

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKLEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

18 June 2017

Bulletin for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 347 852 326 221

INTROIT: Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with joyful singing!

Know that the LORD is God! It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.

We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him and bless His name!

For the LORD is good. His mercy endures for ever, and His faithfulness through all generations.

Psalm 100

COLLECT: Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises, that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Exodus 19:2-8 Israel on Mount Sinai

Romans 5:6-15 Peace with God through faith, death in Adam, alive in Christ

Matthew 9:35-10:20 The harvest is great, but the workers are few, and the sending of the 12 apostles

SERMON: Romans 5:1-8 The effects of being justified

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we also glory in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance produces character; and character, hope. ⁵ Hope does not disappoint us either, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us. ⁶ For, while we were still helpless, at the set time Christ died for ungodly people. ⁷ For very rarely will someone die for a righteous person, although someone might perhaps even dare to die for a good person. ⁸ However, God shows His own love for us by this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The 12 disciples and their sending out by Jesus

Although Jesus had 12 primary disciples, He also had a wider circle of 70 disciples, and all Christians may properly be called disciples. A disciple simply is one who learns from another as his or her teacher. There were only 12 apostles. To qualify as apostles, it was necessary to have seen Jesus and to have been an eyewitness of His resurrection and to possess the power and authority to perform miracles in Jesus' name. They were all chosen directly by Jesus or by the Holy Spirit. These qualifications are clear to us when we read how Matthias was chosen to succeed Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:12-26) and how Paul defended his apostolic office (Galatians 1:11-24).

It is interesting to note that of the twelve disciples two were named Simon; two, James; and two, Judas (Thaddaeus is also referred to as Judas). Most of the Twelve had been Galilean fishermen. Only Judas Iscariot was from Judea. (Iscariot means "man of Kerioth," a Judean village).

Most of the twelve apostles left no written records; yet as a group they are well represented as authors of New Testament books. Peter wrote two epistles; John wrote a gospel, three epistles, and Revelation; and Matthew wrote this gospel. We have plenty of firsthand information to know exactly what the apostles believed and taught.

As far as we know, most of the apostles died as martyrs. Tradition tells us that Peter was compelled to watch as his wife was put to death and that he was then crucified upside down (at his own request, because he considered himself unworthy of dying as Jesus had died). It is said that Andrew was nailed to a slanting cross and that he suffered there for three days before he died. James the Elder was the first to be martyred. He was beheaded by King Herod Agrippa I. Nathanael supposedly was flayed (skinned alive) and then crucified head down. James the Less supposedly was hurled down from the pinnacle of the temple and then beaten to death with clubs. Judas Iscariot committed suicide.

Only John lived to a ripe old age and died a natural death. He lived about one hundred years, but he spent his final years as an exile on the island of Patmos. While he was there, he was granted the privilege of seeing some wondrous revelations. According to Jesus' instructions, he recorded them for us in the book of Revelation, which very appropriately is positioned as the final book of the New Testament.

In today's Gospel, we find Jesus sending out the 12. "These twelve" were hardly men who could be expected to change the world. For the most part, they were uneducated, unsophisticated, weak in faith, and slow to learn. They could accomplish their mission only through the authority and power of their Lord. The gospel message they were to proclaim was more than just a statement of fact. It was a powerful, living message, which the Holy Spirit could use to produce saving faith in the hearts of people who heard it. So it was very important that the disciples would carry out Jesus' instructions accurately and proclaim His message faithfully. Then they would not and could not fail. So Jesus proceeded to give them very clear and specific instructions.

Jesus sent them out two by two (Mk. 6:7) so that each could support and encourage his partner. He told them not to go to the Gentiles at that time but to concentrate on the lost sheep of Israel. Jesus came to redeem the whole world, and later He told His disciples to preach the gospel to all creation and make disciples of all nations. Jesus did not love the Gentiles less than the people of Israel, but the disciples had to start somewhere, and they needed a plan to follow. It made sense for them to start among their own people. They could more easily relate to them, and all their lives they had been taught to avoid unnecessary association with Gentiles. Even after they understood that the gospel was intended for Gentiles as well as for Jews, they found it difficult to invite Gentiles into the kingdom of God. For the time being, they had their hands full trying to reach the lost sheep of Israel, for the majority of the Israelites were such lost sheep. Religious leaders like the Pharisees and the Sadducees led people astray because they departed from the truths of God's Word and taught their own traditions and philosophies. God's true prophets were regularly despised, persecuted, and rejected by their own people.

"The kingdom of heaven is near!" (Matt. 10:7). That was the essence of the message they were to proclaim. It was the same message John the Baptist and Jesus had preached. They were to call people to repentance, to warn them of the consequences of continuing in their sins, and to assure them that God was carrying out His promise for the redemption of the world. The long-awaited Messiah had come. Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God and that promised Saviour. There is no salvation for sinners except through faith in Him. The momentous events of Jesus' passion, resurrection, and ascension would take place in their midst in the near future. The kingdom of heaven was near indeed!

Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46912276, or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

25 June 3 Pentecost	2 July 4 Pentecost	9 July 5 Pentecost
8.30am OAK PR JZ 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN PR JZ	8.30am TMBA PR JZ 8.30am OAK LR 10.00am Minden HC AELC Mission Day Service	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 25 June		
READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-13;	Romans 6:12-23;	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
HYMNS: 463 400 112 200		
Sunday, 2 July		
READINGS: Jeremiah 28:5-9;	Romans 7:1-13;	Matthew 10:34-42
HYMNS:		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family BUSHDANCE, Greenwood Church Hall, Friday 7th July at 7pm. You are welcome to invite friends as well. Please bring a plate for supper. Phone Jane Sippel for more information 0488722074

Pastor is taking holidays from June 19 to July 3.