

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

14 April 2019  
Bulletin for Palm Sunday

**HYMNS:** 86 51 733 61 368 87

**INTROIT:** Open to me the gates of righteousness! I shall enter through them. I shall give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD, through which righteous people will enter.

I shall give thanks to You. For You have answered me, and You have become my Salvation.

**The Stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone.**

**This has come from the LORD. It is marvellous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the LORD has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad** in it!

**Save us, we pray, O LORD!** O LORD, please give us success!

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!** We have blessed you all from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and has given us light. Tie the festive procession together with leafy branches as far as the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I shall give thanks to You. You are my God. Let me honour You highly.

Give thanks to the LORD! For He is good. For His mercy endures for ever.

Psalm 118:19-29

**COLLECT:** Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Deuteronomy 32:36-39 "I shall kill and I shall make alive."

Philippians 2:5-11 "He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death."

John 12:12-19 Jesus rides into Jerusalem.

**SERMON:** John 12:12-15 Save us, we pray.

<sup>12</sup> On the next day, the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took branches of palm-trees, went out to meet Him and began to shout, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who is coming in the name of the Lord!" and "the King of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as Scripture has said: <sup>15</sup> "Stop being afraid, daughter of Zion! Look! Your King is coming, sitting on the colt of a donkey."

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.**

### Discontent

"Discontent." Speak this word, especially among men, and the likely result will be knowing looks and assenting nods. Discontent is a word many men understand – even Christians. It shows up as an overwhelming and all-pervasive feeling of restlessness and frustration that stems from a profound disappointment with life (especially professional life) as it is. The one stricken with it often feels trapped, feels that life is passing him by, or that the life he has lived until now has been largely meaningless and/or unproductive. Discontent cries out, "It wasn't supposed to be like this! This is not where I was supposed to be at this stage of my life!" Discontent always wants more. In severe cases it builds to critical mass and moves the discontented one to radical change, change that is often reckless and damaging. Some will even cast families and long held jobs to the wind in pursuit of something that will make them content. If saying that "discontent is an epidemic," is overstated, calling it a huge problem is not. Yet is all discontent a problem? No. Biblically speaking there is what we may call ungodly discontent and godly discontent.

There is ungodly discontent, the sinful variety. Much, if not most, of our discontent comes from our fallen, sinful natures that are never satisfied and always want MORE. It led to Adam and Eve's downfall. Cain followed suit. It was because of discontent that God gave the Ninth and Tenth Commandments. Coveting what belongs to our neighbour would not be a problem if we were content with what we have. Seen in this light, coveting (like complaining) is the symptom of the real problem, discontent. There are even clearer statements about ungodly discontent in the Scriptures. John the Baptist told the soldiers who had asked him what they should do, to "*be content with your pay*," (Luke 3:34). Paul tells Timothy that, "*godliness with contentment is great gain... Rather, if we have food and clothing, we shall be content with these. However, those*

who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful desires, which drown people in destruction and ruin,” (1 Timothy 6:6, 8-9). The writer of Hebrews also reminds us, “Let your way of life be free from a love for money! Be content with what you have! For God has said: “I shall never leave you or forsake you,” (13:5).

These passages remind us of several truths about ungodly discontent.

First, discontent is an offense and affront to God because at its core it is a scorning of His goodness. It says, “You are NOT good, God. You have given me a little, but I deserve more, much more.”

Second, discontent is harmful and dangerous. The discontented person is a person turned inward; a person absorbed with self. It is this loveless, self-centred life which drown people in destruction and ruin.

Third, and finally, discontent is a part of our fallen nature. Therefore, until the day we die we must fight against it through confession of sin and absolution. However, in this fight we are not alone as St. Paul reminds us: “I am not saying that I need anything. For I have learned to be content in whatever situation I am in. <sup>12</sup> I know how to be in need, and I know how to have plenty. In every way and in everything I have learnt the secret both of being fully satisfied and of being hungry, both of having plenty and of having too little. <sup>13</sup> I can do everything through Him who strengthens me,” (Philippians 4:11-13). Ultimately, it is only through the power of Jesus Christ that we can slay the beast of discontent.

Yet not all discontent is bad. There is also godly discontent. There are times when Christians should not be content. Godly discontent means refusing to be content with something evil. It is the opposite of apathy and complacency. It is a good thing when Christians refuse to be content with a rampant evil in society, like abortion. It is a good thing when Christians refuse to be content with a spirit of laziness, status quo, or false doctrine in their congregation. It is a good thing when Christians refuse to be content with division or ungodliness in their family. It is a good thing when Christians refuse to be content with spiritual immaturity in their personal lives. When listened to and acted upon, such godly discontent can lead to repentance, to action, to improvement, to the righting of wrongs. It can lead to reformation: in church, society, family, and individual lives.

In these sinful and perilous times in which we live. May our heavenly Father, through Him who strengthens us, keep us from the ruinous ways of ungodly discontent, and may He also stir up within us the reforming ways of godly discontent!

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

18 April THURSDAY	19 April Good Friday	21 April Easter Sunday
7.30pm OAK 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
<b>Thursday, 18 April</b>		
READINGS: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:15-25; Luke 22:7-20		
HYMNS: 71 295 327 282 283 292		
<b>Friday, 19 April</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 19:17-30		
HYMNS: 57 Part 1 58 Part 1 63 (66 70) 58 Part 2		
<b>Sunday, 21 April</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12		
HYMNS: 92 88 761 (98 [tune 106] 105) 768		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow, the youth group are meeting for a Barbeque at Cressbrook Dam from 11:30am. Please bring your own food.

Monday, 22 April, 10.00am. Parish Picnic at Aubigny. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? Children, please take a colouring-in picture home with you today and enter it in the colouring-in competition at the Parish Picnic.

Pastor will be on holidays from 22 March-6 May.