

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

6 May 2018

Bulletin for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**HYMNS:** 101 322 420 177 333 197

**INTROIT: Sing a new song to the LORD!** For He has done wonderful things. His right hand and His holy arm have gained salvation for Him. The LORD has made His salvation known. He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He **has remembered His mercy** and His faithfulness to the family of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth! Break forth, shout for joy, and sing praise!

Sing praise to the LORD with a lyre, with a lyre and the sound of music, with trumpets and the sound of a horn! Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the mountains shout for joy together before the LORD! For He is coming to judge the earth. **He will judge the world righteously** and the peoples justly.

Psalm 98

**COLLECT:** O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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:** Acts 10:44-48 The Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles

1 John 5:1-8 This is the victory that has overcome the world

John 15:9-17 If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love

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.**

**SERMON:** John 15:9-17 At the foot of the cross, we see Jesus' love for us

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Remain in My love! <sup>10</sup> If you keep My Commandments, you will remain in My love, as I have also kept My Father's Commandments and remain in His love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> This is My Commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you continue to do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you 'servants,' because a servant does not know what his master is doing. However, I have called you 'friends' because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. <sup>16</sup> You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and appointed you that you may go and bear fruit and that your fruit may remain, that the Father may give you whatever you ask for in My name. <sup>17</sup> This is what I command you: Love one another!

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### God is Love

In his First Letter John writes, "*God is love,*" (1 John 4:8, 16). In the first place, the Father loves the Son (Matt. 3:17; 17:5; John 3:35). The Son loves the Father (John 14:31). Not only does love exist within the Trinity, God also exhibits love toward the world. God's love shows itself in His providing creation with what it needs to survive. Psalm 136 tells us that the Lord "*gives food to every creature,*" (v. 25). His love showed itself in the highest way by sending His Son to save us. Perhaps the most well-known verse which states this is John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life.*"

The love God has for us is not in any way based on anything in us. Because God is love, He loves us with a love that goes beyond all comprehension. His love for us moves us, in turn, to love our neighbour. Only when our hearts have been warmed and changed by His love for us, can we show love to others. Indeed, the more we become aware of the love God has showed us, the more motivation we have to show love to other people. The waters of the Dead Sea are unfit to drink and useless for irrigation because water only flows in; nothing flows out. In the same way, love needs to keep

moving, or we will stagnate. If we love one another, says John, God's love is made complete, that is, we fulfil His loving purpose and continue the chain reaction. Love stimulates more love, and in this way hatred is melted, wounds are healed, grudges are forgotten, grievances forgiven, hope shared, emptiness filled, and loneliness eased in human hearts.

God's love is also related to His kindness (Titus 3:4), mercy and compassion (God's love as moved by man's misery - Titus 3:5; Matthew 14:14), His grace (God's love in its efforts to save mankind from sin - Titus 3:7), and His forbearance or longsuffering (God's love as it puts off punishment and extends the time of grace - Romans 2:4).

It should also be noted that God remains love while He condemns people for their sins. God could not sweep sin under the rug and ignore it. He could not make it go away by an almighty decree, for that would contradict His holiness, righteousness, and justice. But God's love found a way to satisfy His justice: He gave His only Son into death for us. Thus, God could declare us not guilty because His Son was condemned in our place.

Praise God that He is love! If He dealt with us as we deserved, we would perish eternally. Because God is love, His Son redeemed us from our sin and we have the assurance of eternal life. We also have the same assurance the Apostle Paul had when he said, "*We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, for those whom He has called according to His purpose,*" (Rom. 8:28).

We can and should rest assured that everything involving our salvation has been taken care of by a gracious God who is love. From eternity He has been active in our salvation, and as a result of the love and mercy He has for us, one day He will call us from the miseries of this world into His heavenly kingdom.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!  
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.  
 Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com)  
 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

10 May Ascension Day	13 May 7 Easter	20 May Pentecost
Thursday		
7.30pm OAK HC	8.00am TMBA Bible Study & 9.00am HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC (Baptism)
<b>THURSDAY, 10 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53		
HYMNS: 169 771 114 789 330 152		
<b>Sunday, 13 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15; John 17:11b-19		
HYMNS: 96 186 239 (282 286) 643		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday 8 May, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Don Ziebell

### BIBLE STUDIES:

Toowoomba, Sunday 13 May, 8.00am.

Greenwood, Friday 18 May, 7.30pm.

Oakey/Aubigny, Friday 25 May, 7.30pm.