



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 11 June 2017



**Theme:** Trinity Sunday  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** Genesis 1:1 – 5, 26 – 2:4, Matthew 28:16 - 20

**Sentence:**

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

- *Genesis 1:2*

**Prayer for the day:**

Blessed Trinity, we know you as a community of love. Grant us such worship of you that we are changed more into your likeness; and act as your creative, caring, life enriching people.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, compassionate, nurturing Father, Jesus Christ our Lord, and empowering Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

# Reflections...



## Is our church safe?

As our NZ Aotearoa culture changes rapidly around us church in general, and our Church in particular, needs to offer a genuinely healthy alternative focused around the person of Jesus.

We will notice that there is much less orthodoxy of belief around today. And it is possible to react to that with fear and a desire to correct 'faulty' doctrine. But people have an innate desire to connect with God and with community.

Everyone needs a place to belong; a place where it is safe to just be and to explore issues of faith; in fact any issues! I listened to a podcast discussing this aspect of church communities.

Here are some of the descriptions people gave of what a safe church looks like:

- Moving towards wholeness and health
- Feeling accepted
- Having loving relationships that point us towards Christ
- An environment where no persecution or abuse exists
- Made up of people from all walks of life with different political views, from different cultures and with different sexual orientations
- Motivated by grace above all
- Vulnerabilities are welcomed
- Navigating for conservatives and progressives
- Actually not having any labels nor pigeon-holing anyone

- Being free to disagree
- Jesus is Lord, the Spirit fills us and God is here
- Leadership admits they don't have all the answers
- A place where I can be true to who I am
- Where different styles of worship exist side by side

Question: How are we doing with some of these things?

Someone said to me recently that they never left church without something to think about, something to discuss and chew over. I think that's pretty cool.

Over the next couple of months or so we'll be exploring what it means to be church. A few of us got together to plan a very exciting sermon series – one which will help those of us who struggle with church as well and get us all thinking and reflecting more deeply. We aim to enable a deeper understanding of and participation in worship as a community, to add breadth and talk about why we do what we do in church.

We'll talk about struggling with church and about expanding our understanding of church. There'll be room for dialogue and reflection as we go. We have different folk bringing various topics.

It's going to be a great ride; one where Jesus is honoured and hopefully we are all affirmed as we explore new and existing things together.

Learning together in love,

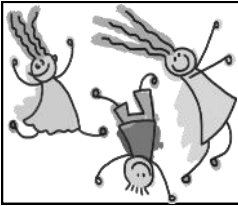
*Susan*

**Equip Ministry Education** - For this year EQUIP is going to run a little differently. Rather than 3 Saturdays in each region, EQUIP is going to have a focus month in each region so that in that month, 4 evening sessions will be held on the topics of *The Big Story of the Bible* and *Handling the Bible*.

<b>Waimea</b>	Wednesday 19 July	Wakefield	Big Story	Graham O'Brien
	Wednesday 26 July	Wakefield	Big Story	Graham O'Brien
	Wednesday 2 August	Motueka	Handling the Bible	Graham O'Brien
	Wednesday 9 August	Motueka	Handling the Bible	Graham O'Brien
<b>Nelson</b>	Thursday 10 August	BTC	Big Story	Kate Dugdale
	Thursday 17 August	BTC	Handling the Bible	Graham O'Brien
	Thursday 24 August	BTC	Handling the Bible	Graham O'Brien

For more information contact BTC Ph. 548 8785

**Mid Winter Christmas @ Lunch on the Hill** - An event not to be missed! Diary it now! 11.30am Tuesday 20 June .



## = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 11 June

Combined Service

Next Sunday 18 June

TBA

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

### Prayers for the Week

We are a world that is desperate for you, God.

When powers struggle for dominance,  
and war, oppression and abuse result;

When groups of people such as those in the Middle East, South Sudan, Afghanistan oppose each other

because of ideology, religion or culture;

We need a God who is bigger than ourselves,  
and our personal interests.

(Prayer may be offered for specific areas of conflict in the world.)

When people are disregarded and devalued  
because of poverty, geography or disease;

When comfort and strength are required

by those we love including Albertha, Gwen, Pam, Chris, Lisa, Anne, Ellie, Sonja, and Rachel

We need a Saviour who is more compassionate than we are

One embraces and heals.

When resources are mismanaged and abused,  
and the world and its creatures are destroyed;

When motivation is scarce and creativity is in short supply  
to address the challenges that we face

We need a Spirit who is more powerful and more creative  
than we could ever be.

When your church struggles to share your Good News  
... and people don't want to know;

When leaders and lay people, including the Corin family and those at  
St Barnabas and Hope Community Church

work for the extension of your Kingdom,

We need One God to invite us into a relationship  
of love and courage and perseverance

Lord God, Loving Saviour, Empowering Spirit,  
we offer you these prayers

because we need you so desperately.

Captivate us, call us and fill us,

that we may be carriers of your eternal life

to this world that you love so dearly. Amen.

*Adapted from prayers written by John van de Laar, posted on Sacredise.com*

## This Week...

### Monday 12 June

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### Tuesday 13 June

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

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

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

### Wednesday 14 June

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

### Thursday 15 June

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

### Sunday 18 June

9.00am Morning Worship\*

10.45am Holy Communion\*

*\*Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## Coming up...

### Tuesday 20 June

11.30am Lunch on the Hill Mid Winter Christmas

1.00pm Alpha Course

### Thursday 22 June

10.30am Café Connection Wooden Spoon Café

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

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 25 June**

Morning Prayer

**Sunday 9 July**

Holy Communion

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

### Roster for 18 June - Thank you for serving us all!

**Leader:** 9.00am J Palmer

10.45am J Palmer

**Reader:** 9.00am A Burrough, K South

10.45am M Did-Dell

**Sidespeople:** 9.00am K South

10.45am J Green

**Welcomer:** 9.00am B Page

10.45am J South

**Tea:** A Burrough, V Matthews

**Chalice:** 9.00am N/A

10.45am N Pritchard, J/A Green,  
L/T Summerfield

**Flowers:** M Evans

**Crèche:** TBA

**Theme for Next Sunday:** An Unlikely Gathering

**Readings for next Sunday:** 1 Peter 2:4-10, Luke 4:16 - 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			

### Holy Trinity Church

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### Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm