

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

4 February 2018  
Bulletin for 5 Epiphany

**HYMNS:** 450 16 241 642

**INTROIT:** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God.  
For it is pleasant. A song of praise is delightful.

The LORD is the Builder of Jerusalem. He gathers the outcasts of  
Israel.

He is the Healer of broken-hearted people. He binds up their sores.

He counts out the number of stars. He gives all of them their names.

Great is our Lord and great in might! There is no limit to His  
understanding.

The LORD helps afflicted people. He brings wicked people down to the  
ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving! Make melody to our God with the  
lyre!

He covers the heavens with clouds. He prepares rain for the ground.

He makes the grass grow on the mountains.

He gives food to the animals, and to the young ravens that call out.

He does not delight in the strength of the horse. He takes no pleasure  
in the thighs of a man.

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in  
His mercy.

Psalm 147:1-11

**COLLECT:** O Lord, keep Your family, the Church, continually in the  
true faith, that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may  
ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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:** Isaiah 40:21-31 "Those who wait on the LORD will  
receive new strength."

1 Corinthians 9:16-27 "I have become all things to all people, that in  
every way I may save some."

Mark 1:29-39 Jesus heals.

**SERMON:** Mark 1:29-39 Jesus heals with the preaching of the Gospel  
Immediately after they left the synagogue, they went into the home of Simon and Andrew, together with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was lying down with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He went to her, took her hand, and lifted her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> In the evening, when the sun had set, people kept bringing to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole city had gathered at the door. <sup>34</sup> Jesus healed many who were sick with various diseases, and drove out many demons, but He would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a lonely place, and there He prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and those who were with him searched for Him. <sup>37</sup> When they found Him, they told Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

<sup>38</sup> He told them, "Let us go somewhere else, to the small towns that are near, so that I may preach there also! For I have come forth for this purpose."

<sup>39</sup> He went and preached in their synagogues everywhere in Galilee and drove out the demons.

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## Is Chocolate Going Extinct?

by Ken Ham from *Answers in Genesis*

Better start stocking up! According to a new report, cacao trees - the plants that produce the cocoa beans used to make chocolate - will be extinct by 2050. You can probably guess the "why" behind this prediction: climate change.

Cacao trees require very precise conditions under which to grow. They will only grow 20 degrees north or south of the equator and need consistent humidity and rainfall. Due to their predictions about a warming climate, scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration believe the areas in West Africa where over half of our cocoa beans are grown will warm by 3.8 degrees F, changing the conditions and possibly making cacao trees go extinct.

It's interesting that these scientists (most of whom are evolutionists) note that cacao trees are very picky and fragile plants, yet, according to the evolutionary story, they've been around nearly 10 million years. So, in this view, they've managed to survive several ice ages and other major ecological changes, but a 3.8-degree change will make them go extinct? This is very inconsistent. (Remember, many of Al Gore's predictions in his 2006 movie *An Inconvenient Truth* have been proven to be untrue or exaggerations.)

Our cultivated cacao trees aren't nearly as hardy as wild, uncultivated varieties. In selecting for the traits we like in cocoa beans, we've weeded out a tremendous amount of genetic diversity. As Answers in Genesis's Troy Lacey and Avery Foley wrote about in 2015, some researchers believe tapping into this genetic diversity may make a hardier plant and even yield novel chocolate flavours.

So will cacao trees end up extinct? We don't know, of course. What we do know is that what you believe about the past determines how you interpret the evidence you study in the present. Those who believe in catastrophic, man-made climate change usually start with an evolutionary view of the past. They believe the climate has been relatively stable since the last ice age, supposedly about 12,000 years ago. So even minor climate change, they argue, is alarming and probably man-made. (And I should probably note here that few, if any, of the alarming climate-change predictions have come to be.)

**Now climate change is real - it's good observational science.** But whether it's primarily man-made or natural cycles of climate is an entirely different issue. When we start with God's Word, we recognise we have a climate that was designed "very good" (Genesis 1:31) by God. Of course, just like everything, our climate is cursed and has changed since creation. The global Flood of Noah's day about 4,350 years ago led to incredible climate change, including the Ice Age that followed the Flood. Things have been settling down since then, so we expect variations in climate.

Your starting point impacts how you view the world - even when it comes to chocolate!

*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

11 February The Transfiguration	Wednesday, 14 February Ash Wednesday	18 February 1 Lent
8.30am OAK HC & AGM 8.30am TMB A LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	7.30pm GRN Vespers	9.30am OAK HC Parish Service celebrating the 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AELC
<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		
<b>Wednesday, 14 February</b>		
READINGS: Joel 2:12-19; Luke 22:1, Matthew 26:3-5, Luke 22:3-5a, Matthew 26:15-16, Luke 22:7-9, Mark 14:13-16, Matthew 26:20, Luke 22:15-19, Matthew 26:27-28, Luke 22:24-30		
HYMNS: 59 112 327 48 v.1		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 7 February, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Jeannette Ziebell. Key Word: House. Item of Interest: A bookmark.

Tuesday, 13 February, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

### ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Toowoomba: 4 February after church.

Oakey: 11 February after church.

Aubigny: 4 February, 7.30pm.

Greenwood: 11 February, 7.30pm.