harden at his frost.

¹⁸ He sends out his word and melts them:

he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He made his word known to Jacob: his statutes and judgements to Israel.

²⁰ He has not dealt so with any other nation: nor have they knowledge of his laws. Praise the Lord.

Notes on Psalm 147:12-20

The people of Israel had a special relationship with God, as they knew. Yet it is also interesting to note that the blessings of God, explored in this psalm (including snow, ice and frost!) are not given only to a particular group of people. The blessing of God in creation is for all.

The Second Reading, from the New Testament, Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Notes on Ephesians 1:3-14.

Many of the declarations of the wonder and action of God are drawn on a broad scale. The opening of John's gospel, echoed in part in this reading, does that. It is an invitation to the original hearers and also to us to recognise that God's plans and action and care is not ONLY localised to us and our place and time but the action of God stretches back in time and forward also. We are the subject of this time in God's embrace, as people have been before us and others will be after us.

Gradual Hymn. 'Earth has many a noble city' (TIS 291)

Earth has many noble city Bethlehem alone excels:
From it came the Lord from heaven,
Came to rule his Israel.

Fairer than the sun at morning Was the star that told his birth, To the world its God announcing, Seen in human form on earth.

Eastern sages at his cradle Make their offerings rich and rare; See them give in deep devotion Gold and frankincense and myrrh:

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning -Frankincense God to disclose, Gold the King of kings proclaiming, Myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.

Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped At your glad epiphany, Now to you with God the Father And the Spirit glory be.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348-c. 413 tr. Edward Caswall 1814-78 altered

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John, chapter one, beginning at the tenth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him,

who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Hear the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes on John 1:10-18.

Revealing God to humanity has always been difficult. God is far more than we are able to comprehend. If we think we have completely understood everything then we perhaps understand very little at all! The amazing breadth of the message in this opening chapter of John's gospel reminds us of this, yet also gives us those hints of how we can begin to get a handle on God. Grace and truth are key words. Grace, a free gift given even and especially to those who do not deserve it. Truth, cutting through hyperbole and supposition there are things which are essentially true about humanity, about our tendency to selfishness, about our innate goodness which can be unlocked by love, about God as the source of all that is.

The Sermon.

Apostles Creed

Lay Assistant:

With the Church, throughout the world and across the ages we say together:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The prayers of the people.

Prayers are led by a member of the congregation.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray, as Jesus prayed with His friends:

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 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.

All may safely exchange a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn. 'In Christ there is no east or west' (TIS 459(ii))

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find, his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith, whate'er your race may be; who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north, all Christlike souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

William Arthur Dunkerley

The collection is usually taken in a bowl at the door. Please see our notices pages to see how donations can be made. The ministry and mission of the Church is paid for by the contributions made by those who value what we do and how we serve. Thank you for your generosity.

Blessing of gifts

Bless, Lord, the hands which have made the bread we share. Bless, Lord, the skill which has produced the wine we offer. Bless, Lord, the work through which the resources of life have been shared with us. Bless us with thankful, generous hearts.

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 glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. 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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Administration of Communion

All those who are baptised and who would usually receive Holy Communion in their home churches are welcome to share in the sacrament here. Due to restrictions we receive only the bread today.

Prayer after Communion.

Gracious God,
we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table

where all your saints feast with you for ever.

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.

Prayer for Vision

We pray together

Gracious and loving God, our lives are in your hands, our past, present and future belong to you. Bless us with vision, so that we may see clearly; bless us with compassion, for one another and for all whom you love,

bless us with faithfulness, that we may seek your will always, bless us with wisdom, so that we may seek to understand, bless us with love, so that the focus of our lives will be outside of ourselves.

Grant us the patience and the courage to embrace change, as we seek your future together.

Amen.

Notices

The Blessing

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.

Dismissal

Lay Assistant:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Missional Hymn: 'Worship the Lord' (TIS 454)

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, bow down before him, his glory proclaim; gold of obedience and incense of lowliness bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness, high on his heart he will bear it for you, comfort your sorrows, and answer your prayerfulness, guiding your steps in the way best for you.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of the poor wealth you would reckon to own: truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness, these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness, he will accept for the name that is dear, mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness, trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, bow down before him, his glory proclaim; gold of obedience and incense of lowliness bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-75 alt.

Readings included in this service are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible. © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

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Welcome

- All attendees need to check in, using the "Check In Qld" App. If you have any concerns, please contact the Parish Office.
- Please do not attend if you are unwell, show any symptoms, or you have any underlying health concerns. *We do ask that you let us know if you are unwell so that we can stay in touch. Email us at stluke.tmba@bigpond.com or call the Parish Office.
- Each attender will need to use hand sanitiser as they enter.
- Families can sit in groups, but each group will be spaced apart by at least 1.5m. Sides persons will be on hand to assist.
- If you are looking for a church community you can belong to and wish to know more, please speak to some of our friendly leaders and parishioners after the service. Newcomers, please feel free to fill in a "Welcome!" card, but it would be great if you could pop into the Parish Office to say hi. We can then get your details, so you can be kept up to date with what is happening in our church community.
- Please take this booklet and a copy of the sermon with you, along with the prayers, readings and reflections into your week ahead. Feel free to pass this booklet onto a friend or neighbour!

Plant Stall

Pesky weeds: Our Plant Stall is now in recess until the 22nd of January. Gordon has asked if some green-thumbed volunteers could go around and remove the weeds from established pot plants. With the recent rain and sunshine, the weeds have multiplied exponentially; unfortunately, they are not included in the sale of the plant! Gordon says that just an hour a day would make a huge difference. All other aspects of the garden have been taken care of.

Resolutions: I don't suppose any of our parishioners will include in their new year's resolutions to volunteer more? ...But just so you know, Gordon is always keen to recruit new volunteers, whether they be behind the scenes or participating in the Saturday Plant Stall. Please consider this and get in contact with him or David Gywnne.

Parish Pantry

This week, we need the following:

- Tinned Peas/Beans
- Tinned mushrooms
- Tuna (S/M/L)
- Coffee
- Tinned meals
- Oil
- Washing powder, toilet rolls
- Tissues

This list is updated weekly to reflect the immediate needs. Thank you to all who regularly contribute. Please make a habit of putting at <u>least two items</u> in your trolley each time you shop and bring them to the Parish Office.

Our last Larder day was the 22nd of December and we will re-open on the 12th of January 2022.

Upcoming Services

The usual services at each of our centres will run as per normal while Paul is on leave. Our retired clergy, including Rev Malcolm Twine and Bishop Clyde Wood will be our guiding lights through January.

Other Support



If you would like to contribute on a regular basis, please feel free to use this QR code printed here to access the donations page for this parish **OR** the banking details are as follows: Account name: Toowoomba St Luke's Parish BSB: 704 901; A/C: 0001 2774. **OR** use our Donation Tap

Point, inside St. Luke's Church.

Parish Office

The Parish office will open from Tuesday the 4th to Friday the 7th of January, but with limited hours and volunteers. Amanda will be officially back on Monday the 10th of January, in full swing for the new year!

Prayer

Please Pray for John Warbrick & Sarah McLeod, Sue Warbrick,
Kim & Dave Booth, Tessa Tamvakis, Paul Merry, Wendy Garthe, Joyce Hendon,
Marie & David Harris, Lyn Hooper, Merle Bradford, Judy Lee, Melissa,
Irene Gregg, David, Martin, Kay Pern, Sidney Leo, Liz & David Twine and
families and Archdeacon Lizzie Gaitskell.

The Anglican Parish of St. Luke is committed to protecting your privacy. The people here have personally requested prayers; please let the Office know if names need to be removed. Please take and use these suggestions for prayer (as well as the other plans and events mentioned throughout this bulletin) to let all what we are doing, and all our plans inform your offering of prayer.

Pray Daily: Sunday 2 January

- The Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
- The Diocese of Adelaide: †Geoff Smith; Assistant Bishops †Timothy Harris, †Chris McLeod, †Denise Ferguson; Clergy & People
- The Parish of Laidley: Bob Blackburn Locum, Bill Ross
- Anglicare ASCQ: Sue Cooke & staff
- Anglican Church Grammar School, East Brisbane: Headmaster Alan Campbell; Chaplain - Bryan Gadd; Lay Chaplain - Stephanie Cotroneo; Chair of School Council - Daniel O'Connor, members of School Council; staff & students

Pastoral Care Coordinators

St Luke's:

Evie Rennick 0407 064 778 Jeanette Maguire 4638 2904

St Mark's:

Val Johnston 4635 5428 Joy Lemin 0434 406 340 Jennifer Murray 0439 011 494

All Saints:

Sue Smith 0412 228 255
Helen Moffatt 0437 440 580

Please make contact to share needs.

Pray for State School Chaplains

Joeleene Lochel –

Rangeville

Kevin Murray –

Toowoomba East

Jason Berry –

Centenary Heights

Readings for the 9th of January

1st reading: Isiah 43.1-7

Psalm: 29

2nd reading: Acts 8.14-17 Gospel reading: Luke 3.15-22

COVID updates

As we are all aware the Government directives regarding COVID requirements changed recently. Our borders are now more open and from Friday 17 December new regulations came into force.

To comply with these regulations we will be ensuring that our facilities (church buildings and halls) do not exceed the capacity of 1 person per 2 square metres. Sings are displayed showing these limits of the number of people who can be present.

Masks are encouraged but not compulsory.

Keeping physical distancing and other healthy practices continue to be encouraged (using sanitiser, keeping 1.5m apart, no handshaking, etc). For usual services and gatherings people who are unvaccinated are welcome. Their presence will not affect the way we are required to act. If any person is anxious about the possibility of contracting the virus in these circumstances please be more attentive to physical distancing and other healthy practices and wear a mask for mutual protection.

Restrictions DO apply to private gatherings in our facilities where unvaccinated people are present and hirers have been informed.

Please contact Paul or the Parish Office if you have any concerns.

Emergency Contact

Paul will be away on leave from the 27th of December to the 27th of January. If you need help during this time with an urgent matter, emergency or crisis, please contact Rev Malcolm Twine on 0412 247 879.

Live Streaming

Services will NOT be live-streamed from 2nd January to 23rd January 2022 inclusive.

Rector's Warden

Judy Bond: 0412 010 668

Parish Wardens

Steve Rigney: 0408 718 173 Sandy Lee: 0407 578 658

Centre Wardens

St Luke's

Gordon Lee: 0417 726 930 Alan Rennick: 0428 214 649

St Mark's

Patricia Wilson: 0429 351 196 Jeffrey Martin: 0408 157 455

All Saints

Stephen Hart: 0435 845 144

Kimberley Browning: 0438 598 626

Privacy Notice

Services at St Luke's are being broadcast online. If you have any concerns about being seen online please speak to the clergy or sides people.

Service Times

St. Luke's

Corner of Herries and Ruthven Streets,
Toowoomba City
Sunday 8am – Eucharist
Thursday 10.15am – Eucharist

St. Mark's

Corner of High and Angle Streets, Rangeville Sunday 9.30am – Eucharist

All Saints

26 Arthur Street, East Toowoomba Sunday 4.30pm – Eucharist

Worship with us Live on Facebook

Sundays 8am & weekdays 8.30am (except Tue) www.facebook.com/StLukesParish

Past recorded services and weekly service materials also available on our website www. stlukestoowoomba.org.au

Parish Clergy:

The Reverend Canon Paul Mitchell 0437 391 910

rector@stlukestoowoomba.org.au

Paul is not available on Tuesdays.

Paul will be on annual leave from Monday 27 December to Thursday the 27th of January. For any urgent inquiries, please contact Rev Malcolm Twine on 0412 247 879.

Honorary Associate Priest:

The Reverend Sharon Mitchell 0407 735 327

Our retired clergy are:

Bishop Clyde Wood – 0439 877 240

Rev. Bill Watson – 0400 094 438

Rev. Malcolm Twine – 0412 247 879

Rev. Terry Leonard – 4696 2046



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9.00am to 1.00pm

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Facebook:

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www.facebook.com/StLukesParish

We acknowledge the Jarowair and Giabal peoples as the original custodians of this land.