

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

14 October 2018

Bulletin for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 164 359 149 53 847 512

INTROIT: O LORD, You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

Teach us to count our days correctly, that we may gain wise hearts!

Return, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on Your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with Your mercy, that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days!

Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen calamity!

Let Your work be seen by Your servants, and Your splendour by their children!

Moreover, let the favour of the LORD, our God, be on us! Establish for us the work of our hands! Yes, establish the work of our hands!

Psalm 90:1, 12-17

COLLECT: Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Hate evil, love good, maintain justice!

Hebrews 3:12-19 Take care, fellow-Christians, that none of you has in him a wicked, unbelieving heart.

Mark 10:17-22 The rich man goes away sad.

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 10:17-22 What am I to do to inherit eternal life?

¹⁷ As Jesus was going out onto the road, a man came running to Him and fell on his knees before Him. He asked Him, "Good Teacher, what am I to do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ Jesus asked him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One, that is, God. ¹⁹ You know the Commandments: 'Do not murder,' 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not give false testimony,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honour your father and mother!'"

²⁰ He told Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since I was a child."

²¹ Jesus looked straight at him and loved him. He told him, "You lack one thing, Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor! You will have treasure in heaven. Then come here and follow Me!"

²² He looked gloomy when he heard that and went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Latest LCA vote on Women's Ordination

Last week the LCA held their triennial synod, where again a vote was held on women's ordination. This is the fourth time a vote has been held. According to LCA rules, there must be a 2/3rd majority to change doctrine (The Scriptures knows nothing of a 2/3rds vote on doctrine!! Surely where God has clearly spoken, His will must be followed 100%). Anyhow, for WO to be passed, there needed to be 270 votes in the affirmative of those voting members at synod. The final result was 240 votes for WO, 166 against. Although the 2/3rd majority was not reached, nevertheless the LCA is a church divided with the majority of member congregations in favour of WO.

This debate will not go away. There will be no doubt that in three years' time, another vote will be taken. In the meantime, what will happen? Pro WO will continue to push their agenda, while those against will try to "fix" their church. There is also the possibility that some will leave, but that will not happen any time soon. The problem now for that church is **fellowship**. Despite four attempts in conventions to decide whether women may be pastors in the LCA, **both sides of the doctrinal debate continue to commune together**. If the pastors on the confessional side of this debate cannot refuse communion to those who persistently advocate this false doctrinal practice and cannot refuse to commune with them, **then the doctrine of church fellowship becomes the issue**, and, indeed, the wider doctrine of the church itself. **True fellowship rightly rests on agreement in the right proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments**. In all the debates in the LCA from both sides, the issue of fellowship hardly rates a mention.

Lots of comments have been made on numerous online discussion groups commenting on the LCA's vote. For the pro WO, comments have ranged from distress and disappointment to almost anger. On the other side, anti WO members, while happy with the result, have called for calm, and have asked their fellow members to show compassion, love, and patience toward the supporters of WO. While this is commendable, something that is lacking in the discussion is the fact that there is much at stake ignoring the clear readings of 1 Corinthians 14:33-38 and 1 Timothy 2:8-14. St. Paul wrote that it is **a command of the Lord** (Christ) that women should be silent in the churches. In the context of 1 Corinthians 14, the kind of speaking in view is the speaking of one individual while the rest listen. When there is a commandment of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37), to act contrary to it is disobedience. Any church that accepts women to the ministry is being disobedient to the Lord. A woman who receives and accepts such a disobediently issued call is being disobedient. Those who are persistently disobedient should fear the Lord's wrath. St. Paul adds a point that is often overlooked. **The Lord does not recognise a person who does not recognise this command of His** (1 Cor. 14:38).

The argument for women pastors in our time comes entirely from the current culture we find ourselves living in, and Scripture has nothing to support it. Therefore, we are conscience-bound to uphold this command of the Lord.

The church is God's new family on earth. Adam's race did not qualify as God's sons and thus in Jesus a new family, the church, has been established. In the church, God's original intentions are again revived. The church is therefore bound to the proper relationship between the man and woman established by God and that it be reflected in everything the church does. The ordaining of women as pastors is not only a deliberate breaking of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments but is also a direct contradiction of God's plan in creation. It is acting directly against God.

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

21 October 22 Pentecost	28 October Reformation	4 November All Saints' Day
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	10.00am AUB HC AELC Service
Sunday, 21 October		
READINGS: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Hebrews 4:1-14; Mark 10:23-31		
HYMNS: 501 372 349 (848 847) 426		
Sunday, 28 October		
READINGS: Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28; Matthew 11:12-19		
HYMNS: 138 195 333 (852 368) 197		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday 19 October, 7.30pm. Bible Study in the hall.

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.

Sunday, 21 October, 7.30pm. Choir practice at Oakey.