

Welcome to
CHRIST CHURCH ST KILDA
YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME



Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch – Modern icon (detail)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am

28 April 2024

Setting: Christ Church Service – Philip Matthias

CHRIST CHURCH ST KILDA: YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME.

We gather to worship God and explore faith in Jesus, welcoming and celebrating the diverse St Kilda community.

In the next three to five years we aim:

- to grow an energetic and committed worshipping community.
- to provide an open, inclusive and welcoming space for everyone.
- to communicate a vibrant, joyful and loving faith.
- to build connections with the local community.
- to be faithful stewards of Church Square and its buildings.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 1 May	SS Philip and James – Eucharist at 9.30am
Saturday 4 May	Monthly Market
Thursday 9 May	Ascension Day – Eucharist at 9.30am
Sunday 19 May	Pentecost – Bp Genieve Blackwell will preside and preach at 9.30am.

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Christ Church St Kilda Parish acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung with deep respect. We give thanks to God for their Elders, both past and present, and their continuing relationship to this land.

All stand when the entrance bell is rung



**God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation,
God is love, eternal Love.**

**God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that self same aching
deep within the heart of God.**

**God is love, and, though with blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal loving kindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never**

**o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Timothy Rees 1874–1939 *alt.* Words by permission Community of the Resurrection, UK
Music by permission Oxford University Press Reproduced with permission
Tune: Abbot's Leigh. TiS 153

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The celebrant introduces the service

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.

Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

The celebrant pronounces the absolution

Organ *f* Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth, *mf* Lord God,

heav'n - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

cresc. wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

cresc. glo - ry. *mp* Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us: you are

seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: *p* re -

f - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One:

cresc. you a - lone are the Lord: you a - lone are the

Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

ff in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The celebrant reads the prayer of the day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit

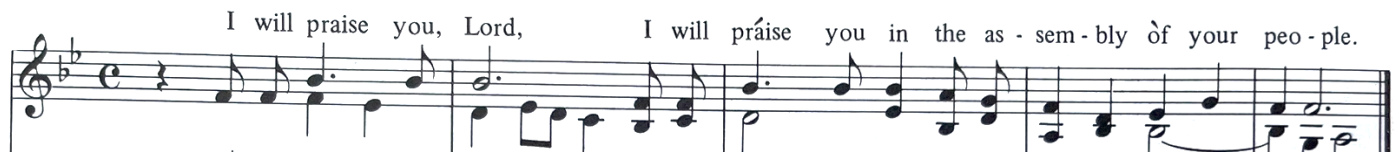
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8.26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 22



I will praise you, Lord, I will praise you in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever. **Response**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth, before him shall bow all those who go down to the dust. **Response**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: "These things the Lord has done." **Response**

Gelineau

A reading from the first letter of John

4.4-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I

love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

All stand. Repeat the response after the cantor, and then as indicated



Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

15.1-8

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

Sermon – Fr Craig D'Alton

All stand

I ask you to affirm as yours the faith you proclaimed at your baptism:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

Do you believe in God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

All kneel or sit

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

After each prayer

...**hear our prayer**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All stand

Christ is risen, alleluia!

He is risen indeed, alleluia!

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The altar is prepared and a collection is taken as all sing:



**Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
we celebrate our risen Lord,
praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**He is the grain of wheat that died,
sown in distress and reaped in joy,
yielding a harvest of new life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**He is the sun which brings the dawn:
he is the light of all the world,
setting us free from death and sin.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**He is the vine set in the earth,
sharing our life, from birth to death,
that we might share in God's own life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**He is the bread that comes from God,
broken to feed us in our need,
given to bring eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
we celebrate our risen Lord,
praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Pamela Stotter 1944– Words from Australian Catholic Worship Book by permission P. Stotter
Reproduced with permission
Tune: Vulpius. TiS 393

The response to the Offertory Prayers is:
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving continues.... praising you and singing:

Organ Ho - ly, Ho - ly,
Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.
mf Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. *f* Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving continues...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Organ mf Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
f Christ will come a - gain.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving continues.... never-ending praise:

Organ f Bless - ing and hon - our and
 glo - ry and power are ___ yours for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION

We who are many are one body:
For we all share in the one bread.

Organ *mp* Je - sus, Lamb of God, have
mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have
mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us your peace, *p* grant us your peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communicant members of any church are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. Communion is offered in both kinds. Please queue to receive the host (bread) first, and then the wine if you wish. All are welcome to receive the wine, but none must, as the sacrament is fully present in both species. PLEASE DO NOT INTINCT (DIP) THE HOST IN THE WINE as studies suggest this may be less hygienic than drinking from the common cup.

*During communion the cantor will sing
“When morning gilds the skies”.*

After communion all stand

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill us with the spirit of love and unite us in faith that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE



**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Charles Wesley 1707–88 *alt.* Arrangement © Australian Hymn Book Co Reproduced with permission
Tune: Hyfrydol. TiS 217(i)

Announcements are made

Most loving God, you send us into the world you love.

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

*All are welcome for Morning Tea in the Community Centre
following the service.*

From the Vicar

This week was an important week in progressing the works on the church building, with the project being put out to tender. We expect the final decisions regarding a contractor to have been made by mid-late-May, and may hope that scaffold may appear some time during June! In addition, the Baptism of Christ window restoration is now complete, and it will re-appear on Tuesday this week, which will restore the balance of light in the chancel.

This Sunday Parish Council is meeting to progress work on the new Strategic Plan, which I hope may be available as soon as next week. This is a very important next step on the road to renewal, as we try to become more focused in our activities; concentrating as much as possible on the “important” rather than the “urgent.” The urgent will always be with us, but when it pushes us away from our main mission as a parish it sometimes becomes necessary to make room for other things, even where there appears to be none. Stay tuned for exciting times!

Every blessing,

Fr Craig.

NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING (II)

Congregational giving has always been at the heart of parish finances, and may reasonably be regarded as a sign of the health of a parish community. As noted last week, average giving per head at Christ Church is generous, but it is also true that a very small number are shouldering a large part of the burden. It also remains true that we are budgeting an unsustainable deficit...

Historically, congregational members have given in a variety of ways. Many years ago, regular parishioners “rented their pew”, paying a set amount per quarter in exchange for a particular seat. (This is why many of the pews have numbers on them.) Pew rents disappeared a long time ago in favour of regular “planned giving”; most often through an envelope system. In recent years, many parishes have entirely disposed of envelopes, or cut back their use substantially. In its place people give by regular (weekly, monthly or quarterly) direct debit. In some parishes in Melbourne up to 90% of the weekly offertory is now given through direct debit. The great advantage of this system, particularly as many people no longer carry cash regularly, is that church income remains regular, and we can budget accordingly. Here at Christ Church we intend to retain the option of giving with envelopes for those who prefer it, however we would warmly encourage those who are used to using direct debits for other things to consider moving across to this system for your regular giving to the church. Full information on how to set this up will be available next week, when details will be emailed or posted to all on the parish roll.

SAVE THE DATES!

The two biggest fund-raising events of the year are not far away! Do ensure that you have the dates in your diary so you don't miss out. More information will be available in coming weeks.

Mid-Winter Feast – Friday 21 June

A sumptuous spit-roast dinner in the candle-lit ambiance of Christ Church. Not to be missed!

Trivia Night – Saturday 10 August

One of the most popular Trivia nights around, with our own Geoffrey Court asking all the hard questions!

ROSTER FOR APRIL/MAY

Date	1st	2nd	Intercessions	Eucharistic Assistant	Offertory
28 th April	Geoffrey	Valerie	Geoffrey	Elisabeth	Gary
5 th May	Valerie	Geoffrey	Fr Ken	Charles	Charles
12 th May	Fr Ken	Lindy	Philip	Elisabeth	Valerie
19 th May	Lindy	Fr Ken	Fr Craig	Geoffrey	Geoffrey
26 th May	Geoffrey	Valerie	Geoffrey	Valerie	Gary

INTERCESSIONS

For the World:

For an end to political and military violence in the more than thirty countries currently in conflict; praying for the people of Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, Russia and Haiti. We pray and give thanks for those who have lost their lives in times of war.

For the Church:

In the world-wide Community of Faith, we pray for the Church of Bangladesh (Bp Samuel Sunil Mankin). In Australia we pray for the the Diocese of Willochra (Bp Jeremy James, Clergy & People). In this diocese we pray for St Thomas' Moonee Ponds (Vanessa Bennett).

For the Community:

For the economically deprived and the homeless.

For the anxious, the isolated, and those overcome by fear.

For Christ Church Mission and the Community Centre staff and volunteers.

For the Sick: Danny Allan, Hugh, Patty Dowd, Lee, Fr Shane Hübner & for those we name in our hearts.

Also remembering those with long-terms needs for prayer: John, Joe, Charles, Byron, Aaron, Elizabeth, Mary & Brian and their carers, Helen, Fr Andrew, Evan, Ruth, Judy, Robyn, Fran, Peter, Greg and Sharyn and family.

For the Departed:

those who have died recently, and those whose Year's Mind occurs this week.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord & let light perpetual shine upon them.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar: Fr Craig D'Alton Ph. 0407 443 909

cdalton@melbourneanglican.org.au

Hon Assoc Priest: Fr Ken Letts

Churchwardens: Charles Baird, Robyn Foy, Gary Israel

Website: www.christchurchstkilda.org.au

Facebook Page: facebook.com/christchurchstkilda

Postal Address: PO Box 1221 St Kilda South 3182

Are you new to Christ Church?

Please provide us with your phone number and/or email address so that we can get in touch and get to know you better. Tear off this form and hand it to the vicar or one of the welcomers.

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<i>Name(s):</i>	
<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	