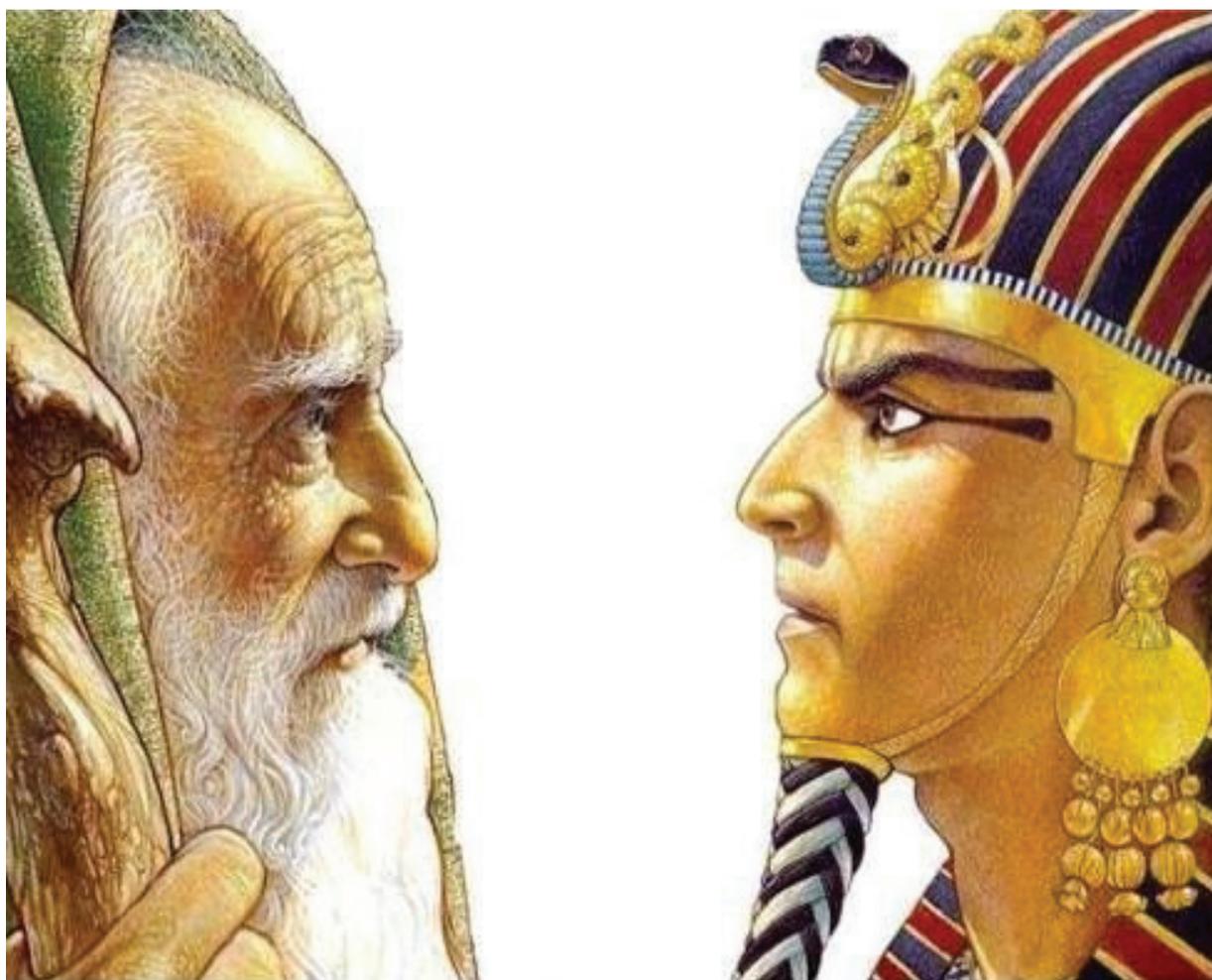


WELCOME TO PENSHURST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday, 17th December 2017



God of Grace, God of Glory
Today: The God Who Defeats Evil



“God of Grace, God of Glory”

Sermon Series in the Book of Exodus “God of Grace, God of Glory”

In the Book of Exodus, we will discover how the true character of God never changes, especially during the toughest of times of life.

Dec. 17	The God Who Defeats Evil	Exodus 7:14-8:15 Luke 1: 46-55
Dec. 24	The God Who Calls Us to Decide	Exodus 12: 1-17
Dec. 25	The God Who Starts Again	Exodus 14: 1-31

Key Dates

Sun., Dec. 17	Sunday School Christmas Party
Sun., Dec. 17	Christmas Eve music rehearsal (12:30pm)
Sun., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve music rehearsal (12:30pm and 7pm)
Sun., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Carol Service (9pm)
Mon., Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service (9am)
Jan., 1-31	Bart away on Long-service leave



Roster

Date	Welcome	Music Team	Prayer	Bible	Count
Dec. 17	Kim, Phil	Team 1 - Brian, Gordon, Andrew, Aisen, Bart, Nancy Lee, Michelle H., Wei Wei, Catherine	Holy Communion	Kim	Cliff/ Michelle
Dec. 24	Marina, Ronny	Team 2 - Joy, Bing, Michael, Ruevern, Joseph, Mille, Tina, Lucy, Vivienne	Gaye	Naomi	Michelle/ Geoff
Dec. 31	Tina, Merilyn	Team 3 - Shirley, Bryon, Aisen, Bart, Allan, Gaye, Suganya, Li Sun, Lucy Zhao	Holy Communion	Bing	Geoff/ Doris

Prayer for Third Sunday of Advent



Here's something for you to think about today:

Human beings want to become god while God wanted to become a human being.

Now, what does the first part of that statement mean?

It means that we want to be in control, in charge. We want to get what we desire. We want our wishes carried out. We want to praise and exalt us. We want to be on the top, not the bottom.

But Psalm 9 tells of a total reverse of that order!

**I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
Let the nations know that they are but men!**

Human beings may want to become god, but we aren't. We are but flesh. We may think we're in control of our lives, but we're not; God really is. We may want what we desire, but God gives us what He knows we need and what is good instead. We may want others to praise and exalt us, but it never lasts. We want to be on the top, but how often do we find ourselves looking up at others? **We are but human beings.**

But this Advent season, leading up to Christmas, we remember this astounding fact: that **God became a human being**. He came to serve us. He came to take care of us. He came to lay down His life for us. He came from the top and went to the bottom – all the way down to the grave. How different God is from us! How different He is in His thinking, His desires, and His actions. God doesn't need anything and He certainly doesn't need us! Yet He did all this for us, that we might be called children of God. We're not God, but in Christ we can become children of God; born from above, born of water and the spirit, with a loving Father who protects us, provides for us, disciplines us, and saves us.

This Advent season, if you really want to see the love of God for you, start looking at the manger, to what God was willing to do for you – His wonderful deeds; **His wonder-filled deeds**; His deeds filled with wonder – that you might be His. Look, also, at the cross, to see how He came to defeat not just your earthly enemies, but your eternal enemy; to give you not just a life here that will one day end, but a life that will never end; to give you what's best.

Yes, we can go on trying to be god, but why bother? Instead, as the psalmist says, **let us praise the Lord**. Let us focus our minds and hearts on the God who became a man that we might become children of God.

Dear Jesus, thank You that, though you are God, yet in love for us you became a man. And not only did you become a man, but you laid down your life for us to deal with our sins – especially our sin of wanting to be god. Help us to trust in you and your ways. May we praise you for your great deeds and rejoice that in you, we are the children of God. Amen.

Cell Groups at Penshurst Anglican Church

Our church calls itself a 'cell church', built upon the Biblical idea that the primary way that God's people can truly live out the Gospel is through small, intentional communities (called 'cells'). It is here where Jesus is given a far more intimate opportunity to do His work of transformation.

English-Speaking Cell Groups	Day/time/frequency
Bart and Kim VandenHengel	Tuesday/7:30pm/weekly
Joy Watkinson/Margaret Tilbrook	Tuesday/7:30pm/fortnightly
Megan and Jeff Powys	Thursday/7:30pm/weekly
ReCharge! (University+ group)	Wednesday/8:00pm/weekly
PAC Youth Group	Friday/7:30pm/weekly
"The Quiet Place" prayer meeting	Sunday/7pm/weekly

If you are interested in joining one of these cells, you can either talk directly to one of the group leaders or to Bart for more guidance on which cell will fit you best. You may even want to start your own!

Sunday School:

Our Sunday School program runs during the 10:30am service, and only during school term. There are four classes available, based roughly on a child's age and year at school:

Age 3-5	Coordinator: Tina Ung (in the basement of hall)
Years 1-3	Coordinator: Hua (Nancy) Feng (in upper hall classroom 1)
Years 4-6	Coordinator: Andrew Ung (Upper hall classroom 2)
Years 7+	Coordinator: George Chan (Upper hall classroom 2)

Penshurst Anglican Church

2 Carrington St, Penshurst, NSW 2222

Pastors: Bart VandenHengel (English speaking congregations)
Aisen Ju (Mandarin speaking congregations)

Sunday Services: (8am) Prayer Book Service w/ Holy Communion
(10:30am) Bi-lingual Celebration service in English and Mandarin
(6pm) Bi-lingual Celebration service in English and Mandarin

Contact details:

Bart: 9580-1217 or 0400-282-848
Aisen: 9585-2943 or 0433-315-745
Website: www.penshurstanglican.org

Internet Banking details: Westpac

St Johns General Fund
Acct BSB - 032167
Acct No - 870821