

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

2 February 2020
Bulletin for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany

HYMNS: 461 239 151 621

INTROIT: O LORD, who will stay in Your tent? Who will dwell on Your holy mountain?

The one who walks honestly, who does what is righteous, and who speaks the truth in his heart, the one who does not slander with his tongue, who does no wrong to his companion, and who brings no disgrace on his neighbour, the one whose eyes despise a contemptible person, but who honours those who fear the LORD, who makes an oath, even though he is hurt by it, and does not change it, the one who lends his money without interest, and who does not accept a bribe against an innocent person. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Psalm 15

COLLECT: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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: Micah 6:1-8 What the Lord requires from you.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes.

SERMON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The responsibility for making Christians lies squarely on the shoulders of the Holy Spirit

Abortion Was the Leading Cause of Death Worldwide in 2019, Killing 42 Million People

lifeneews.com

More human beings died in abortions than any other cause of death in 2019, a new report indicates.

A heartbreaking reminder about the prevalence of abortion, statistics compiled by Worldometers indicate that there were over 42.3 million abortions world-wide in 2019. The independent site collects data from governments and other reputable organizations and then reports the data, along with estimates and projections, based on those numbers. When contrasting the abortion numbers to other causes of death, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide, abortions far outnumbered every other cause.

By contrast, 8.2 million people died from cancer in 2019, 5 million from smoking, 13 million from disease, and 1.7 million died of HIV/AIDS. Deaths by malaria and alcohol are also recorded.

Worldometers estimates about 58.6 million deaths world-wide in 2019, but that number does not include unborn babies' abortion deaths. Unborn babies are not recognized as human beings even though biology indicates that they are unique, living human beings from the moment of conception and they die brutal, violent deaths in abortions.

The abortion number is incomprehensible, but each of those 42 million abortions represents a living human being whose life was violently destroyed in their mother's womb. Each unborn baby already had their own unique DNA, making them distinct from their mother. That DNA indicated if the child was a boy or girl, their eye and hair colour, their height, possible genetic disorders and other disabilities, and much more. In most cases, the unborn babies' hearts are beating when they are aborted, too.

Prayers, Thoughts and Good Vibes

Pastor Andy Schroer

It's a trend I am seeing more and more frequently on Facebook. Somebody posts about their grandma in the hospital. A concerned family member responds, "Sending prayers, thoughts and good vibes your way!" Or a friend let's everybody know about an upcoming surgery she will undergo. "Asking for prayers and good vibes," she posts.

Though the requests are sincere and the thoughts heartfelt, I can't help but cringe every time I read those words – especially when they are written by a fellow Christian. Their motivation is good. They want to help. They want to comfort. They want to say something encouraging, but there is a big difference between prayers, thoughts and good vibes.

“Good vibes” is a phrase made popular by the Beach Boys 1966 hit song, “Good Vibrations.” It stems from New Age philosophy which espouses that we can send out positive and negative energy which affect the world and people around us.

When someone says they are sending thoughts and good vibes to a person, they are saying they are thinking positive thoughts for them which will hopefully in some way help their health or situation to improve.

Prayer is different.

First of all, please understand this: If you are sending prayers their way, you are sending your prayers in the wrong direction. We don't send prayers to each other. Prayers aren't positive or hopeful thoughts.

Prayers are the words we speak to the God and Creator of all things. Prayers are the requests we bring in faith to our heavenly Father who promises to always listen and answer us for our good.

Prayer has power (James 5:16). The power of prayer, however, isn't in the person offering the prayer. The power of prayer isn't in the words being said. Prayer is not some magical incantation. Prayer has power because we are praying to the all-powerful King of the universe. Prayer has power because the One to whom we are praying can do anything.

Now, that doesn't mean God will give us everything we ask for in prayer. It doesn't mean if we just believe hard enough or think positive enough, we will get the result we want. God promises to hear our prayers and answer them, but He will only give us what is truly good for us. Not everything we ask for fits God's plan of love for us and for others. Sometimes God says no to our prayers.

But He often says yes. Prayer makes a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Prayers have healed the sick and saved the dying. Prayers have changed history. Prayers turn our hearts and minds to the one person who can truly help in any and every situation – our God and Saviour.

So, instead of sending thoughts and good vibes (or even prayers) to those who are struggling or sick, tell them that you are praying for them. But then actually do it.

It has become so cliché to tell a person you are praying for them, that sometimes we say it, but then don't actually do it.

Tell them you are praying for them and then pray for them right away. Your prayers make a difference. God is listening and ready to act.

Unlike thoughts and good vibes, prayer has power.

Welcome to all with us today!
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 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

9 February 5 Epiphany	16 February 6 Epiphany	23 February The Transfiguration
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC & Bible Study	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MINDEN LR	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 9 February		
READINGS: Isaiah 58:3-9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20		
HYMNS: 171 355 528 (294 398) 346		
Sunday, 16 February		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37		
HYMNS: 527 345 358 (789 839) 515		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday 5 February, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Narelle. Key Word: Labour or Lamb. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "T"

Tuesday 11 February, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

Saturday 15 February, 10.00am. CoC/Sem. Committee meeting at Troy's Road. Elections will be held at this meeting. If you have an item you want placed on the agenda, see Pastor or the secretary Ian Manz.