



WORSHIP BULLETIN
4th Sunday after Epiphany – 29 January 2023

We sing: I am Australian

I came from the dream-time
From the dusty red-soil plains
I am the ancient heart
The keeper of the flame
I stood upon the rocky shores
I watched the tall ships come
For forty thousand years I've been
The first Australian.

I came upon the prison ship
Bowed down by iron chains
I fought the land, endured the lash
And waited for the rains.
I'm a settler, I'm a farmer's wife
On a dry and barren run
A convict, then a free man
I became Australian.

I'm the daughter of a digger
Who sought the mother lode
The girl became a woman
On the long and dusty road.
I'm a child of the Depression
I saw the good times come
I'm a bushie, I'm a battler
I am Australian.

Chorus

*We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We'll share a dream and sing with one
voice
"I am, you are, we are Australian".*

I'm a teller of stories
I'm a singer of songs
I am Albert Namatjira
And I paint the ghostly gums.
I'm Clancy on his horse
I'm Ned Kelly on the run
I'm the one who waltzed Matilda
I am Australian.

I'm the hot wind from the desert
I'm the black soil of the plains
I'm the mountains and the valleys
I'm the drought and flooding rains.
I am the rock, I am the sky
The rivers when they run
The spirit of this great land
I am Australian.

Chorus x 2

"I am, you are, we are Australian"

Songwriters: Bruce Woodley / Dobe Newton. I Am Australian Lyrics © BMG Rights Management

God welcomes us:

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession:

C: *Lord God, our heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against you, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which you know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased you, and repent of the evil I have done. For the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.*

We sing: *The power of the cross*

Oh, to see the dawn

Of the darkest day:

Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men,

Torn and beaten, then

Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross:

Christ became sin for us,

Took the blame, bore the wrath:

We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain

Written on Your face

Bearing the awesome weight of sin;

Every bitter thought,

Every evil deed

Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,

Now the ground beneath

Quakes as its Maker bows His head.

Curtain torn in two,

Dead are raised to life;

'Finished!' the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name

Written in the wounds,

For through Your suffering I am free.

Death is crushed to death,

Life is mine to live,

Won through Your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:

Son of God, slain for us.

What a love! What a cost!

We stand forgiven at the cross.

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First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - *God chooses the weak*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters; not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 - *The beatitudes – life in God's kingdom*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray for ourselves, the church and the world

C: Gracious Father you chose us as your own, to be holy and blameless in your sight. You adopted us as your children through Jesus Christ. God of all mercy: Hear our prayer.

C: Bless your church, that it may shine with your Son's light in this world.

Revive and refresh us by your Holy Spirit so that we pray for our neighbour, and demonstrate your love through good works. Be with all pastors and church workers in every congregation in this land, that they can speak your word in truth and power.

God of all mercy: Hear our prayer.

C: Bless this land, all who live in it, all who visit it, and all who lead our nation's affairs, in particular our Prime Minister, our Premiers, our elected politicians, and our leaders in business and society. Help those who are unemployed or whose work is difficult or dangerous or stressful. God of all mercy: Hear our prayer.

C: Continue to restrict evil and bring oppression to an end. Show mercy and give relief to those who are suffering as a result of natural disasters. Help them to rebuild in the wake of destruction. Comfort them with the relief of your Word.

God of all mercy: Hear our prayer.

C: Almighty Father, hear our prayer. Since we can do nothing good without you, send us your Spirit so that your purposes may be fulfilled in us. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

We sing: AT#635 - *How deep the Father's love*

*How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast, beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart,
his wounds have paid my ransom.*

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Offering Prayer:

C: Wise and merciful God, thank you for choosing us to be your people. Teach us to desire what is right and to do what you want us to do. Use us and our possessions for your wise and good purposes. Amen.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Song AT#615 – In Christ alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid—
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

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The Lord's Supper:

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

We sing: Holy, holy, holy – Song AT#78

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

**You fill all of heaven and earth;
save us God on high!**

**Let us praise the One who comes in the name of God.
Praise! Praise! Praise! Praise! Praise to you on high!**

The Peace:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

C: 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.



The Lamb Of God:

C: Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace. Amen.

Communion Dismissal

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his holy and precious blood strengthen and preserve you in body and soul until life everlasting. Go in peace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

C: In all our doubts, dangers, and confusion, teach us, Lord, what we ought to say and do. As we have received the body and blood of Christ in this sacrament, give us the power to speak the truth and do your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look with favour upon you and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

We sing: Australian National Anthem

**Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.**

***In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.***

**Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.**

***In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.***

NOTICES - COMING EVENTS

Worship 9.00am – Every Sunday

Funeral Service for Kate Edwards – Friday 27 January 2023 – 11.00am.

COMFORT AND PRAYERS

We pray for the family of Kate Edwards who grieve her death. Kate's funeral will be held at St Mark's on Friday, 27 January 2023 at 11.00am with refreshments after.

PASTORAL CARE

You're welcome to contact Deacons for pastoral care.

Pastor Ray	0429 856 532
Mary Engel	0412 771 718
Bruce Heirdsfield	0466 103 173
John Kleinig	0417 837 678
Ann Aiken	0412 321 030
Julie Martin	0410 492 740
Cedric Smith	5492 8684



NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

We are pleased that a St Mark's family have donated the full cost of a defibrillator to be stored at the Church. We hope we don't need to use it. This is an automatic version with voice instructions so that anyone can use it.

Thanks again for everyone's generosity and help to make St Mark's a safe place.



MISSION POSSIBLE

"Extending hearts and hands so the world may know God's love through our service to neighbour and community".

Donations are welcome for the homeless and those escaping domestic violence. Any of the following:

- Tinned food (easy open), non-perishable items and toiletries and personal care items for homeless, Breakfast cereals, packaged food and toiletries for families
- Washing powder, cleaners, toilet cleaners, dishwashing detergent, toilet paper, hand cleaner (for the homes for Domestic Violence people)
- Sheets for home birthing kits for Papua New Guinea

These items are distributed every week. Cash donations are also welcome (via offering plate). **Thank you for your generosity in providing for this ministry!**

(Please no clothing at the moment – storage is a challenge).

COFFEE AND CHAT

The coffee and chat mornings are restarting for 2023. We will meet this time at Bosco's at the IRT Woodlands in Lacebark Street, Meridan Plains. Come along and enjoy morning tea and catch up with new and old friends. Would you please phone Janelle on 0488 556 150 if you would like to come along or if you need transport. Everyone is welcome. Invite a friend.



SAFE PLACE, CHILD SAFE – LCA/NZ PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

All members of the Church are expected to help keep our people and visitors safe. The LCA Standards of Ethical Behaviour brochure is available at the entry of the Church to explain this further. Pastors, church leaders and other church workers (both employees and volunteers) must be screened and also take part in the Safe Church training program. For more details, visit www.lca.org.au/safechurchtraining or speak to one of our leaders.

LCA/NZ PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Reflecting God's Love