## 15th September, 2024 P17B Speaking Words of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:20–33 Psalm 19 **James 3:1–12** Mark 8:27–38

## WelcomeAcknowledgement of country.

May we discover together the wisdom of indigenous elders, that knowledge from the past which will inform and benefit the future of their children, their children’s children and our communal lives.

Speaking Words of Wisdom… what do you think of ? A song maybe? A question?

Tonight, I am so much looking forward to a TV documentary called *The Last Violin* it follows the true story of an Australia man now in his nineties, and his humble rise to fame as a violin maker.

It is possible that his wisdom, his expertise, was built upon the wisdom of his predecessors.

It is also true that his wisdom, being of value, must be handed on the next generation.

In this service, we are all looking forward to experiencing the knowledge and insights of those amongst us who have gathered to worship God **and** to nourish and build up our communal life, our spiritual body- life, with songs, with prayers and teaching, conversation, ….. sharing wisdom by the inspiration of Gods Spirit, who is active amongst us. .

We will open the Scriptures, the living Word that truth and wisdom might be revealed to us.

Let us pray and invite God’s presence with us,

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, bind us together in the Bonds of Love as a community of faith.

Help us to deepen our knowledge of your character and will for us and for all people.

Enable us to open our inner selves to the guidance of your Spirit,

and help us to discern your truth and messages to us today.

Glorious God, lead us, we pray. Amen.

**Speaking of the bonds of Love and the source of wisdom, two songs**

## Bind Us Together Lord – Steve & Janice

## The Law of the Lord is perfect……Peter ..

**Making wise the simple..**

##

Of course we do not always make wise decisions, remembering these failings we make our confessions to God and seek forgiveness and guidance as to how to remedy these mistakes..

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Saviour, we come before you in confession.

We acknowledge that we often fail you in thought and word and deed.

So often, when another seeks a word of kindness we are indifferent to their need.

When we are confronted by injustice or violence or abuse of any kind, we frequently remain silent. We back off as if it is not our business.

When the opportunity to speak words of kindness, peace in love and truth , we often miss the chance or perform badly.

Help us Lord to demonstrate your truth, lovingly, to speak for Christ and enable others to understand his teachings.

Give us the right words to express your compassion, kindness and love.

Loving God, we confess our slowness in responding to your call; to be willing to risk ourselves for the sake of your mission.

May our words show humility, a willingness to reach out to another, and the desire to bring healing and hope to our troubled world. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The word of Christ is true – we are a forgiven people, restored by his gift of new life, called to live in grace and mercy. Our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19, the psalm for today and the inspiration for one of our first songs.

## First reading Psalm 19 - Ruth

The heavens are telling the Glory of God,….’’.

## Creation calls

**remain seated n contemplation … video**

**Immersed ourselves in these images we have much to give thanks for …much to inspire us..**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

Wonderful God, by your word, the universe, all of creation, was brought mysteriously and wonderfully into being. You spoke, and the wonders of creation unfolded. We can not fathom the greatness of your glory. As we move through the books of the Bible we find that

To Moses, you gave the written law, by the prophets you called us all to right living .

Through the songs or psalms of David , we find beautiful words to express our love for you, to express our sadness and our joys and to come before you in prayer.

Best of all, we discover the New Testament, the books about Jesus, where you bring the Living Word to life in us as our means of salvation. We thank you, Almighty and Holy on., In you is found perfection. All honour and glory are yours now and forever. **Amen.**

## Proverbs 1:20–23 Ruth

The call of wisdom

## Michael - interactive, children’s talk

## What the Lord Has Done In Me sing to video

## Mark 8:27–38 – Ruth

## Sermon – Peter

**DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT**

The world of the media is full of words. It was not always so. Before the printing press was invented, written words were comparatively rare. Even in the centuries afterwards, most people never owned a book. Though in the religious world, the expansion of pamphlets enabled more and more ordinary people to access written material. Teaching poor people to read was one of the foundational elements of the Sunday school movement. How times have changed. Everywhere you look, people are on their phones, reading messages, catching up on the news, following one or the other of their social media choices. Has it made us wiser, or more informed or more open to the world of ideas? What words set us free? What words put us down? Words have power for good or ill.

## OFFERTORY

[Contemporary English Version](https://biblehub.com/cev/micah/6.htm) Micha 6: 8
The LORD God has told us what is right and what he demands: "See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God."

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

May the work of our hands and the words of our mouths each and every day of the week be a means of serving God and others.

Giver of all good gifts, what we offer is already yours. Receive the gifts we bring as an expression of the lives by which we seek to honour your name. Amen.

## PRAYER for Others - Petra

God of wisdom and truth, receive the prayers of your people. May they be answered by your grace and mercy according to your divine purpose and will.

We pray for the peoples of every nation. We pray that all may live in freedom and reach the potential you have placed in them. May they live in peace and prosperity so that all citizens may benefit from the wealth of your creation.

We pray for the work of your church. Help us to be bearers of truth. Grant to us the gifts needed to make disciples and transform your world in love.

Guide us in the ways of faithful service that the communities we serve may know your ways.

And wherever there is violence and hatred, may we speak words of healing reconciliation.

Bringer of healing and hope, we pray for those who have lost their way, who are desperate to find a better way to live.

Grant the presence of your Spirit that renews and restores, that brings the assurance of faith.

May we share in bringing these prayers to fruition. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## Lord’s Prayer

## NOTICES…

**.** Ladies fellowship and Mens Breakfast great time of fellowship, thanks to Peter and Steve for their work on the church gutters and to Mary Ann in the garden **Friday.** Pat for the newsletter. And to Petra , Pat and Pan those who undertook pastoral care training this week. And good to have Michael back from Wagga Wagga safe and sound. Thanks also to those who contributed and stayed the course for last weeks congregational meeting.

**Take time to chat about sculpture suggestions and to look at some sketches this far .**

**Faith Conversations** Wednesday 5pm continuing with the Book of John

**Trauma and the Brain re run** 9.30-11am, filming for on line presentation . S, o Coles pick up and sorting will be delayed until late morning.

**Pantry Thursday 10-1pm** please come and join us for morning tea during that period.

**Hampers, Friday**,requests for assistance to Pam or Nicki

**Saturday, September market** and next month October Market cancelled for the Whale Festival and our contribution, The Poet’s Breakfast.

## Be Thou My Vision

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Let us go to be bearers of truth. Let us be bold in speaking the gospel and hold n our hearts what has reinterred within us from the message today. Let us be willing to be used by Christ

and to obey His call to discipleship. May the love of God dwell in our hearts. This day and always. **Amen.**

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**HYMNS**

**1 Bind us together Lord**

 **2The law of the Lord is Perfect Peter**

3 **Creation calls video**

**4 What the Lord has done in me sing to video**

**5. Be thou my vision** TIS.547 x5

**Bind us together Lord**

**Proverbs 1:20–33**

**Be thou my vision** TIS.547  AHB.455

God has spoken to his people, hallelujah TiS.636  SA.39

Lord of creation, to you be all praise TIS.626  AHB.557

Nature with open volume stands TiS.343  AHB.259

O Lord of every shining constellation TIS.157  AHB.103

O Spirit of the living God TIS.405  AHB.318

**Psalm 19**

**God’s law is perfect and converts** TIS.8  Rej.438

The heavens declare your glory, Lord AHB.330

The sky tells the glory of God TIS.7

**Creation calls video**

In the stars his handiwork I see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPyMmKosJhI>

**James 3:1–12**

All who love and serve your city TIS.634  AHB.562

Dear Father, Lord of humankind TIS.598  AHB.519

God is love, his mercy brightens AHB.66

Let us talents and tongues employ TIS.537  SA.59  SFGP.63

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands TIS.496  AHB.417

**Take my life and let it be**   TiS.599   AHB.520

Where there is charity and love TIS.434  AHB/CS.591

**What the Lord has done in me**

**Mark 8:27–38**

Come down, O love divine TIS.398  AHB.310

Community of Christ TiS.473

Fold to your heart your sister and your brother TIS.587  AHB.503

I’m not ashamed to own my Lord TIS.562  AHB.470

Lord Christ we praise your sacrifice TIS.251  SA.60

**O Jesus, I have promised** TIS.595  AHB.514

‘Take up your cross’, the Saviour said TIS.583  AHB.496

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| HS/SCE[2] 1052 | Everyday | Houston |

**The law of the Lord is perfect**

Let the words of my mouth SiS 124

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| SCE 480/TIS 746/P&W 537 | The heavens shall declare | Bullock |

# Proverbs 1:20–23

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

## Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

## James 3:1–12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

## Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**It depends on how you look at it.**



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In 2018, “Forbes found a record 2,208 billionaires, collectively worth US $9.1 trillion

Jared Isaacman

American entrepreneur and billionaire Jared Isaacman became the first non-professional astronaut to walk in space on Thursday.

The 41-year-old bankrolled SpaceX Crew Dragon spaceship.

Worth an estimated US $1.9bn, Mr Isaacman made his fortune from payment processing company Shift4 Payments, which he founded in 1999 aged 16.

Stepping out into space for his first time on Thursday, the businessman understood that it depends on the way you look at it and said: “Back at home we all have a lot of work to do.

“But from here Earth sure looks like a perfect world.”

Who do people say that I am? It depends on how you choose to look at it

Answers from the disciples were, John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets.

What do Australians think? As one of the most secular nations in the world.

fewer than half of living Australians believe Jesus to have been a real historical person. Rather, a majority of us apparently now either accept a statement that he was “a mythical or fictional character” (22 per cent) or else do not know if he was real or not (29 per cent)

For older Australians it’s 6 in 10, believe Jesus to have been a real historical person, for under 35 adults it’s 4 in 10.

Many Australians now hardly know the gospel story, much about Jesus other than a few blasphemies.

A friend Rick was telling us about reciting as a monologue Mark’s gospel (in Europe) and people coming up to him and saying how wonderful it was and asking where did he get it from. He explained it was straight out of the Bible. They were hearing it for the first time. Or was it listening for the first time.

The apostle Peter answers – You are the Christ (in the Greek word) We are used to the rolling off the tongue the words Jesus Christ. Jesus was and is his name, like Anthony or Susan, it’s the same as Joshua and it means “*Saves*”. Christ is the title, a Greek word meaning *Messiah* or the *Chosen* or *Anointed One*.

We have The Apostles Creed,

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth and in his only son, Jesus Christ

This fits nicely with Psalm 19 where the heavens declare the glory of God. As creator.

But “You are the Christ, or Messiah, what did Peter mean? His answer still doesn’t answer the question of “Who do people say that I am?” Even the word “messiah” is ambiguous. Is this the messiah who is carrying a sword and wearing a golden crown or the other Old Testament image of messiah being the suffering servant – the one that would eventually wear the crown of thorns. Peter’s answer about Jesus doesn’t necessarily help so,

*Who do People say that I am?* Even in this room there would be a variety of answers.

Personal saviour.

Human

Divine

Miracle worker

End times judge with a metaphorical scythe

Comforter

Guide

Model or

the Greek word *paraclete* meaning advocate or counsellor.

We’re in Chapter **8** of Mark’s gospel, and hereis the question, asking, *Who do people say that I am?*

Jesus has just healed the blind man at Bethsida. **8:22-2** The blind man suddenly sees everything clearly. The symbolism is not lost on me and probably not on the disciples. Already there have been a handful of stories of Jesus. Jesus saying that, if you want to be my follower or disciple, “you must take up your cross and follow me”.

The whole gospel starts with **“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)**

At Jesus’ baptism - **“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (1:11)**

a man with an unclean spirit. **“I know who you are, the Holy One of God!” (1:24)**

When Jesus tells a paralysed man that his sins are forgiven the scribes sitting nearby ask **“Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (2:7)**

How about the man from Gerasenes, possessed by a legion of demons, living among the tombs, unable to be restrained? He sees Jesus, runs, bows before him, and shouts out **“What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?” (5:7)**

**Enough for me to show that the disciples should have seen the deity of Jesus.**

Peter gets the idea. Or does he? Does he really know what following a messiah would be like? Jesus needs to explain that there will be the consequences. It’s not all going to be having crowds of people following and lauding you, or free meals and lodging at the next town. Living extatically on faith.

Pam makes me watch *The Voice* on one of the commercial TV channels but don’t get me started on that topic. In *The Voice* the singers get to choose one of the coaches but if more than one coach expresses interest by turning their chair, then the singer must choose a coach. In effect, the coach wants a follower to train, perform aagain and win the competition. The coaches do, what they call, a pitch.

Jesus does a weird kind of pitch if you are trying to attract followers.

The bit about his followers **losing their life for my sake**, and **forfeiting their life**. Does not sound a very attractive pitch.

For Jesus, as he had just explained to his disciples and argued with Peter about, taking up his cross literally meant being willing to be killed for what he was committed to. The cross, the disciples knew, was a slow, tortuous, publicly humiliating death.

This call is not just remembering Jesus’ nice sayings but it is radical discipleship. I see the fact that Jesus had disciples at all as convincing that his presence, his miracles, his teaching were so powerful and his identity as God’s only son was almost impossible for them to deny.

It makes me think of the last verse of Larry Norman’s song – *The Outlaw* and I’ll quote it to finish.

*Some say he was the Son of God, A man above all men*

*That he came to be a servant, And to set us free from sin*

*And that's who I believe he was 'Cause that's what I believe*

*And I think we should get ready 'Cause it's time for us to leave*

[*The Outlaw* link to song](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIlHeYJBjng)

**Who do you say that I am?**

Please submit an essay on this to be published in the next newsletter or just discuss it after church.