

Notices

• **We welcome Bp John and Gaylene** Harrower who are visiting us today. Gaylene will be selling her cards to raise money for CMS and Bp John will be preaching.

• **The Christmas break up of our Friendship (Caritas) group** will be at Touché Café, Forest Hill. (It is beside Rebel Sports where we have been here before.)
Time/date: Tuesday December 4th at 12.30 pm. All ladies welcome. Please let Alice know if you are coming. (Sawasdee has now closed down.)

Prayers of the people

Prayer requests –Please let Beth Gibbs or Liz Helmond know.

• Liz Helmond is now at home following her hip operation and rehabilitation. Pray for a good recovery and for Robin and family.

• Pixie Pinkster has returned home also and is recovering from minor surgery to her legs.

• For the conversational English classes that they will slowly increase in numbers and have an impact on the lives of those attending.

• Hyacinth Andrews recovering from cataract surgery and also Dawn Webb-Johnson who also has had eye surgery.

Please pray for the work of Michael, Melanie & Aaron Viljoen – Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon. They are currently back in Melbourne on a holiday and deputation.

Sermon notes continued:

. . . change of heart (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Ps 51:2, 7; Jer 31:33). Recently, due to John the Baptist's ministry, water and his practice of baptising those who confessed their sins, had sharpened the focus on the need for repentance, spiritual renewal and the inner transformation of the person by the work of the Holy Spirit. Listening to Jesus, Nicodemus now begins to grasp that his heart must move from mere curiosity about Jesus, to trust in him, if he is to be saved and transformed in order to enter the kingdom of God (3:14-16).

Welcome to St Edward's

We are sometimes pleasantly surprised to discover that many people who come to Jesus do so for a number of reasons. Some come with good intentions; others with bad ones. Some who come are simply curious, others are sceptical but drawn to a person they have heard about. Some are like the religious leaders of his day, only interested in catching him out and proving him wrong in order to maintain their authority and to confirm to themselves they were right.

And then there are some like Nicodemus in John 3:1-15. Intelligent, educated, but also driven by a desire to be right with God so that they might be pure. So why does Nicodemus seek Jesus out under the cover of darkness? I suspect it is because Nicodemus is aware of the inadequacy of what he knows and what he has experienced of God. He desires to discover for himself what faith in God will mean for him and how one relates to God. These are issues which I hope you have asked yourself at some point in your life too *and* continue to ask! Most of all, Nicodemus is open in his attitude. He seeks an answer to his question of whether God has been working through Jesus (3:2). The reply Jesus makes to Nicodemus is not what he or we, the reader expects. He is told that unless he is spiritually reborn, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Something has shifted. Nicodemus is aware that he is out of his depth. It is not a meeting of two legal experts discussing theological intricacies, but a clash of different perspectives of a spiritual reality. Jesus likens the change Nicodemus must experience to it being like undergoing a spiritual rebirth, one which occurs through water and the Spirit (3:5). Water has a rich meaning in the OT as a picture of cleansing, the washing away of sin and also of a . . .

St Edward's Anglican Church

2nd December 2018
1st Sunday of Advent

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Verse of the Day

“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

(Matthew 24:44)

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may go out joyfully to greet him;
and with all your saints, may worship you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament	Numbers 21:4-9	(p. 158)
Psalm	25:1-10	(APBA, 244)
Gospel	John 3:1-17	(p. 1065)

Hymns

272 “Come thou long expected Jesus”
145 “The king of love”
129 “Amazing grace”

10 AM (Holy Communion, 2nd Order, APBA, p.119)

Gathering in God’s name

Verse of the Day

Hymn 52 “Let us sing to the God of salvation”

Prayer of Preparation (APBA, p. 119)

Prayer of the Day

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament	Numbers 21:4-9	(p. 158)
Psalm	25:1-10	(APBA, 244)
Gospel	John 3:1-17	(p. 1065)
Sermon		

The Nicene Creed (APBA, p. 123)

Hymn 477 “Jesus calls us here”

Notices

Prayers of the people (p. 124)

Lord’s Prayer

Confession and Absolution (pp. 125-127)

Hymn OHP 717 “Give thanks with a grateful heart”

OHP MP 335 In my life, Lord, be glorified”

Holy Communion – Thanksgiving 1 (APBA, p. 128) + Advent

Preface (APBA, p. 147)

Prayer after communion: p. 148.

Hymn 272 “Come Thou long expected Jesus”

Sending out of God’s people