PARISH OF DONGARA-MINGENEW

Welcome to church today!

We meet as people committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. We hope you will be encouraged by your time with us.

4th September, 2022

Encouraging Bible Verse [Psalm 73:28]

But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

WHY IS LIFE UNFAIR?

"It's not fair" was a phrase I heard regularly when working with teenagers in schools. It's a thought we have instinctively a lot of the time even if we don't say it out loud. We have expectations of how things should go and when they don't we feel wronged. When we see someone treating another unjustly or someone gaining advantage by breaking the rules we feel angry. If it happens to us we are deeply hurt.

So perhaps our expectations are wrong. We don't deserve everything we think we are entitled to. We have not been promised perfect health, satisfying work, abundant wealth, nourishing relationships and joyful relaxation all the time. If we don't get them, who do we blame? If we see others enjoying them, why don't we have them too? Is God being unfair?

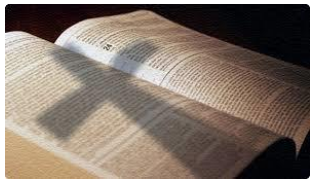
Psalm 73 describes this kind of inner conflict when confronted by the unfairness of life. The resolution is in seeing things from God's point of view. As we do so we remember our own failings and that we don't merit anything from God. Yet in Jesus God offers grace to us. We may not have all we want but God's love is much more than we deserve.

The Bible insists God is good, loving and in control. We wait for the day when God will make everything fair. God allows a little delay. God does not equally approve of all things now. God can bring good even from sad and tragic things. Jesus walked the road of unfairness before us. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus offers forgiveness and hope. By the Spirit, we have a counsellor who comforts us in unfairness and enables us to overcome!

Mission Statement

To 'make disciples of all nations' as we:

... engage
... evangelise
... establish
... equip
... export



Next Sunday

'God is ... strength' Psalm 81; Philippians 4:10-14.
Preacher: Allan Baird

Ministry Team

Ven. Paul Spackman
Minister-in-Charge
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Rev. Allan Baird
Resident Minister
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Church Warden:

Isabelle Scott
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Bible Study Groups

Everyone is welcome!

Monday 7pm Church Hall.
Thursday 5.30pm Church Hall.

Coming Events

Saturday 10th September
Geraldton Women's Conference

Saturday 17th September
Geraldton Men's Conference

Sunday 25th September
5pm Evensong, Mingenew

Prayer Requests

Please contact Allan.

Sermon Notes

God is … good (Psalm 73; Matthew 5:1-12)

What's the point? Wisdom psalm of Asaph (1 Chronicles 6:31-47; 15:16-22; 16:7; 2 Chronicles 29:30). Journey from certainty through doubt to renewed hope. Delighting in God transforms despair to joy.

1. The frustrations of faith (v. 2-14)

A leader who nearly falls. He envies the prosperous. The wicked seem carefree while the psalmist is doing it tough. Comparing ourselves with others can damage our well-being. False view that I work hard for God so I deserve good things.

2. The focus of faith (v. 15-17)

How this affects others holds him back from speaking out. Oppressive thoughts while waiting for resolution. Reorientation by worshipping God. Jesus our sanctuary.

3. The triumph of faith (v. 18-28)

Destiny of the wicked. Grief and bitterness make us irrational, foolish, and insensitive to God. God's presence brings security despite our burdens and weaknesses. Our one desire to know and tell of God. Jesus' frustrations Isaiah 49:4 and temptations Matthew 4:1:11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13 overcome with the Word of God.

The point is being with God, now and for eternity.

Matters for Prayer

We give *thanks* for …

- how God's presence can overcome our frustrations
- Jesus, the focus of our faith;
- those serving Jesus' mission in other places, especially Joan and Roger and Amanda Kyngdon.

Let's *pray* to our heavenly Father for …

- overcoming the frustrations of faith;
- those who need to know the triumph of faith;
- family, friends and neighbours in Dongara and Mingenew who haven't yet placed their trust in Jesus; and that we may have opportunities to share the gospel with them;
- Kigali 2023

Giving to our Gospel ministry

Please commit to giving for God's work at Dongara-Mingenew Anglican Church.
A helpful way is through direct deposit. The details are below:

Account Name: Anglican Parish of Dongara Mingenew
Bank Details: Westpac **BSB number:** 036 131
Account mumber: 810 016