

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Next Sunday at 12.30pm Thanksgiving of Luna Webb

Monday 6th Year 5 from St. Michael's Junior School are visiting the Church.

Wed. 8th and Thurs. 9th at 1.45pm St. Michael's Junior School are coming here for their Christmas Carol Service.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

"The days are coming," declares the Lord,
"when I will fulfil the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah"
(Jeremiah 33:14).

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

We light our first Advent candle to remember that Christ is coming again. He brings hope to a troubled world.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of lords, come and save us.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

O Root of Jesse, delay no longer

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

O Key of David, unlock the door to eternity

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

O Emmanuel, reveal God's glory to us

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

O come, Lord Jesus, raise us to the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

ONE DAY WHEN HEAVEN (Glorious Day)

One day when heaven was filled with his praises

**One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is he
Word became flesh and the light shined
among us, His glory revealed**

Living, he loved me

Dying, he saved me

Buried, he carried my sins far away

Rising, he justified freely forever

One day he's coming

Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

One day they led him up Calvary's mountain

One day they nailed him to die on a tree

Suffering anguish, despised and rejected

Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is he

Hands that healed nations,

stretched out on a tree

And took the nails for me

Living, he loved me

Dying, he saved me

Buried, he carried my sins far away

Rising, he justified freely forever

One day he's coming

Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

One day the grave could conceal him no longer

One day the stone rolled away from the door

Then he arose, over death he had conquered

Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.

Death could not hold him,

The grave could not keep him from rising again

Living, he loved me

Dying, he saved me

Buried, he carried my sins far away

Rising, he justified freely forever

One day he's coming

Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

One day the trumpet will sound for his coming

One day the skies with his glories will shine

Wonderful day, my Beloved One, bringing

My Saviour, Jesus, is mine

Living, he loved me
Dying, he saved me
Buried, he carried my sins far away
Rising, he justified freely forever
One day he's coming
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.

JESUS, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

Jesus, what a beautiful name.
Son of God, Son of Man, Lamb that was slain.
Joy and peace, strength and hope,
Grace that blows all fear away.
Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Jesus, what a beautiful name.
Truth revealed, my future sealed,
healed my pain.
Love and freedom, life and warmth,
Grace that blows all fear away.
Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Jesus, what a beautiful name.
Rescued my soul, my stronghold,
lifts me from shame.
Forgiveness, security, power and love,
Grace that blows all fear away.
Jesus, what a beautiful name.

CONFESSION

Merciful God, although we are not yet perfected in love, may we be forgiven; though we are not always fruitful, may we be faithful; though we are not always holy, may we press on in faith; though we are not always deserving, may we be accepted by you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I declare in Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

OFFERTORY

Lord our God, we offer to you all we are and all we have. Bless now these gifts for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

Loving Lord, you were once a child, and you understand all that is needed to grow up into mature adults. Bless now our children and those who will teach them; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

READING: Luke 21:25-36

25 'There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

29 He told them this parable: 'Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 'Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

TALK: WHAT'S THE TIME (1)

It's time to trust God for your future. How worried are you about the future? With COP26 fading into the distance, some would say that time is running out for the planet, while others believe we have all the time in the world. On this Advent Sunday, many are more concerned about the immediate future of getting through this Christmas rather than thinking about the future of the planet or our own eternal future. That's understandable as getting ready for Christmas can be so stressful. If it's not Christmas we are already stressed about, it may be our loved ones, our health or any other number of worries.

Did you know that there are over 7000 promises in the Bible, and many of them have to do with your future. As we began the service we heard the following words, "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfil the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah" (Jer. 33:14). The promise was of someone coming from King David's own family line, whose name would be 'The LORD our Righteousness'. Righteous means being in a right relationship with God. Being in a right relationship with God means that God gives us the following amazing promise:

1. No matter what the future holds, God will be with you.

God will be with you even when you are worried and stressed, tense and nervous. None of us can predict the problems that we're going to face in the future. But regardless of what you go through in the future, you won't go through it alone. This is a basic truth taught over and over in the Bible.

God will be with you no matter what you go through in the future.

That's good news because in your future you are going to face some deep waters, some major troubles. In Luke's gospel Jesus paints a picture of the future, a picture where there would be terror, anguish, perplexity and apprehension. Jesus is saying before he returns we can expect these things. Before history reaches a conclusion there will be difficult days.

So how should we face the future? Jesus said, "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (21:28). In other words we can face the future with confidence. Martin Luther once said that he had two days in his diary, this day and that day. In other words he lived his life in the awareness of the return of Christ. So, we can be expectant of the return of Christ, but we are to wait in the knowledge that whatever we go through God will be with us.

2. No matter what the future holds, Jesus will return for you.

The second coming of Christ is an essential part of New Testament theology. The Swiss theologian Emil Brunner once wrote, 'faith in Jesus without expectation of his return is like a cheque that is never cashed, a promise that is not made in earnest; a faith in Christ without expectation of his personal return is like a flight of stairs that leads nowhere and ends in the void.'

So are you confident that Jesus is returning for you? Do you have hope for the future, complete confidence in the future? As believers in Christ we can look to Christ in hope for complete redemption with joy and our heads lifted high. That's the point of the

parable in v29-30 – we can have confidence knowing that the Lord will return and will return for us who trust in him, as certain as summer follows spring.

But when will he return? Much of what Jesus speaks about in Luke 21 concerns the temple, which was destroyed in AD70. Just as his words about Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, and the need to flee dreadful days. The destruction of the temple came true, we must understand that as surely as Jesus' words about the future took place, so will his words about his return. We need to keep to his words.

No matter what the future holds, Jesus will return for you.

3. No matter what the future holds, God will provide for you.

Jesus warned us, 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life' (21:34). The worries of life can weigh us down so much. But God knows what we need and has promised to take care of us. Just as he promised the Israelites food in the wilderness, so he promises to provide for us too. His presence in your life, the fact that He's with you, also lets you be confident that He will provide for your needs.

God promises not only to provide for our daily needs but also for our eternal needs. Jesus has gone ahead of us into heaven and has prepared a place for every person who puts their trust in Him. He's providing a place with him that is absolutely certain and safe.

So the implication, the practical, down-to-earth thing that you and I can take away from this idea that God provides for us is that we can have peace of mind today. We can have peace of mind knowing that when we get to

tomorrow, no matter what it holds, He will be there waiting and will help you get through. Ultimately, in the end, it means that not only will God be with you in life, but he has also gone ahead of you into eternity.

From your first moment of life to the final breath of life on this earth, God has been there and He will take care of you, he will provide for you. We can head toward the future with confidence because God is with us, he will return for us, and he will provide for us.

If you know God, you have no need to worry. Really, the question is, are you going to trust God? That's it. Are you going to trust God or not? If you have already trusted in God you are no longer a spiritual orphan but an heir, a child of God. Now you can choose to act as if you don't have a heavenly Father, that He doesn't care about you or isn't concerned for your future. Or you can trust Him. That's what it boils down to. If you trust God, believing that he will be with you, he will return for you and will provide for you, the strength will be there at the very moment you need it.

PRAYERS led by Noel Debbage

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

SONG: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path of misery.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE PEACE

Christ is the Prince of Peace who rules the nations with justice and love.

The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE ACT OF BREAKING OF BREAD

We come to this table not because we must, but because we may. We come not because we are strong, but because we are weak. We come not because we have perfect faith, but because we have questions and even doubts. But we come nonetheless because Jesus invites us to come and we will never be turned away.

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper: For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11: 23–26)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The body of Christ broken for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you; and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: BY FAITH WE SEE THE HAND OF GOD

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove his
faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of his promise in their
hearts:
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul's
reward.
`Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin
and death,
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the Church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost,
To deliver captives
and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul's
reward.
`Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon his name.

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul's
reward.

`Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

O Lord, our coming Saviour, you hear our
cries and guide our steps. May we know your
presence this coming week, for your
kingdom's sake. **Amen.**

Go from this place glorifying and praising God:
May the Lord guide you, protect you, and
surround you.

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 peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.