

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

30 December 2018

Bulletin for the 1st Sunday after Christmas

HYMNS: 23 (part 1) 25 319 23 (part 2)

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! I shall give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, in the company of upright people and in the congregation.

The works of the LORD are great. They are studied by all who delight in them.

His work is splendid and majestic, and His righteousness endures for ever.

He has caused His miraculous acts to be remembered. The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

He has given food to those who fear Him. He will remember His Covenant for ever.

He has shown His powerful works to His people by giving to them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of His hands are faithful and just. All His Precepts are trustworthy.

They are firm for ever and ever. They have been made in truth and uprightness.

He has sent redemption to His people. He has ordained His Covenant for ever. His name is holy and awesome.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. All who observe His Precepts have good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

Psalm 111

COLLECT: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him, who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 God commands the Israelites to consecrate every firstborn male.

Colossians 3:12-17 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Luke 2:22-40 Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.

SERMON: Luke 2:22-40 Simeon – a fine example of a Christian

One-of-a Kind Birth

To speak of Jesus' birth is to speak of who He is. The Apostles' Creed confesses that Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary." Jesus was not conceived the natural way but through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

- Jesus is human because He was born of the Virgin Mary.
- He is God because He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus calls God "Father." Jesus is true man and true God because that was the only way God could accomplish His work of salvation.

In Jesus Christ, God put on "skin." Jesus is fully God, and He is fully man in the way God intended man to be: without sin and in full communion with God Himself.

John 1:14 says, "*The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's only Son – He is full of grace and truth.*" Jesus Christ, who has come from the Father, lived among us to do the saving work of God for a world destroyed by sin.

Why did Jesus have to be man? That is the only way He could take our place.

We have not been obedient to God, but Jesus was perfectly obedient to God. Jesus was not guilty of any sin of thought, word, or deed. If He had committed a sin, He would no longer be the Saviour because He would need to deal with His own sin.

He is the ultimate substitute through all that He did.

Did Jesus face real temptations like we do? Was He tempted to not love God with His whole heart, to curse God, to hate His enemies, or to lust? The answer is a resounding “Yes!” We find great comfort in Hebrews 4:15: “*For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses. However, we have One who has been tempted in every way like us. Yet He was without sin.*” Jesus, our Saviour, is also our High Priest, and He does understand the spiritual struggles that we face on a daily basis. Because God became flesh in Jesus, we can be confident that He intimately knows our weaknesses and our problems.

That God would really become man and take on human flesh and blood has been a matter of debate since New Testament times. In fact, early in the history of the Church, people said, “The flesh is bad and the spirit is good.” They did not believe that God would become man and take on flesh and blood. This heresy that has haunted the Church since ancient times is called “Gnosticism.” The New Testament is quite clear that God did indeed take on a body in Christ as a fulfillment of the plan of salvation.

Arise, my soul, sing joyfully,
And praise thy great Creator,
Who now hath sent this child to thee,
His Son, thy Mediator.
This is the day thy Saviour came
To take man’s nature and his name,
And by His incarnation
To win for man salvation.

All blessing, thanks, and praise to Thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given:
Thou hast my brother deigned to be,
Thou Lord of earth and heaven.
Help me throughout this day of grace
To praise Thy love and seek Thy face;
And when I stand before Thee
For ever to adore Thee.

Hymn 31, v 1 and 4

Welcome to all worshipping 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.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

1 January 2019 New Year’s Day	6 January Epiphany	13 January The Baptism of Jesus
9.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Tuesday, 1 January 2019		
READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 2:21		
HYMNS: 36 277 161 398 292 219		
Sunday, 6 January		
READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12		
HYMNS: 45 147 40 (47 163) 746		