



Church on the Hill

Sunday 14 May 2017



Theme: A Mission of Justice
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Nathan Hughes
Readings: Psalm 36:1-9, Luke 4: 14-27

Sentence:

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the ocean depths.

- Psalm 36:6

Prayer for the day:

Loving Father, you have created each human being in your own image. Fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. May we work with you, in sharing the abundance you have provided for us, to provide security and equality, for all our brothers and sisters throughout the

world. May there be an end to division, strife and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on the love and peace of Christ. We pray for all who work with your Spirit to make this a priority in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Tolerance and compassion

I've been thinking about what it really means to be tolerant and compassionate. Our culture is changing. Our church is changing. Things aren't the way they used to be.

And we all cope with change and with life in different ways. We cope differently because even though we are all made in God's image, we have different life experiences, different health (physical, emotional, mental and spiritual) issues, we have different circumstances in the here and now. Some of our circumstances we have chosen and some were pressed upon us.

We all make different choices too. Even if some of us choose the same things, we have different reasons for making those choices. Today life is hard. It is hard for young parents and children, it is hard for those of us who are growing older and it is hard for the in-between ones of us too.

So how do we best support each other on this difficult journey on which we find ourselves?

The prophet Elvis Presley sang this song

If I could be you, if you could be me for just one hour
If we could find a way to get inside each other's mind
If you could see you through my eyes instead of your ego
I believe you'd be, I believe you'd be surprised to see that you've been blind
Walk a mile in my shoes, walk a mile in my shoes
Yeah, before you abuse, criticize, and accuse
Walk a mile in my shoes
Now there are people on reservations and out in the ghetto
And, brother, there, but for the grace of God, go you and I
If I only had the wings of a little angel
Don't you know I'd fly to the top of a mountain and then I'd cry...

Check it out on:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-NgDbK9N6g

Joe South actually wrote the song. While it was originally written about racial tolerance and the need for perspective and compassion in that, I

reckon it echoes Jesus' teaching about how we treat each other.

'Love one another' is the second greatest commandment and one that is easy to trot out but much more difficult to practice.

St Paul's version helps a bit: "Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." - *Romans 12:10*

Love is not a feeling but a choice. It's not what we feel but more what we do. Being devoted to one another in love, means that we honour others above ourselves. It puts others first and ourselves and our own comfort at a lower priority.

What does that look like in church life? We all come for different reasons. Some come just for 'God and me' time. Some come to connect with others. Some come for the music and some come for the sermon/teaching time. We all have different needs.

How easy it is to get focused on our own needs and grumble when they are not met. It is easy to look at others and misinterpret their motives, their needs, their behaviour. But we don't know their backstory a lot of the time.

The Message version of the Bible really smacks us in the eye with its version of the "judge not" passage:

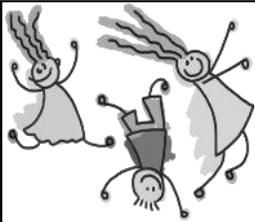
Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticise their faults- unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbour's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbour.

Let's think and pray about how we can help and support one another in worship, in church, in life.... how we can help each other grow to be the people God has designed us to be.

If we are not sure how to help someone else, we can always ask.

Learning together in love,

Susan



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 14 May

The Good News

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 9810

Alpha Course - We are set to begin on Tuesday 16 May after Lunch on the Hill. From then on after every Lunch on the Hill, we will have an Alpha session. This will take us through until Tuesday 21 November. The sessions will be about an hour and a half, DVD and discussion. The first session is *Who is Jesus?* I have left the remainder of the invitations at the back of the church, please take one for yourself or to give to someone. We are praying for 30 people to attend, please help make this happen by praying and inviting. Please pray for this course and all the Alpha courses in our diocese, that many will come to faith as a result. If you are planning to come it would be helpful to let Yvonne know.

Prayers for the Week

Our World - Lord of all creation, we humbly acknowledge your sovereignty and entreat your boundless strength to overcome our many weaknesses. Please protect those populations of the Pacific islands that are continually threatened by cyclones in the modern phenomenon of climate change. We rejoice at the return of the kidnapped girls of Nigeria to their anxious families and pray that the remainder still captive will be returned soon. We think of other victims of cruel regimes and seek your direction to a more peaceful and just world in which we care for each other rather than inflict cruelty. May generosity and love overcome all transgressions through the influence of your infinite wisdom.

Our Community - We give praise that we are blessed to live in such an abundantly endowed part of your world as Tasman/Nelson. As stewards of your creation may we strive to enhance the circumstances of all who struggle under burdens such as homelessness, poverty, family discord or lack of spiritual motivation. May they experience your wonderful healing power, and may the Alpha programme that begins here next week prove an inspiration to reach many who have not previously welcomed Jesus into their hearts.

Diocese - We are grateful that Motueka has such an active parish with the aim of encouraging people into a relationship with Jesus, and to be healed spiritually. Messy church, Alpha courses, pre-school and early school weekly gatherings are among current activities. May St Thomas be recognised as a place of hope, joy and salvation, welcoming and supportive, and St Barnabas a centre of worship for Riwaka Village. We pray that the unity of churches and relationship of their pastors in the Motueka district should have a positive impact on the marriages, families, young people and the whole community.

Church - We also pray for leaders of St Paul's Lutheran Church in Upper Moutere who expect to continue with their extra responsibilities until a pastor can take up the key leadership role later this year. May those dedicated people find the necessary inspiration and energy for the tasks they have undertaken, with assistance soon from an interim pastor for seven weeks.

Mission - Please protect and direct the journey of Chris and Catherine Corin and their family as they make a visit home to re-connect with churches and friends after almost three years of devoted ministry in Central Asia. May they obtain the assistance they need, financial and particularly a suitable vehicle, as they plan to visit 10 supporting churches, from Auckland to north of Christchurch, in nine weeks from mid-June, to tell about their work and experiences in the Lord's service.

Parish - We express our thanks for the work of our own vestry members and vicar Susan, with supporting staff who together accomplish so much. We remember Jean Lines, Chris, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja and others we know in hospitals and rest homes. May they be comforted by knowing you are with them, Lord, for every hour of every day.

This Week...

Monday 15 May

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 16 May

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

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

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

1.00pm Alpha Course

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

Wednesday 17 May

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 18 May

10.30am Café Connection @ Wooden Spoon

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 21 May

9.00am Morning Worship*

10.45am Holy Communion *

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 14 May

Holy Communion

Sunday 28 May

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 21 May - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	J McConachie	10.45am	S Gill
Reader:	9.00am	A Burrough, K South	10.45am	TBA
Sidespeople:	9.00am	J Burrough	10.45am	J Green
Welcomer:	9.00am	A Burrough	10.45am	N Pritchard
Tea:		J South, K South		
Chalice:	9.00am	N/A	10.45am	N Pritchard, M Ross, E/D Stanger
Flowers:		M Reynolds	Crêche:	TBA

Theme for Next Sunday: Explaining the unknown

Readings for next Sunday: Acts 17:22 – 31, John 14:15 - 21

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