

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

30 June 2019

Bulletin for the 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 501 336 361 848 285 440

INTROIT: Protect me, O God! For I have taken refuge in You.

I have been saying to the LORD: "You are my Lord. Without You I have nothing good."

As for the holy people who are in the land, they are the excellent people, and all my delight is in them.

Those who run after another god will have many sorrows. I shall not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are my allotted portion and my cup. You are firmly holding what has been allotted to me.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely, I have a delightful inheritance.

I shall bless the LORD, who has given me advice. Even during the nights my inmost parts teach me.

I have set the LORD before Me constantly. Because He is at My right hand, I shall not stagger.

Therefore My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices. My body also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol, or allow Your Faithful One to see decay.

You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.

Psalm 16

COLLECT: Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness, that we may love and serve our neighbours; 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: 1 Kings 19:9b-21 Elisha becomes Elijah's attendant

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Serve one another in love

Luke 9:51-62 Some reject Jesus; others follow Him

SERMON: Luke 9:51-62 Getting our priorities right

⁵¹ As the time was coming nearer for Jesus to be taken up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers ahead of Him. They went and entered a village of the Samaritans to get things ready for Him. ⁵³ However, the people did not welcome Him, because He was journeying with His face toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When His disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them?"

⁵⁵ However, Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then Jesus and His disciples went on to another village.

⁵⁷ While they were walking along the road, someone told Jesus, "I shall follow You wherever You go."

⁵⁸ However, Jesus told him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."

⁵⁹ He told another man, "Follow Me!"

However, he said, "Lord, first permit me to go back and bury my father!"

⁶⁰ Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead! Rather, you go and proclaim the kingdom of God!"

⁶¹ Another man also said, "I shall follow You, Lord, but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home!"

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Our Joy is in Jesus!

Our joy is in Jesus. Because it is in another, our joy does not depend on us, our mood, the company we keep, the pressures we feel in our daily life, or the anxiety we experience because of our sin and spiritual weakness. It cannot be taken from us. There are many opportunities for us to feel anxiety in the presence of a holy and righteous God. This anxiety so easily cheats us of the joy that we have in Christ. As we read in our Introit today, "*In Your presence there is fullness of joy,*" (Psalm 16:11). There is fullness of joy in Jesus (1 John 1:4).

Our joy is in another. It is not in ourselves. The apostle John writes of his experience with the Lord Christ, whom he heard, saw, experienced, and even touched. What was written about Christ joined John's readers in the divine fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. The apostolic Word unites John's readers with the God who manifested Himself to His people in the person of His Son. Jesus says, "*I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete,*" (John 15:11). Our joy is in Him, not ourselves, and because it is in Him, it is full and complete. Jesus found His joy in others too. His joy is to seek and save the lost. His joy is in His mission to save the world. His joy was to endure the cross for sinners like us (Hebrews 12:2), and our joy is in Him!

The world hates us because our joy is not settled in the things of this world. The sacrilege of the world is to love itself, rather than to find joy as the beloved of Jesus. This is why the world must hate those who find joy in Jesus. We Christians know who we are because we have fellowship with the God who reveals Himself to us in Christ. The world is lost and

always has been, but its wandering has gotten clearer recently. We know who we are, while those who love the world are trying to create an identity out of thin air. We know who we are because we have fellowship with the God who names us at the font: as a child of God who is named by the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. When we know who our God is, then we know who we are. What joy there is in that knowledge, a knowledge delivered to us by the Word of God!

The joyous fellowship that we have with God through the Word of His chosen apostles is a matter for wonderment! He seeks fellowship with sinners like us! Jesus is our way to the Father. Christianity is not a path, at least not in the way in which a road map charts a path. No, Christianity's way is a person: Christ Himself. Christianity is not a way of living. No, it is a life that is Christ's own life. He is your life and you are hidden in Him, as St. Paul says (Colossians 3:4). Christianity is not a truth. No, it is the truth in the flesh of God's own Son. What joy we share with those who hear of Christ's enfleshment of Mary and His suffering and death for the sins of the world! Jesus finds His joy in us that He may be our joy. His joy is not mere feeling or experience. His very joy is made complete only in His suffering and death because it is the joy He has in another. This is the joy He has in us, whom He has redeemed.

We have joy in Him even when death takes one of our loved ones. When his daughter Magdalena died, Martin Luther said, "I am joyful in spirit but I am sad according to the flesh. The flesh doesn't take kindly to this She is surely at peace and [she] is well off there, very well off, and yet to grieve so much!" (AE 54:432). Our blessed dead are very well off indeed in the full fellowship of the Church in heaven. They have fullness of joy. In that sharing, our joy is made complete because we have joy in Jesus.

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

7 July 4 Pentecost	14 July 5 Pentecost	21 July 6 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	10.00am Marburg HC. AELC Mission Day service and installation. 9.30am OAK LR	8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am HC TMBA 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 7 July		
READINGS: Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18; Luke 10:1-20		
HYMNS: 308 157 430 (755 289) 164		
Sunday, 14 July		
READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-7; Romans 10:11-17; Luke 24:44-53		
HYMNS: 243 219 224 (330 283) 511		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An informal meeting will be held after lunch today to update everyone on the Toowoomba situation.

Wednesday, 3 July, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Kathie. Key Word: Just. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "O".

Bible Studies:

12 July, Greenwood.

19 July, Aubigny/Oakey.

21 July, Toowoomba.