



Church on the Hill

Sunday 9 April 2017



Theme: A Right Royal welcome
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Ps 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11

Sentence:

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!

- Matthew 21:9

Prayer for the day:

God of kings and criminals: your ways are not our ways. On the way to Jerusalem, with shouts we acclaimed you; on the way to Calvary, with shouts we condemned you. Mercifully grant us

the way that leads to life, for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



A Journey in Mission

Palm Sunday is the day we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Despite knowing what lay ahead, he focused on his Father's mission – on his purpose in life. He forged ahead knowing that he would die, but that he would bring life to millions (maybe trillions???)

As we come nearer to Good Friday, I'm so thankful that Jesus didn't opt out half way through. And I am reminded that we too, are in it for the long haul. Doing life is often difficult. My prayer is that God shows us how to do it better together.

I'm reminded that unity comes, not so much by working at unity, but by having a common goal. The Father's goal is our goal. His goal is that 'not one of these little ones should perish'.

We fulfil the goal of mission in many ways. One part of this is Overseas Mission. Thanks so much for John Palmer and the Mission Action Group (MAG) who are giving us a nudge towards becoming more passionate about overseas mission. In May we will meet Rosie and Nathan Hughes and their children, the Sussex family are back in Nelson now so we will be a Link Church with the Hughes whanau instead, as they head off into the mission field, first of all to learn the language.

Lyn Ashby is a church member and also a MAG member. She too is embarking on an exciting stage of her mission journey. Read on

A journey in mission

"God is looking for radical Christians who will go out into the world to serve Him" spoke the Operation Mobilization rep at a theatre in Hamilton on a Saturday afternoon about mid-year 1972. My heart was stirred and I asked the Lord "Is it me you are calling?" A few months prior, when I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour, something very radical had happened in my heart, even though I didn't understand much about Christianity, let alone having a personal relationship with God. It took years before I began to understand how to grow in faith and my relationship with Jesus Christ.

God stirred my heart twice more regarding overseas missions before I knew it was time to step out and take responsibility for what I was being called to. In 1988 I completed a Discipleship

Training School followed by School of Missions with YWAM - Youth with a Mission. Indonesia was the outreach destination where I served 14 months. On my return to NZ, things did not go well for me. My health deteriorated to the point where I thought I would never again fulfil the call to overseas missions. However, that was not to be the case as God continued calling through two specific visions to Greece.

Healing eventually came through much prayer and ultimately God's plan was I should continue in overseas missions with YWAM. But then I faced a huge dilemma as YWAM didn't have a presence in Greece.

Opportunities arose in 2012 and 2013 to serve with Hellenic Ministries, (HM) Greece on short-term mission trips. During these times of service I sought God for the area I should minister in. It became very clear my area of ministry was to Islamic Refugees. Serious consideration was given in applying as a long-term missionary with HM but I had no peace and let this go. I had to trust God in making a way where there seemed to be no way!

Last November, through Euro Relief I found a link to YWAM Refugee Circle, discovering YWAM was calling for volunteers to assist in Refugee Ministry on Lesvos Island, Greece. My attention was riveted as the island and refugees fitted with the second vision God had given in 2001. To date I have been in communication with YWAM Lesvos, answering all their questions and am now waiting for a Skype interview.

Initially I am trusting God to go to Lesvos for a short term, April-June with the view to longer term service in the future. It's been a long journey. I would appreciate your support in prayer as I wait to go. Would you stand with me?

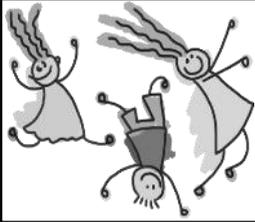
Thank you, Lyn Ashby

As a church, we do want to stand with Lyn. Shortly we'll be issuing prayer cards to assist us in that. Later in the year Elsa Laing is going to Fiji on a short term mission trip with Anglican Missions. We'll hear more about that soon.

So God is sending us out! If you have other ideas about mission – overseas or local – please contact myself or John Palmer.

Learning together in love,

Susan



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 9 April - This week everyone together in Church - Palm Sunday play and making palm crosses.

Next Sunday 14 April - Activities at back of church.

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church. Prayers and offers of help are appreciated. Catherine 022 647

Combined Richmond Waimea Churches Cross Walk – 11.00am Good Friday 14 April. Starting Wesley Centre (Methodist Church) walking as cross is carried, stopping on route for bible reading and prayer finishing at Holy Trinity for *A Reflection of the Cross* a time of singing and prayer followed by hot cross buns and a cuppa. All welcome, for those unable to walk join at Holy Trinity at approximately 11.20am.

Prayers for the Week

World - Thank you Mighty God that you breathe life into dry bones. We pray for places where there is not enough water. More than 20 million people in over a dozen countries in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa are facing severe drought and resulting famine. Worst hit are Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria. Please provide gentle and persistent rain along with vital aid from other countries. Lord revive your world. Help us to steward the resources you provide and to care for this beautiful, painful planet and all its inhabitants. We pray for all who face persecution because of their faith, culture, gender or sexuality, especially remembering our Christian sisters and brothers.

Church - Thank you, Father God, for the refreshing time for Mawhera (West Coast) and Waimea clergy and spouses at the Lake and for time to get to know folk new to the district. Today we pray for Phillip and Linda Lyes in Golden Bay Parish. Thank you that they are settling in well and getting to know folk. Please help them as their churches consider ways of relating to younger folk and families.

Mission - We pray for Murray and Fèy Cotter, giving thanks for their visit with us. Thank you for time spent with family and friends as well as on deputation. Help them settle back into their work and lives in Albania. Continue to enable Fèy in her oversight of the wider missionary community and Murray as he reconnects with the men he is discipling. We remember with thanksgiving the life of Allan and pray for consolation for Christine. Please help everything to go smoothly with the Chinese officials and provide all the support Christine needs as she deals with the emotional and practical aspects of her loss.

Community - In our community we pray for Steve and Lyn Rollo and the Church of Christ as they organise the Good Friday Cross Walk along with other Easter services. Bless them richly in their community outreach and provide all they need to help those who struggle. We give you thanks for Dave Harris and his team who have established Te Ara, WAY (Women, Adults and Youth). Please assist the word to get out that the community centre is a fun, safe place to learn new skills and establish friendships. We pray for protection for the Christian community and for all over this special season of Easter.

Parish - We pray for those for whom Easter will be a lonely time and ask that Yvonne and the seniors' ministry team, along with others in similar roles across our Diocese, may effectively reach out to those who are isolated. Thank you for the coming Alpha course and the team involved. Please stir up those people who don't know Jesus so that they may come to the course and decide to follow you. We also thank you for our relationship with Aged Concern asking for your blessing on that and on Yvonne as she leads our seniors' team.

We also remember Chris, Anne Green, Shirley, Pam Butler, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja and others we know. Please Lord, bring healing and life to them and encourage their families and loved ones at this time.

This Week...

Monday 10 April

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 11 April

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Wednesday 12 April

10.00am Wednesday Service

9.45am AAW Area Day

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 13 April

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W. Wilkinson, J. Lines)

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Friday 14 April Good Friday

11.00am Cross Walk from Methodist Church,
finishing at Church on the Hill with sung
worship and prayer for the community

2.00pm Choir Service

Sunday 16 April Easter Sunday

10.00am Combined Service

Coming up...

Tuesday 16 May

Alpha Course

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 9 April

Holy Communion

Sunday 23 April

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 16 April - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader: 10.00am J McConachie
Reader: 10.00am A Burrough, K South
Sidespeople: 10.00am K South
Welcomer: 10.00am B Page
Tea: A Burrough, V Matthews
Communion: 10.00am J Green, A Burrough, L&T Summerfield
Flowers: A Burrough

Theme for Next Sunday: Jesus and the Renewed Community

Readings for next Sunday: Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-10

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 Leader	Antonio Sardella	027 3525598			

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm