

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

28 January 2018  
Bulletin for 3 Epiphany

**HYMNS:** 156 239 408 852 839 434

**INTROIT: Praise the LORD!** I shall give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, in the company of upright people and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great. They are studied by all who delight in them. His work is splendid and majestic, and **His righteousness endures for ever.**

He has caused His miraculous acts to be remembered. The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

He has given food to those who fear Him. He will remember His Covenant for ever.

He has shown His powerful works to His people by giving to them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of His hands are faithful and just. All His Precepts are trustworthy. They are firm for ever and ever. They have been made in truth and uprightness.

He has sent redemption to His people. He has ordained His Covenant for ever. His name is holy and awesome.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. All who observe His Precepts have good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

Psalm 111

**COLLECT:** Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the *AELC Statement of Faith*, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

**READINGS:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20 "The LORD, your God, will raise for you a Prophet."

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Love builds up.

Mark 1:21-28 Jesus heals the man possessed with an unclean spirit.

**SERMON:** Mark 1:21-28 God's Word has both power and authority

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum. On the next Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at His teaching. For He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes taught. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do we have in common with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are, the Holy One of God!"

<sup>25</sup> Jesus spoke sharply to him: "Be quiet, and come out of him!"

<sup>26</sup> The unclean spirit shook the man violently and with a loud shriek came out of him. <sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they debated with one another: "What is this? This is a new teaching, with authority! He even gives orders to the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

<sup>28</sup> The news about Him spread quickly everywhere through the surrounding region of Galilee.

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### Spiritual and Bodily Demonic Possession

The Bible tells us that demons on occasion have afflicted people bodily. Numerous examples of demon possession are mentioned in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the devil used the serpent's body as he came to tempt Eve (Gen. 3:1). God permitted Saul to be afflicted by an evil spirit as a judgment on him for his apostasy (1 Sam. 18:10). Jesus met many cases of demon possession during His ministry, as did the apostles (Matt. 4:24; 8:16; 10:8; Mark 6:13). Notable among them were the two demon-possessed men in the region of the Gadarenes (Gergesenes or Gerasenes) mentioned in Matthew 8:28-34. Mark 5:1-20 and Luke 8:26-39 also mention the incident. A legion of demons possessed them (Luke 8:30). This demon possession was accompanied by extraordinary strength (Mark 5:3-4).

Jesus cast a demon out of the daughter of a woman from Syrian Phoenicia (Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30). She pleaded, "Have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession," (Matt. 15:22). Jesus also healed a boy whom Matthew describes as having seizures, but it is explained that the problem resulted from demon

possession (Matt. 17:14-20). As we heard in our Gospel for today, Jesus drove a demon out of the man in the synagogue in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28) and in his Gospel, Luke says Jesus drove out a demon that had made a man mute (Luke 11:14). There was the woman, possessed by a demon, who had not been able to stand up straight for 18 years (Luke 13:10-13). The most notable example of exorcism recorded in Acts is that of Paul's driving the demon of divination out of a girl in Philippi (16:16-18). Paul also drove demons out of people in Ephesus on his third missionary journey (Acts 19:11-12). It was there that the seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish priest, were trying to imitate Paul and drive out demons. A demon-possessed man beat up all seven and drove them out of the house. God had not empowered the sons of Sceva to do this.

Many who were possessed against their will were believers. This is clear from the case of the woman unable to straighten up. Jesus called her "a daughter of Abraham," (Luke 13:16). It may be that the frequency of demon possession in Jesus' time was a graphic picture of the struggle between Christ and the devil and his forces. It is also clear from the many accounts in Scripture that demon possession was no pre-scientific attempt to explain illness or odd behaviour. The gospels present these accounts amid the factual, historical account of Jesus' and the apostles' ministry.

Spiritual possession was the case when people willingly turned their wills over to the devil. The Bible distinguishes between unbelief, in which the devil is dominant in the heart of a person, and a situation in which someone becomes a willing tool of the devil. Two examples of spiritual possession are Judas (John 13:27) and Ananias (Acts 5:3). Both are examples of how the devil exacts a terrible price from those who serve him. Judas committed suicide in his despair, and Ananias dropped dead on the spot when confronted by Peter. Both went to hell. "The wages of sin is death," Paul says (Rom. 6:23).

In connection with this topic, let us remember the words of James, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," (James 4:7). Also, should God in His wisdom and love choose to allow someone to be afflicted, Paul reminds us, "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons ... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Rom. 8:38-39).

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

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).

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

## COMING SERVICES

4 February 5 Epiphany	11 February The Transfiguration	Wednesday, 14 February Ash Wednesday
8.30am TMBA HC & AGM 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am OAK HC & AGM 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	7.30pm GRN
<b>Sunday, 4 February</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 40:21-31;                      1 Corinthians 9:16-27;                      Mark 1:29-39		
HYMNS: 450 16 241 (848) 642		
<b>Sunday, 11 February</b>		
READINGS: 2 Kings 2:1-12;                      2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:1-6;                      Mark 9:2-9		
HYMNS: 747 37 358 (294 290) 822		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight, 7.30pm. Parish Executive meeting at Oakey.

Friday, 2 February, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Pizza etc is provided for a gold coin donation (Usually start eating 7.20). The evening finishes with supper about 9pm, please bring a plate. Contact Jane Sippel 0488722074 for more info.

### ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Toowoomba: 4 February after church.

Oakey: 11 February after church.

Aubigny: 4 February 7.30pm.

Greenwood:

Wednesday, 7 February, Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Jeannette Ziebell. Key Word: House. Item of Interest: A bookmark.