

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

7 October 2018

Bulletin for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 345 588 167 842 (840) 602

INTROIT: Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His Ways!

You will certainly eat what your own hands have worked for. You will be blessed, and it will be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine inside your house. Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

This is how the man who fears the LORD will be blessed.

May the LORD bless you from Zion, so that you may see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children! **Peace be on Israel!**

Psalm 128

COLLECT: Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight, 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: Genesis 2:18-25 The creation of woman.

Hebrews 2:1-18 The one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.

Mark 10:2-16 Marriage and divorce. "Allow the little children to come to Me."

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: Mark 10:2-16 The Pharisees question on divorce and Jesus with the little children

² Some Pharisees came to Him and asked Him, to test Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

³ He answered them by asking, "What has Moses commanded you?"

⁴ They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and divorce her."

⁵ Jesus told them, "It was because your hearts were hard that he wrote this Commandment for you. ⁶ However, at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' ⁷ 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸ and the two will become one flesh.' Therefore, they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore, no person should separate what God has joined together!"

¹⁰ When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹ He answered them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹² If a wife divorces her husband and marries another man, she also commits adultery."

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus that He might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ However, when Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He told them, "Allow the little children to come to Me and stop forbidding them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly, I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child does will certainly not enter it."

¹⁶ He took the children in His arms, laid His hands on them and blessed them.

Marriage ordained by God

Eve was a gracious gift of God to fill a need of which Adam had just become aware. "Therefore, a man will leave his father and his mother. He will be united with his wife and they will become one flesh," (Genesis 2:24).

With Eve's creation and presentation to Adam, God established marriage. The first two purposes for marriage were given already in the Garden of Eden. The first purpose of marriage is companionship. Adam needed a companion, and his wife was to be that companion. He was created first and was by divine arrangement to be the head in that union. In the course of carrying out his role as head with her as his companion, he would also be her companion. The second purpose of marriage is the bearing of children. It is included as a primary purpose of marriage in the summary account of Genesis 1:28.

The husband who is too busy with his work or his friends to be a companion to his wife and the wife who is too busy with her own life and pursuits to be a companion to her husband miss a primary purpose and intention of God in the institution of marriage. Likewise, couples who do not want to be bothered with children because they will just get in the way of things the couple considers of greater importance miss the second major purpose of marriage.

Those who recklessly ignore and frustrate God's intentions for marriage should not imagine that God is indifferent to their misplaced priorities. Nor should they think that God blesses their flaunting of His purposes of companionship and children for their marriage. To be sure, there are times when physical or mental or genetic problems may place limitations on the happy

fulfillment of these purposes, but when there are no such limitations beyond the choice or control of the husband and wife, then the purposes of marriage that God gave already in the garden should be accepted with thanksgiving to God. God out of love has given husband and wife to each other with these purposes in mind. As with every institution that God has established (i.e., the family, the church, and the state), it is in the carrying out of God's intentions and purposes that those institutions are blessed and are a blessing.

Yes, and in spite of the many and perverse notions to the contrary that are popular these days, marriage is a divine institution intended for a man and a woman. "Marriage" for members of the same sex is not only a contradiction in terms but an abomination in the eyes of God. Paul writes, *"24 Therefore God has handed them over to uncleanness, in the sinful desires of their hearts, to degrade their bodies with one another. 25 They have exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and have worshipped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen! 26 For this reason, God has handed them over to shameful passions. For even their females have exchanged their natural function for what is unnatural. 27 Similarly, the males have also abandoned the natural function of the female and have been inflamed with lust for one another. Males have committed shameful acts with other males and have received in themselves the penalty that they have deserved for their error. 28 As they have not seen fit to retain a true knowledge of God, God has also handed them over to an unfit mind, to do things that ought not to be done. 29 They have been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice,"* (Romans 1:24-29). Nor is God the least bit interested in any polls taken among us that contradict him. It is always the business of the creature to listen to the Creator, not to imagine that the Creator needs the advice, much less correction, from the creature.

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 pziebell@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

14 October 21 Pentecost	21 October 22 Pentecost	28 October Reformation
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am HC TMBA 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
Sunday, 14 October		
READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19; Mark 10:17-22		
HYMNS: 164 359 149 (53 847) 512		
Sunday, 21 October		
READINGS: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Hebrews 4:1-14; Mark 10:23-31		
HYMNS: 501 372 349 (848 847) 426		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 9 October, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

Wednesday, 10 October, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Leanne. Key Word: Instruction. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "H"

Friday, 12 October, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Pizza etc is provided for a gold coin donation (usually start eating around 7.20), followed by games and activities, a devotion and hymns. The evening finishes with supper about 9pm, please bring a plate. Contact Jane Sippel 0488722074 for more info.

The next high school social group outing will be on Saturday, 20 October, beginning at 1pm. Please meet at Captain Cook Oval for ball games. If it's hot, we will go to the Sippel home for board games. The discussion will be about things non-Christians or nominal Christians are likely to ask Christians.

Bible Studies: GRN: Friday 19 October. AUB/OAK: Friday 26 October