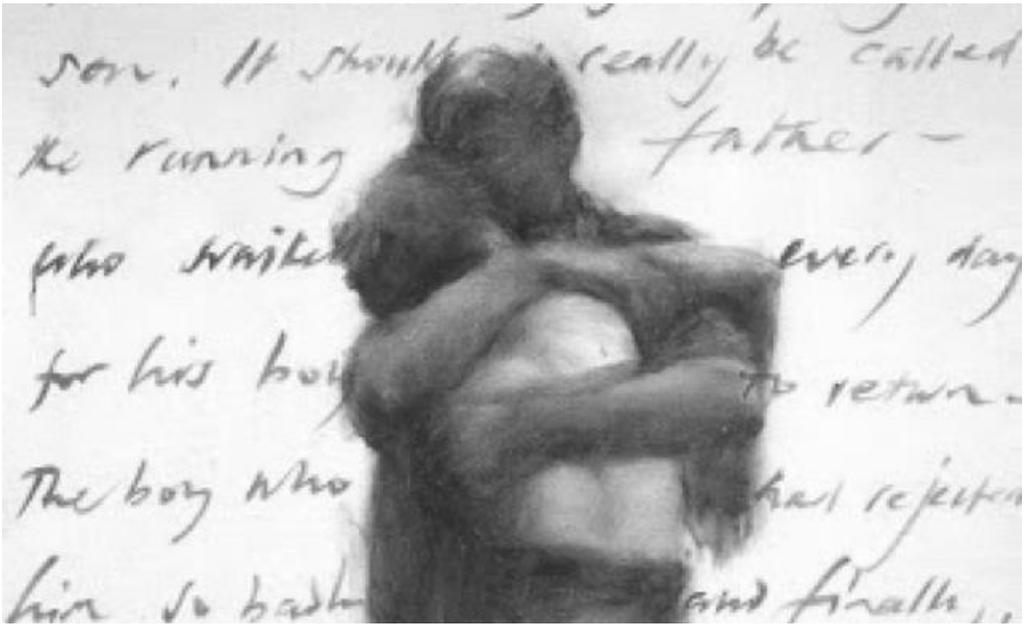




Church on the Hill

Sunday 6 March 2016



Theme: Welcome Home
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Yvonne Smyth
Readings: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32, 2 Cor 5:16-21

Sentence:

...his father saw him coming, and was filled with great love and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- Luke 15:20

Prayer for the day:

Every time we reflect on the extravagance of your love, Heavenly Father, we are amazed. We know our own faults and they are many. Your love is so great that you reached down to us in your Son Jesus Christ. Jesus lived and died and rose again so that we might have fullness of life in your Holy Spirit. And all of this

was because of the depth of your love. What can we do but thank you? May we always be grateful, not only for what you have done, but also for who you are. Loving God, we pray this in the name of Jesus and through the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Preference or selfishness

I'm not sure I like Lent. The Lord speaks loudly, clearly and challengingly to me. I'm not finding his words comforting just now. Rather I am finding them disconcerting to say the least.

However I do find it helpful to be in the presence of others as he speaks. Their perspectives broaden mine. Sometimes their words challenge me and sometimes they offer reassurance and encouragement to step out just a little more.

In our Lenten study this week we've been pondering Jesus' teaching on taxes (Mark 12 13-17) and generosity (Mark 12:41 – 44). Except that Jesus is speaking about much more than that – as usual. Every time Jesus speaks, his words can be taken at face value – and they should be too. What he says is true. And yet there are layers of deeper truth – I'm not talking about some kind of secret knowledge that the favoured few discover. Rather I'm talking about how his words do have face value and at the same time they penetrate through our surface layers to deep heart issues and to deep societal and communal values and structures.

For example when Jesus asked the rich young ruler to sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor – he isn't just talking about money. He is talking to all of us about the things we hold dear; the things that hold us back from relationship with him and with the rest of our community.

What are those things? If Jesus was here in bodily form with us now, would he ask us why we have two separate services? Would he ask us if our personal preferences hold us back from truly being a unified community of faith? Might he especially focus on our key festivals that we like to celebrate in our own way?

Would he ask us how much of our lives belong to him? Or would the answer be patently obvious? Would he ask us how often we please ourselves rather than loving someone who is difficult to love? Would he ask us to do fewer things than we are doing now, but to do the things we do with greater generosity of spirit?

And what about when Jesus said "Give to God what is God and to Caesar what is Caesar's"? Would Jesus ask us now to come out from the structures of society that are unjust and unhelpful to many? Or would he say, "Challenge those structures with all your might!" Would he point to our growing number of children in poverty for example and ask "Where are my people addressing this?"

Lent is uncomfortable. I don't like being uncomfortable. I'd much rather ignore the questions arising during this period. But along with the challenges, it's like the Lord is also saying "Sit with the challenges. Sit with your unease. Ponder the challenges together and see how I can help you address them. Take your time to work with me in bringing about real change."

Uncomfortably yours,

Susan

Lenten Studies - (Week 5 of 6). Studies continue this week. 10.00am Thursday 10 March (Parish Lounge) and 7:30pm (Church)

Church open for Prayer - Join in on Monday from 9.00am to 2.00pm to pray for your personal needs, our parish, our community and the world. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

Taizé Service - Scripture, Song, Silence. Tonight Sunday 6 March 7.00pm. All Welcome.

Focus - A camp for 10 – 13 year olds (Year 6 - Year 9) Friday 22 April (6.00pm start) to Sunday 24 April (2.00pm finish) \$80 Bridge Valley Adventure Centre, 22 Moore Road, RD1, Wakefield.

For more info contact: Sue Fallow (CFM Enabler) email: cfm@nelsonanglican.nz, Ph. 548 3124

The Lantern

Building Funds at End Of December 2015

Accumulated funds 31 December 2015	\$ 728,086
Funding won from community trusts	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 928,086

So far this year we have received additional lump sum donations of \$60,000 - just \$11,914 away from \$1million



Children's Programme

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church. Children are welcome to attend one of the following during the 10.30 sermon time:
/ Kids' Church under 5's in the crèche / Kids' Church primary school age in the church hall
/ Younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.

Prayers for the Week

God's World: This week we pray again for refugees everywhere thanking you that you are at work. Especially we remember the work in Auckland for those coming there. Thank you for the evangelistic efforts and people coming to faith in you. We pray for jobs and housing and integration into our New Zealand society too. Please be with those who are displaced from their homes in Tonga and those who have lost loved ones. May those providing aid know the best things to offer and those receiving aid be fair and just in its distribution.

Mission Partners: Thank you for Allan and Christine who act as surrogate parents for all the adult students they minister to in Central Asia. Continue to lead and guide especially as it comes to their medium term future. You have blessed and you will continue to bless them as they settle into the new semester.

Diocese: We remember Allan and Joy Wasley as they oversee the huge parish of Wakefield /Murchison and now Tapawera as well. Thanks so much for bringing Yvonne Smyth to their parish to help with the load. We pray for their youth group and community lunch along with their other ministries. Please provide the stamina they need for the long haul and bless them richly in every way.

Local Community: Thank you for the great meeting the ministers had this week. We pray for the two joint services coming up – the Cross Walk on Easter Friday morning and the service at the Baptist church on Pentecost evening. We're excited that we get to worship together at these events. May your name be lifted high.

Our Parish: Your provision for the Buller trip is exciting. Thank you for the eleven people who are there this weekend. May the Westport and Granity folk be encouraged by the work that is achieved and by your transforming presence. We pray for Friends n Fun this week also thanking you for the ministry of Carol and the team. Thank you for the new families taking part. Please show us how we can truly demonstrate your love to them in life-changing ways.

Those in need within our own church family: Gracious God we continue to pray for: George and Bev, Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Jane, Laurence and others we know. May your grace, mercy and peace also be with the residents and staff of rest homes and hospitals within our parish.

This Week...

Monday 7 March

9.00am Church open for Prayer until 2.00pm
10.00am Friends 'n Fun
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 8 March

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

Wednesday 9 March

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)
10.00am Wednesday Service
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Thursday 10 March

12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)
10.00am Friends 'n Fun
10.00am Lenten Study - Lounge (S Gill)
7.30pm Lenten Study - Church (S Gill)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 13 March

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Praise on the Hill

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Saturday 19 March

Autumn Fair

Tuesday 8 March

11.45am Lunch on the Hill

*For more information about services or groups
contact the office Ph. 544 8844.*

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 13 March

Holy Communion

Sunday 27 March

Morning Prayer

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is: 03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

Roster for 13 March *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader:	9.00am P Bean	10.30am J Palmer
Reader:	9.00am A Hodges D Day	10.30am M Tilley
Sidespeople:	9.00am W Wilkinson	10.30am TBC
Welcomer:	9.00am B Page	10.30am S Lyon
Tea:	M Mercer S Paine	
Chalice:	9.00am G Thomas W Wilkinson	10.30am N/A
Flowers:	D Martin	Crèche: M Martin

Theme for Next Sunday: Pleasing God

Readings for Next Sunday: Philippians 3:4b – 14, John 12:1 - 8

Parish Contacts

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	Children's Ministry	Catherine Barak	022 6479810
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Senior's Ministry	Yvonne Smyth	544 8844	Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey	544 8844
Youth Pastor	Vacant	544 6495	Budget Advice	Anne Askin	544 8901

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Website

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
1.00pm - 5.30pm