

## Readings for 2019 Anglicare Sunday

Lectionary Readings for 20 October 2019:

- Jeremiah 31:27-34
- Psalm 119:97-104
- 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5
- Luke 18:1-14

Alternative Readings:

- John 10:7-10 (11-18 may also be included)
- Ezekiel 34:

### *Jeremiah 31:27-34*

God's first covenant with God's people involved laws written in stone, which could be (and was indeed) shattered or lost. God's new covenant would be in hearts and minds instead, God's law written within us and taken with us wherever we go. It will grip both our intelligence (minds) and emotions (hearts). Our desire for justice is fired through logic (minds) and by morals (hearts) and is informed by the covenant God has made with us 'they will all know me'.

### *Psalm 119:97-104*

This psalm is a meditation on the beauty of God's law. In this section it is the meditation that gives wisdom and understanding and keeps you on the God's path. It can be seen as the underpinning of our drive for justice for all.

### *2 Timothy 3:10-4.5*

The first section of this reading reminds us that doing God's work will not necessarily be an easy task, but still worth pursuing. The second section (4.1-5) is a good reminder that we will find the truth we need for life in God's word. And this truth (that God loves all and all are valued and valuable to God) will help us stand strong against injustices like racism, sexism, ageism. It will help us discern the truth amongst voices that demean people because of circumstances, that dismiss people because of dis/ability. There will always be voices who will say 'what itching voices want to hear' and ears that will 'turn away from the truth' but the bible is full of demands for us to include the stranger and care for those who need our help.

### *Luke 18:1-14*

Two small parables that can be used together or separately to focus on compassionate giving.

The persistent widow – if a man of the world, with no compulsion from God, would eventually grant justice simply to make a problem go away, how much more, and how much more quickly, should the people of God be willing to help?

Two people praying – our intentions are just as important as our actions. Why would we want to help? Because we are better than others? We give to charity after all!

What right do we have to judge anybody else by our standards? We all fall short of God's standards! We understand that we, who have been blessed even though we too have made bad choices in parts

of our lives, are so grateful for those blessings that we want to share them with others, simply to share God's love as we have received it?

*Ezekiel 34:1-6, 17-19*

A chilling criticism on society's leaders failing those people they were tasked to care for. Selfishness will be judged – eating the curds and clothing yourselves while the weak, sick and injured lie abandoned.

A vivid example of mismanagement of resources – trampling pasture so that, even though there is enough for all, it is unusable for many.

*We suggest the 2 Timothy reading set for the day would be a good epistle reading if required.*

*John 10.7-10*

There is much in this world that will steal, kill and destroy people's chances in life. Sometimes they are of our own making, sometimes they are the circumstances in which we find ourselves. But that isn't what God has in mind for our lives. Jesus came that we may have life, and have it 'to the full' or 'abundantly'. That is what separates us as a Christian mission from other mission agencies. We are not just trying to get to a minimum acceptable standard, but to offer the very best we can so that through our offerings others may not only know we see them as people of worth and people with a future, but that they may come to know our motivation. That they may come to know Jesus for themselves.

## Liturgy for 2019 Anglicare Sunday

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

We gather to give thanks for the work of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & the ACT, to pray for its ministry in our communities and hear anew the call of God on our lives to be people who love in deed as well as in word.

Let us pray:

Christ who fed the hungry:

**Stir us, that we might nourish the lives of others.**

Christ who welcomed the outcast:

**Stir us, that we might be a community of acceptance.**

Christ who touched the leper:

**Stir us, that we might reach out to the lonely and the broken.**

Christ who overturned the money-changers' tables:

**Stir us, that we might stand against injustice.**

Christ who offered living water:

**Stir us that we might share the precious gift of faith.**

**Collect:**

God of love,

you call us to care for the widow and the orphan,  
to support the weak, and strengthen the fainthearted.

We give thanks for the work of Anglicare,  
which brings your love to those in need  
and embodies hope in action.

Enable us to work together to build communities of  
respect and compassion, integrity, fairness and inclusiveness;  
that your kingdom might be present on earth. Amen.

**Confession and Absolution:**

Lord Jesus, you came with compassion for all.  
When we have seen others in pain and turned away.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you showed us healing in your loving embrace.  
When we have been in pain and refused the care of others.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in you we are called to live in unity and peace.  
When we have recognised injustice and failed to speak out.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution:**

The Scriptures reminds us that we serve  
a God of mercy and forgiveness.  
May you know God's forgiveness in your lives,  
and go forward to be bearers of forgiveness in the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Intercessory Prayers:**

Let us pray to our God who welcomes all, in whose image we are made and who hears the desires of our hearts.

Faithful God, you have entrusted us to share with you the mission of your Church.

We pray for Church throughout the world and in our place...

Bless us with wisdom and grace to do our work well.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for the pioneers and benefactors of Anglicare who began the work that continues today.

Make us all faithful in keeping their vision alive.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for the skills and service of Anglicare Board members, praying for them and their Chair Lynette Glendenning.

Bless them with insight and energy as they work together.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We pray for the CEO Jeremy Halcrow and give thanks for the dedication and compassion of Anglicare staff as they work closely with clients.

Bless them with fairness, resilience and love.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for all volunteers who contribute so richly to the work of Anglicare, and for the time, skills and care they offer.

Bless them with strength and refreshment in their labours.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We pray for the clients of Anglicare and especially those who are most vulnerable and most in need.

We give thanks for everything that is received and learnt from them.

Bless us all with grace that we may see Christ's face in all your children.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for the contribution parishes make to the life and work of Anglicare, in addressing the needs and hopes of local communities.

Strengthen these relationships and bless them with a common sense of your love for all people.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for Anglicare partners in government and community who shape policy and direct resources, particularly as funding is so crucial and limited.

Bless them with understanding, integrity, inclusiveness, and justice.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for others who support the work of Anglicare, financial donors, those who pray,

and for their desire to reach out in loving service.

Bless them with empathy, courage and passion.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

**We make our prayer through the one who came among us**

**as the friend of the poor,**

**the conscience of the rich,**

**and Saviour of sinners high and low alike,**

**Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Greeting of Peace:**

Blessed are those who make peace, they shall be called children of God.

We meet in God's name and share God's peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

God of mercy and compassion,

your Word calls us home to faith and love.

Accept all we offer you this day;

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Eucharistic Preface:**

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 you see the plight of the oppressed  
and your ears are open to the cries of the poor.

Throughout the ages you have called your people  
to reach out in compassion  
to the widow and the orphan,  
to provide for the poor and for the dispossessed.

In your great love you entered our humanity,  
embracing our poverty and knowing our frailty.  
Son of God, born of Mary, Jesus lived our human life  
and loved with your divine love.  
He welcomed sinners and outcasts  
and proclaimed that the little and the least  
are great in the Kingdom of God.  
Though rulers and powers turned against him  
and he was killed, you raised him to new life.  
And now you have called us to follow him,  
walking his way of compassion and justice  
and drawing others into your love.

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/the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.]**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Merciful God  
may we who have gathered at your table, be nourished by your life.  
We who have tasted of your love, bear witness in the world.  
Inspire us by your Spirit, that celebrating the work of Anglicare today,  
our eyes may be opened, and our hearts stirred,  
that we may go forth to [local community name] your kingdom on earth. Amen.

**Anglicare Prayer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT:**

God grant us the compassion to care deeply for others; the wisdom to discern how best to help; the energy to transform emotion into action, and the joy of wholehearted, loving service. For Christ's sake. Amen.

**Anglicare Australia Prayer:**

God of Life Giving Creation,  
You call us to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you.  
We pray for the member organisations of Anglicare Australia  
working across this vast and ancient land.  
Enable us as we strive to meet human need through loving service  
and to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.  
Encourage us to work in mutual partnership to effect positive change.  
Empower the people we serve to reach their full potential,  
especially those who experience disadvantage and injustice.  
Guide us in our advocacy for social justice  
and strengthen our determination to respond with compassion.  
Remind us to care for ourselves and each other  
as we face the challenges of our work,  
and as we seek reconciliation, healing and community transformation.  
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our servant leader and friend.  
Amen.

**Final Blessing:**

(A Franciscan Benediction as adapted at Anglicare Australia National Conference 2016)

May God bless you with discomfort:

At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships  
so that you may live a life of depth.

May God bless you with anger:

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people  
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears:

To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and violence,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness:

To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
and bring justice and kindness to all.

May God bless us with delight:

At our diversity, in the richness of the cultures of our ancient land,  
so that we may all dance the spirit of our dreaming  
expecting to be surprised at the beauty of the other.  
And may the blessing...