

# Saints on a Mission

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Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022<sub>CE</sub> (#111)

WUNYA!\*

We meet on the unceded lands of the Turrbal & Jagera peoples of the Yugara nation;  
We acknowledge their traditional custodianship of Meanjin (*Brisbane*);  
We pay our deepest respect to the elders – past, present and to come;  
We acknowledge that their sovereignty of this land and the waters of & around this land  
were never ceded by fair dealing, treaty or any just and honest means;  
This remains their land – Always was – Always will be

\*Yugara (*Brisbane area dialect*) for “Welcome!”

## S. Jerome

(b.c 342/47 - d.420<sub>CE</sub>)



Lucas Cranach the Elder: “Saint Jerome in the Wilderness” c. 1515<sub>CE</sub>

Theologian, translator of the Bible and Doctor of the Church, a man who was said to “...know all that there is to know”. While not converting to Christianity until his 20s in Rome, he readily absorbed the newly tolerated faith and undertook to live an aesthetic, almost Spartan lifestyle. His major contribution to history is his Latin translation of the Bible, correcting the imperfect Latin translation of the Greek New Testament books and, on moving to Bethlehem, learning and translating from Hebrew the Jewish texts now known as the Old Testament.

As Christians, studying the Scriptures and applying them to our daily lives,  
seems straightforward – or is it?

*“When we pray we speak to God;  
but when we read, God speaks to us.”*

*Paraphrase from S. Jerome - Letter XXII, to Eustochium*

**Then** the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

‘Have you commanded the morning since your days began,  
and caused the dawn to know its place,  
so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,  
and the wicked be shaken out of it?  
It is changed like clay under the seal,  
and it is dyed like a garment.  
Light is withheld from the wicked,  
and their uplifted arm is broken.

‘Have you entered into the springs of the sea,  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?  
Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?  
Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.

‘Where is the way to the dwelling of light,  
and where is the place of darkness,  
that you may take it to its territory  
and that you may discern the paths to its home?  
Surely you know, for you were born then,  
and the number of your days is great!

Then Job answered the LORD:

‘See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?  
I lay my hand on my mouth.  
I have spoken once, and I will not answer;  
twice, but will proceed no further.’



**PSALM 139: 6 – 11** (Response vv1 & 4b alt.) (NRSV)

**RESPONSE** O God you searched us and known us, you know us completely

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

**RESPONSE** O God you searched us and known us, you know us completely

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

**RESPONSE** O God you searched us and known us, you know us completely

If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**RESPONSE** O God you searched us and known us, you know us completely

If I say 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night',

**RESPONSE** O God you searched us and known us, you know us completely



*Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio: St Jerome, - 1607CE, St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, Malta*

### **BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

*Pierre de Manchicourt – “Angus Dei ‘ Missa Veni Sancte Spiritus’ a 6”  
Huelgas Ensemble “The Landscape of the Polyphonists” (Sony ©2022CE)*



**GOSPEL: Luke 10: 13 - 16 (NRSV)**

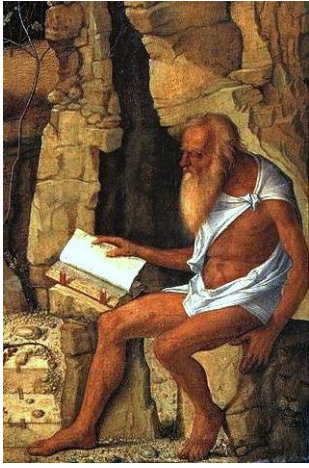
‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But at the judgement it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. ‘Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.’



**REFLECTION**

**St. Jerome** is also known for this spiritual gem: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” In today's Gospel, we read Jesus' warning: “Whoever listens to you, listens to me. Whoever rejects you, rejects me. And whoever rejects me, rejects the one who sent me.” The wisdom of St. Jerome made ever wiser by this recounting of Jesus' words in Luke's Gospel. How truly little I knew about Christ before reading the Bible, especially the Gospels. We, who were not privileged to live alongside Jesus, learn about him from his Word, as well as from the teaching of priests, catechists, parents, even faithful friends. How blessed we are to encounter Christ in the Scriptures, to come to know him and "the One that sent him." This gift, perhaps, would not have been possible without the hard work of St. Jerome. Alarming should be this warning from Jesus in Luke's Gospel that this ignorance Jerome spoke of runs far deeper than just being unaware of Christ. When we fail to hear and acknowledge Christ, we fail also to accept God the Father (*sic*).

**As we** read the Gospels, we come to know Jesus, in His own words. While it is important to read commentaries and official church translations of the scriptures, it is equally beneficial to spend time personally contemplating God's word. To read and re-read a passage, like the daily Gospel, praying for the Holy Spirit to guide your reading and inspirations.



O God, who gave us the holy Scriptures as a light to shine upon our path: Grant us, after the example of your servant Jerome, so to learn of you according to your holy Word, that we may find the Light that shines more and more to the perfect day; even Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God; now and ever. **AMEN**

*Let us hold ourselves, each other and all of Creation together in our minds, hearts and souls*

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** *God of Creation – lead us in grace & peace*

Gracious God, we pray for all who bring the understanding of the Gospel message to the world and especially in our Anglican cycle of prayer today we remember:

The Diocese of Murang'a South – The Anglican Church of Kenya

The Parish of Logan: Geoff Hoyte, Robyn Cairns, Ian Chevis, Peter Grevett, Carol Hebron, Dianne Murphy, Mary Smith, Peter Moore, Kevin Bell  
Anglicare SQ Community Aged & Disability, South Coast

**Parishes seeking new incumbents:** Beaudesert, Beenleigh, Centenary Suburbs, Coolum, Gayndah, Gold Coast North, Gold Coast South, Goondiwindi, Leichhardt Chinchilla Anglican Mission Area, Lutwyche, Maranoa/Warrego Anglican Mission Area, Moggill-Mt Crosby, Pittsworth, Rosewood, The Lakes, Wynnum

**Candidates for Baptism:** Theodore, Romeo, John & Mark

**Today's "Cathedral Compassion" Prayer:** For the young in need of love and help / Those providing palliative care

**Outreach Through Offerings: The T Cottage** - mental health and therapy services for the queer and Trans communities in Logan

**Archbishop Phillip Aspinall** as he prepares to lay up his pastoral staff & for those coordinating the search for a new Archbishop of Brisbane

*God of Creation – lead us in grace & peace*

Gracious God, throughout Creationtide, help us to honour the gift you gave us to care for and delight in, this only home of ours, Earth. We offer in prayer all who are in places of uncertainty and danger especially for those suffering the effects of flooding in Pakistan and in parts of Australia; the devastation of Hurricane Ian in Cuba and Florida.

*God of Creation – lead us in grace & peace*

Gracious God, forgive us for the historical and ongoing ill-treatment and dispossession of the First Nations & Sea Peoples of this ancient & precious land. We pray that we will seek a path that develops truth, justice, dignity & mercy, leading toward true reconciliation and honouring of them.

*God of Creation – lead us in grace & peace*

Gracious God, look with compassion upon the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan & South Sudan, Chad, Sri Lanka and the Tigray region of Ethiopia. We hold to you the Rohingya and Uyghur people and also those living under oppressive regimes in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Hong Kong, North Korea, China & Belarus. Be with all stateless peoples who suffer through no fault of their own, especially those displaced by the invasion of Ukraine and we pray for peace and the de-escalation of warfare and threats of violence.

*God of Creation – **lead us in grace & peace***

Gracious God, we call to mind those refugees and asylum seekers living in detention throughout our land and for those imprisoned on Nauru, Manus and Christmas Islands. We pray for their release and for justice to be done for their cause. Open our hearts and minds to see where our privilege prevents the growth of love, understanding and fair dealing for all.

*God of Creation – **lead us in grace & peace***

Gracious God, we offer our heartfelt prayers for those living with the COVID19 pandemic, particularly those close to us. We remember those living with violence in their homes and relationships and ask for healing to come to all who suffer. Help us to honour those who have asked for our prayers, names that we see before us daily, and those who have no-one to care for or to pray for them. Leave no-one alone, no-one without compassion and no-one without hope. We hold those names in silence to you, through the merits of our Beloved Saviour & Redeemer

*Yvonne Kelly, Jennifer Godwin, Sherri Laurie, Barry, Lyn & Samantha Rees, Dorothy Martin, Claire Gourlay, Alex McConnell, Angus Hutchings, John Miesen, Benjamin, Mavis & John Ralph, Alwyn Hayes, Margaret McNickle, Julie Rogan, Pete, Gwen Trow, Patricia Elkins, Tony Howe, Steve, Lorna, Steph & family, Jeff & family, Sam & family, Eve & Nathan Oslo-Stevenson-Edwards, Douglas, Heather & Tom Wood, Sarah Weston, Caroline, Edward Kernke, Lorraine, Lorna Strehlau,, Alex Gater, Glynis & Denzil Scrivens, Beres Martin, Michael, Sophia, Mary Dorman, Peter Danaher, Jill Mellick, Robin Martin, Cheryl McClymont, Heather Stabler, Frances Clark, Gary Harch, Rebecca Irwin, Dearne Edwards, Basil, Carol Da Costa Roque, Shirley Wild, John Parkes, Shai Lewis, Lesley, Jenny Maclean.*

*God of Creation – **lead us in grace & peace***

Gracious God, we hold to you in blessed memory the souls of the recently departed John Tormey, Spencer Routh & Laurie Powell and all who mourn their passing; and along with S. Jerome today we hold the Year's Mind tomorrow for Maurice Ray (*Priest*) and Brenda Wingate-Saul

*May they rest in peace*

*Light perpetual shine upon them*

*And on the Last Day, rise in glory and power.*

**AMEN**

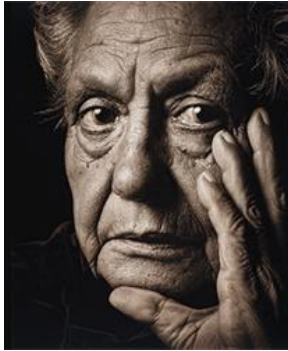


## **LEAVE TAKING**

Statesmen, who make the nation's laws,  
With power to force unfriendly doors,  
Give leadership in this our cause  
That leaders owe.

Writers, who have the nation's ear,  
Your pen a sword opponents fear,  
Speak of our evils loud and clear  
That all may know.

Unions, who serve democracy,  
Guardians of social liberty,  
Warm to the justice of our plea,  
And strike your blow.



Churches, who preach the Nazarene,  
Be on our side and intervene,  
Show us what Christian love can mean  
Who need it so.

The Press, most powerful of all,  
On you the underprivileged call:  
Right us a wrong and break the thrall  
That keep us low.

All white well-wishers, in the end  
On you our chiefest hopes depend;  
Public opinion's our best friend  
To beat the foe.

*(An Appeal – Oodgeroo Noonuccal)*

## **BLESSING**

May God who established the dance of creation,  
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,  
Who transforms chaos to order,  
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
To reflect God's glory in creation.

**AMEN**

*(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)*

## **THE GRACE**

✠ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us this day and for ever more.  
**AMEN.**



*This guided meditation & reflection was collated by Blair Martin, September 2022CE*