## Cathedral Church of Christ the King

The Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Ballarat



49 Lydiard St South Ballarat, Victoria

Acting Dean

The Right Rev'd Garry Weatherill Bishop of Ballarat

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Welcome to the Cathedral.

Please take this booklet
with you.

If you are new or visiting and want more information, please complete our Welcome Card

# Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Always Was, Always Will Be.

NAIDOC Week, 8th to 15th Nov 2020

## **Celebrant & Preacher**

Fr. Martin Nadarajan Asst. Curate

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 10am

#### We welcome you to the Cathedral today

A special welcome to visitors and those attending for the first time.

We are **strictly adhering to the COVID19 requirements and restrictions**. As a result, please note the following:

- 1. Kindly sanitise your hands BEFORE entering and BEFORE leaving the Cathedral.
- 2. You must register preferably before attending any our services by giving your name and contact details.
- 3. You are encouraged to switch on their COVID-19 app on their mobile phones.
- 4. Kindly keep to the 1.5m distance between people from different households at all times. This means no physical contact during the greeting of peace or greeting one another before and after the service by those of different households.
- 5. Communion will be in one kind only.
- 6. There will be no offertory procession. The collection bowl will be placed at the entrance of the Cathedral, next to an usher who will greet you at the door. Please consider making your offering by direct debit.
- 7. Crosses on the floor and on the pews are there to help you keep the distance required.
- 8. The order of service will be printed. Please take it with you when you go and recycle it at home.
- 9. Unfortunately, no refreshments or food will be served after the services.

## The words in the bold print are said by all.

Should you wish to support our ministry electronically instead of using cash, please make a direct transfer to the "Christ Church Cathedral" account at:

Commonwealth Bank BSB: 063502 A/C number: 10516638

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Eucharistic Setting:

Cover Page Credit: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-12/indigenous-artists-share-christian-faith-through-painting/8340658 (Waniwa Lester's painting, Last Supper.(Supplied: Waniwa Lester) It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country - which is Australian history. We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.

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This Cathedral acknowledges the Wadawurrung people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pays respect to the elders past and present of the Great Kulin nation who may be present and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

#### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

#### **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

Please stand when the bell is rung.

**GREETING & WELCOME** 

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.** 

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.

1 Thessalonians 5.9, 11

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.

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy)

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.** Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy**.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Spirit of truth comes to convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement.

Silence may be kept.

Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you to do his will, and keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

#### **COLLECT**

Let us pray.

Everliving God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Judges 4. 1-10 Please sit

A reading from Judges chapter 4 beginning at verse 1.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." 'Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go with

you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM 123**



- To you I have lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords.
- 2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till the Lord shows us mercy.
- Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
   We are filled with contempt.
   Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, the disdain of the proud.

Music by Margaret Thomas.

#### SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5, 1-11

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 5 beginning at verse 1.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them. as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL READING Matthew 25. 14-30 Please stand

The Lord be with you.

## And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 25 beginning at verse 14.

## Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### SERMON Please sit.

Please refer to Bishop's Sermon via Facebook or Youtube if you are participating with us remotely.

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH Please stand

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and the Church...

The intercessions will be led by one of our congregation members. The response to the petitions

if you are participating with us remotely Please spend some time in silence and intercession prayers. Please <u>refer to page 17</u> for prayer points and this simple prayer during this time of COVID-19

Gracious and Loving God, bless the people of the Diocese of Ballarat and the communities of western Victoria. Guard all our people. Guide our leaders. Teach us to exercise our freedoms with responsibility for all our neighbours. Bless us with hope and peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The priest will conclude the intercessions by saying

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.

### THE GREETING OF PEACE Please stand

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Due to the current restrictions, you may be "creative" in exchanging a sign of peace while maintaining social distancing restrictions.

Please sit while the altar is prepared for the Eucharist

HYMN - NEH 140 Holy Spirit, come confirm us (ALL FOR JESUS)

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy God, pour upon the poverty of our offerings the riches of your grace, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, make yourself known to us in broken bread and wine that is shared.

Blessed be God for ever.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are invited to stand throughout the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, as members of God's family gathered around the Altar. Should you want to kneel, then please do so after the said Sanctus & Benedictus 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord'

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit, you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos. You formed us, male and female, in your image, and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us. You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.' He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us your peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread.

**AGNUS DEI** 

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us your peace

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins 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.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. The Anglican Communion welcomes members of other Christian Churches to receive Holy Communion with us if they receive the Sacrament in their own church.

#### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

#### O Taste and See

by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872 - 1958

## if you are participating with us remotely

Act of Spiritual Communion at home – St Alphonsus Ligouri

At this time, we cannot receive you Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving Sacrifice will be offered and the divine Banquet will be spread in our churches once more.

You are the Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and I shall be healed.

My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; let me always be at one with you.

#### THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Please stand

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

#### Notices and announcements

## THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.

#### POSTLUDE MUSIC

Scherzo from "Ten Pieces for Organ"

*by Eugene Gigout 1844 – 1925* 

Please remain standing for the procession from the Church. You are welcome to **leave quietly during the postlude**.

If you are here for the first time and would like further contact from the Cathedral clergy, please complete the Welcome card available at the back of the Cathedral and hand it to one of the ushers or to the clergy.

## **For Your Prayers**

Special NAIDOC Week Prayer (Reconciliation Week 2014 by The Rev'd Bruce Boase)

We pray especially for this land Australia that all who live here never lose the ancient connection to the original people of our land. Help us all Lord to hear and learn the stories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors so that we may be richer in our souls. Help us to gather together as people of the red dirt, rich soil, salt water, fresh water, mountains and plains into one. We pray for all those who were here, those who came and those who will come, gather us all together Lord in your love.

The World: We pray for...

- For peaceful transition and handover between the Presidents in the US.
- Medical researchers and scientists as they work towards a vaccine for Covid-19

The Church: We pray for...

- The Church of Ceylon (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) The Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey Bishop of Colombo, & The Rt Revd Keerthisiri Fernando Bishop of Kurunegala.
- The Diocese of the Riverina Rt Reverend Donald Kirk.
- The Mission District of St Francis of Assisi: Revd Mathew Crane, & Revd Kaye Hanks (deacon), St Mark's Abbey Sister Raphael (Superior), Dom Placid & the oblates.
- Those living the Single Consecrated Life: Janet Winfield
- Our Sister Diocese of Aipo Rongo, especially the people of Kainantu.
- The United Nations Organisation and its agencies.

The Community: We pray for...

• Ballarat City Council Councillors, for those recently installed as Councillors to serve our community

Those who have asked for our prayers: We pray for...

Gary, Pauline, Fr Peter, Anna, Tom, Roger, Sarah, Annette, Kevin, Mike, Ian, Andrew, Craig, Dianne, Winsome, Sarah, Luke, Caroline, Adrian, Josephine, John, Chris, Brenda, Ann, Lucas and for all those known to us who are sick or suffering.

Thanksgiving for those who have died recently:

Year's Mind: Reginald Hewett, Blanch O'Dell, Sarah Simcocks, & Constance Kirk whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### **Notices & Announcements**

Due to the current restrictions, the Cathedral is opened during these hours:

Mondays to Fridays

Holy Eucharist – 12.10pm

**Mondays to Thursdays** Evening Prayer – 5pm

#### **Sundays**

Holy Eucharist (BCP) – 8am Holy Eucharist with music – 10am Holy Eucharist – 5pm (until further notice)

With a slight change to the current COVIDSafe requirements, only 20 congregants plus one faith leader is allowed. As a result, to adapt to our liturgical settings and music at the Cathedral, we can only accommodate 15 congregants for 8am and 10am services respectively. We will also have another Sunday Eucharist celebrated at 5pm until the next announcement is made by the Premier. This will be a said Eucharist and should only take less than 45 minutes. For this celebration, we can accommodate maximum 20 congregants. To make a booking,

PLEASE CALL REGISTRY: 03 5331 1183 OR EMAIL: <a href="mailto:thecathedral@ballaratanglican.org.au">thecathedral@ballaratanglican.org.au</a>

## HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR

## Christ the King Patronal Festival Lunch? 22nd Nov 2020

We are planning to have lunch at The Boatshed, Lake Wendouree starting at 11.30am for a 12.30pm lunch. We have tentatively booked for 50 people with a separate marquee setup, overlooking the beautiful Lake Wendouree. If it rains, we are under cover and heaters will be turned on! Details are as follows:

Cost: \$25.00

What's included: A glass of wine with a choice of battered fish and chips OR chicken, sundried tomatoes with creamy mushroom sauce pasta. Dessert generously provided. For additional food/beverage, please pay at the counter when ordering. Gluten free or any other dietary options available, please let Louise know.

RSVP: <u>Louise Tonkin - 03 5331 7248 or 0436 009 695 by 16th Nov 2020</u>

## **Urgent Vacancy**

Roster Clerk - Please let Fr Martin know if you would like to help.

#### **Notices & Announcements**

#### **PLEASE HELP - ABM Mission**

Following an extensive research, the Cathedral Council unanimously agreed to support the Anglican Board of Mission's 'Kenya - Disability Inclusion Project'. We aim to raise a contribution of \$2,000 to this fund by 22nd November 2020, the date of the Feast of Christ the King. May I encourage you to contribute as generously as you can towards this worthy project. Donations can be made either though the mission envelopes or by direct electronic transfer to the Cathedral identifying the payment as 'Eldoret'.

#### **Christmas Baking**

Due to the present restrictions which have affected church attendances, the Cathedral Shop will not be able to have the usual presentation of Christmas baking this year. However, Joan Worth and Lois will be happy to make "to order" and will arrange appropriate delivery at a suitable time closer to Christmas. Listed below are the items which will be available. Orders can be placed by contacting Lois Byrnes at 03 5336 1094 or 0407 051 952 (you can also SMS)

- Fruit Cakes 3 sizes \$10, \$15, \$20
- Mini Fruit Cakes \$4
- Fruit Mince Pies (6 per pack) \$5
- Mini Plum Puddings \$6
- Shortbreads (6 per pack) \$5

## **Zoom In-To Pray**

These sessions are structured for 30 minutes and they include intercessions, gospel reading, reflections provided by different people from our Diocese and meditative music. Sometimes, we do engage in discussions too.

#### Zoom In-To Pray: EVERY WED. @ 11AM

 $\frac{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81422920172?pwd=bmJocG5vak12NkpNa2V1MlpIcTdk0T09}{}$ 

Meeting ID: 814 2292 0172 Passcode: 6wQrrJ

## Zoom In-To Pray: EVERY WED. @ 7.30PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180534088?pwd=YnYyajZ5L1g1SWZucVJVUktrVXd2UT09

Meeting ID: 861 8053 4088 Passcode: 2VwCdF

## **Cathedral Directory**

**Bishop of Ballarat** 

The Right Reverend Garry Weatherill

**Acting Dean** 

The Bishop

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The Revd. Wayne Dorning
The Revd. Graham Reynolds

0407 107 165 The Revd. Roger Dyer

Br Neal Salan OP

The Revd. David Bol Bichok

**Cathedral Council** 

(Meet 3rd Tuesday of the Month)

Secretary: Euan Thompson Treasurer: Gillian Canavan

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Carole Cracknell

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Mary Mitchell

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Cathedral Shop

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Carol Greenwood 0412 55 83 44

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Norma Coffield 0418 515 668

**Web Page** 

www.ballaratanglican.org.au

**Facebook Page** 

www.facebook.com/ballaratangl

<u>icancathedral</u>

**Diocesan Office** 

9am-5pm Mon-Fri 5331 1183

Electronic Offertory contributes can be made online:

A/C: Christ Church Cathedral

BSB: 063502

A/C number: 10516638

## Readings for 22.11.2017 - Christ the King

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24

Psalm: Psalm 100

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 1. 15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25. 31-46

## \*\* Food for thought\*\*

Community is that place where we enter into the presence of each other and the Lord who called us there, as fully and totally as we do in the engagements with ourselves and God. It is a place that calls me to abandon myself to you, for in so doing I discover myself. It is a place where I am available to you as I have learned to be with God and, because of my availability with you, I learn to be available to God. It is a place where I am totally present to you, aware of you and listening to you with the totality of my being. It is a coming together because Christ has called us to be committed to him and to each other through his gift of koinonia.

Clemmons, Discovering the Depth

What does it mean for you to abandon yourself?

*Are you available to God and to each other?* 

Are there hidden talent/s within you that you have not explored?