

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

28 October 2018
Bulletin for the Reformation

HYMNS: 138 195 333 852 368 197

INTROIT: God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in troubles.

Therefore we shall not be afraid, although the earth quakes and the mountains topple into the middle of the seas, although its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its surging.

There is a river, and its streams make the city of God glad, the holy dwelling-place of the Most High.

God is inside it. It will not be shaken. God will help it when the morning dawns.

Nations rage, kingdoms totter. He utters His voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come! See the works of the LORD! He has brought devastation on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in pieces. He burns the chariots with fire.

"Cease striving, and know that I am God! I shall be exalted among the nations. I shall be exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46

COLLECT: Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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: Revelation 14:6-7 Fear God and give Him glory.

Romans 3:19-28 A man is justified by faith.

Matthew 11:12-19 He who has ears, let him hear.

SERMON: Psalm 46 God is our Refuge and Strength

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.**

Real Christians

Much of what we read and indeed see in our culture today talks about the loss of interest in the organised church but insists that the hunger for the spiritual is no smaller than it ever was. People today are looking for something genuine, and personal interaction. It sounds like our post-modern age is looking for the same things people have always looked for, but they no longer have the expectation of finding it in the church buildings, nor do they really trust that any organisation is necessarily going to meet their needs. They have grown up without that expectation or with the experience of churches that lost their focus on Christ and replaced it with programs and entertainment, or other agendas.

What the world around us needs is to meet real Christians, people for whom the Gospel is real, and vital, and clear. Doctrine is essential to those who know the truth, because sound doctrine teaches that truth and makes it something we can deliver to the neighbour and the next generation without losing the power it brought to us. Those who have forgotten repentance often forget sound doctrine as well because once you lose track of precisely why your religion is precious, it becomes very reasonable to iron out those difficult truths and challenging teachings and make everything seem much more palatable and "user friendly." But the world around us doesn't need to meet the kind of Christians that have a personal and very flexible religion. They need something solid and reliable, that won't change on them as the culture shifts. A foundation needs to be strong and stable or the things built on it shift and collapse.

So the world needs to meet Christians who know the solid foundation of Christ, which is only solid when you see your sins and the great danger they present, and repent of them, and then know Christ, and His grace and forgiveness, and genuinely trust in Him. For some, that sounds like the religion you already have, and you wonder why we need a reformation. Well, not everyone needs to turn back to the true foundation because they never left it - for which they owe God great thanks. Church after church, and denomination after denomination have left it, though. So the reformation is still needed.

Remember, proper reformation never takes you somewhere new. It always takes you home, to the way things ought to be, which is usually to take you back. In his 95 Theses, Luther began with: *Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said "repent!", willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.* We need to keep Christ clearly in our minds and understand just how precious and important His work for us is, and His grace and forgiveness is for us. Our nature will always try to tell us that repentance was 'back then,' and now we are good to go. God's Word tells us a different story. It says that 'we daily sin much,' and are in need of the constant reformation of repentance and forgiveness. Without it, we will inevitably make too much of ourselves, and far too little of Christ and the cross.

We also need to keep an eye on the church around us, doing our part to keep it on the foundation of God's Word and not merely human opinions about God's Word. It is far too easy to lose one's focus and wander away into self-made religious ideas. The church has been doing that for two thousand years, over and over again. Celebrating the Reformation of Luther's time helps us keep that task in mind.

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
 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

4 November All Saints' Day	11 November 25 Pentecost	18 November 26 Pentecost
10.00am AUB HC AELC Service	8.30am OAK HC Harvest 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC Harvest	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR
Sunday, 4 November		
READINGS: Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12		
HYMNS:		
Sunday, 11 November		
READINGS: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44		
HYMNS: 503 870 170 390 OAK & GRN: 567 814 456 320 847 563		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 4 November. Could each family please bring a plate for a shared lunch? Also, please place your offering in an envelope marked back to your own congregation. All loose offering will go to the AELC treasury.

Friday, 2 November. 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Contact Jane Sippel 0488722074 for more info.

Wednesday, 7 November. 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Jane.

Key Word: Israel. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "I." We will then go to the Oakey RSL for a breakup lunch. Husbands are invited to lunch.

Harvest Thanksgiving services: 11 November OAK & GRN. 25 November TMBA & AUB.

Pastor will be away from 14-22 November.