

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

25 August 2019

Bulletin for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 526 178 492 187

INTROIT: The Mighty One, God, the LORD, has spoken. He has summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, which is perfect in beauty, God has shone forth.

Our God will come and will not remain silent. A fire will devour before Him. It will be very stormy around Him.

He will summon the heavens above and the earth, that He may judge His people: "Gather around Me, My devout people, who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"

The heavens have been proclaiming His righteousness. For God Himself is Judge.

"Listen, My people, that I may speak! Listen, Israel, that I may admonish you! I am God, your God.

"I shall not reproach you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are constantly before Me.

"I shall not accept a young bull from your household or any male goats from your pens.

"For every animal in the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.

"I know every bird that is in the mountains, and the small creatures of the field are Mine.

"If I were hungry, I should not tell you, because the world and all that it contains are Mine.

"Shall I eat the meat of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

"Offer thanksgiving to God as a sacrifice! Fulfil your vows to the Most High!

"Call on Me in a day of trouble! I shall deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalm 50:1-15

COLLECT: O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 66:18-23 Judgment and Hope.

Hebrews 12:4-29 Warning against refusing God.

Luke 13:22-30 The Narrow Door.

SERMON: Luke 13:22-30 Make every effort to enter through the narrow door!

²² Jesus was travelling through each of the cities and villages and teaching as He was making the journey to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked Him, "Lord, are there only few who are saved?"

He told them: ²⁴ "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door! For, I tell you, many will try to enter and not be able to. ²⁵ After the Owner of the house gets up and closes the door, and after you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open it for us!' He will answer you, 'I do not know you or where you are from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' ²⁷ However, He will tell you, 'I do not know you or where you are from. Go away from Me, all you evildoers!' ²⁸ There will be weeping there and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and see yourselves being thrown out. ²⁹ People will also come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first, and there are those who are first who will be last."

Infants can Believe

Saving faith involves knowledge supplied by the Gospel. Paul wrote, "*how are they to believe in Him of whom they have not heard?*" (Romans 10:14). A question raised in this connection is, How can infants have faith? To answer this question, we look at a number of truths that the Bible teaches. First, it is God's will that we bring our children to have them baptised. Jesus said, "*Allow the little children to come to Me and stop forbidding them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*" ¹⁵ Truly, I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child does will certainly not enter it." ¹⁶ He took the children in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them, (Mark 10:14-16). Then, God promises that through Baptism He will give a child faith and spiritual life. Paul calls Baptism "*the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,*" (Titus 3:5). In obedience to Christ's command and trusting in His promises, parents have their infants baptised that they may be born again through Baptism.

Further, the Bible tells us that infants can believe. Jesus said, "*if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him that a large millstone were hung around his neck and that he were drowned in the*

deepest part of the sea,” (Matt. 18:6). Infants can believe in Jesus even before they are able to express that faith verbally, and Christian parents and other adults have a solemn obligation to nurture little children’s faith with the Word of God, however, precisely how it is that infants believe, we leave up to God. That infants can believe, Scripture teaches. There is the extraordinary example of John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit was active in him even before he was born. When Mary went to visit Elizabeth, ⁴⁰ *She went into Zacharias’ home and greeted Elizabeth.* ⁴¹ *When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,* ⁴² *and exclaimed in a loud voice: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Child who will come from your womb!”* ⁴³ *Why, then, does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?* ⁴⁴ *For indeed, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped with delight in my womb,”* (Luke 1:41-44). This is an extraordinary case. It does not give us reason to deviate from the biblical teaching that God has bound us to use the means of grace through which He creates faith. The example of John does illustrate, however, that God can work in the heart of an infant.

Faith is trust or confidence in Christ as our Saviour. It is present even when we are not fully aware that it exists. We can still have faith, even when we sleep or are under a general anaesthetic. People whose “conscious awareness” has been altered by mental illness, Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, or injury can still have faith. What a comfort it is to know that people who are not aware of the world around them can still possess the faith they had earlier in their lives! Their faith has not left them because they are no longer consciously aware of it. In a similar way, infants can believe, even though we do not understand how this can be.

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

1 September 12 Pentecost	8 September 13 Pentecost	15 September 14 Pentecost
8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am HC TMBA 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MINDEN HC and Sunday School Picnic
Sunday, 1 September		
READINGS: Proverbs 25:2-10; Hebrews 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14		
HYMNS: 499 451 493 (313 839) 436		
Sunday, 8 September		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-35		
HYMNS: 357 171 377 (847 356) 339		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOWNNS PARISH

Bible Studies:

Aubigny/Oakey: Friday, 30 August at Oakey.

Toowoomba, Sunday, 1 September.

The next Youth Group will be a bushwalk at picnic point, followed by a picnic on the 7th of September. Time to be confirmed.

MARBURG PARISH

FORWARD ANNOUNCEMENT: Saturday, 7 September, 10.00am. CoC/Sem. Committee meeting at Troys Road.