

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
PARISH OF BURNLEY



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

26th October 2025
10:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTION:

Our Scripture readings today contain a level of tension: between the difficult implications of faithfulness to God and yet the joy and fullness of life which flow from it. In the reading from Joel, God promises prosperity and abundance, removing the shame that Israel has known in the past. In 2 Timothy, Paul's life is drawing to an end. He knows he has been faithful to his calling and that God will reward him. At the same time he is aware of his past sufferings and, at times, loneliness, though he does not doubt that God's salvation will embrace him. The Gospel reading presents the demand to surrender everything in order to follow Jesus. It seems a hard calling but promises rich rewards and full community life with others in God's kingdom.

Mthr Dorothy

INTROIT HYMN - AM 631 Fight the good fight with all thy might

SENTENCE

Sell all that you own, and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Jesus.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

O God, who alone can probe the depths of the heart, you hear the prayer of the humble and justify the repentant sinner: Grant us the gift of humility, that, seeing our own faults clearly, we may refrain from judging our neighbour, but rely solely upon your saving grace.

We make our prayer through your Son, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.. **Amen.**

1ST READING (Joel 2:23-32)

A reading from the Prophet Joel:

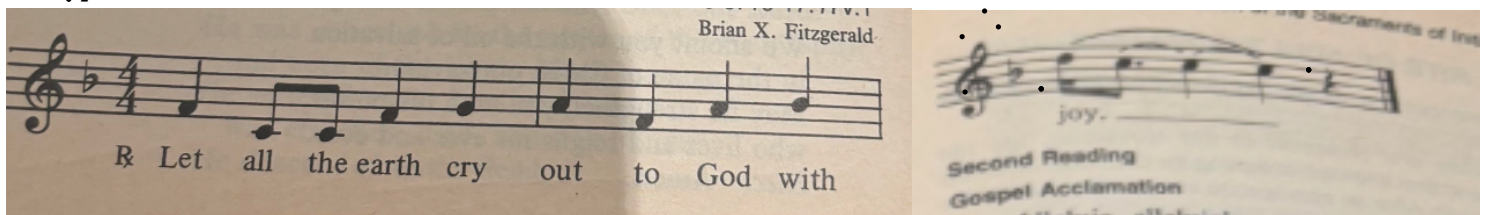
O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army that I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the LORD your God,

who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

For the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 44

Response.



SECOND READING (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18)

A reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.... At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

For the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL (Luke 18:15-30)

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever does not receive God's kingdom as a child will never enter it. **Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honour your father and mother.'" He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God." Then Peter said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers and sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not get back very much more in this age and in the age to come eternal life."

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD: Peace in the Middle East, Sudan, Congo and Ukraine. For the Richmond Churches Food Centre and all those in need. *FOR THE SICK, RECOVERING, AND THOSE WHO GRIEVE* Sandra, Bruce, John Ross, Neil, Craig, Helen. *FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED:* Joyce Cleary *FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK:* 26th Krse Krslovic, 27th Idris Evans, Tui McKenzie, Jessica Pappenfuss, 29th Brian Porter [priest], 30th Clarence Jordan, John Tipping, Helen Curson Marjory Ling & Susan Tonks

Offertory Hymn: AM 252 like the murmer of the dove's song

Recessional Hymn: AM 300 Glory to to you, O God, for all your saints in light

REPORTS DUE FOR AGM on SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER

A reminder that reports for the AGM are due in by Sunday 9th November.

These include:

- Churchwardens',
- Treasurer,
- Director of Music,
- Sanctuary Servers',
- Richmond Churches Food Centre,
- Book Club,
- Climate Action Group and
- Bellringaers'.

Please forward to the Hon Secretary kathykoz45 'at' yahoo.com.au as soon as you can but definitely by 9th November.

Dear People of St Bartholomew's

Each year, around the Feast of All Saints and All Souls, the Church sets aside time to remember with thanksgiving those who have died and now rest in God's love.

At St Barts we will hold a Eucharist of Remembrance on Sunday, 2 November at 10.00 am as part of our All-Saints Celebrations.

You are warmly invited to join us for this service of prayer and reflection. You are also welcome to invite family or friends who may wish to come.

If you would like a name or names included in the prayers at the service, please let me know by Wednesday, October 29. You can reply by ringing me with the name of loved ones or write the names or email at ray@cleary.au

After the service, you are invited to stay for morning tea in the hall – a time to share stories and catch up with everyone.

Every blessing,

Ray

