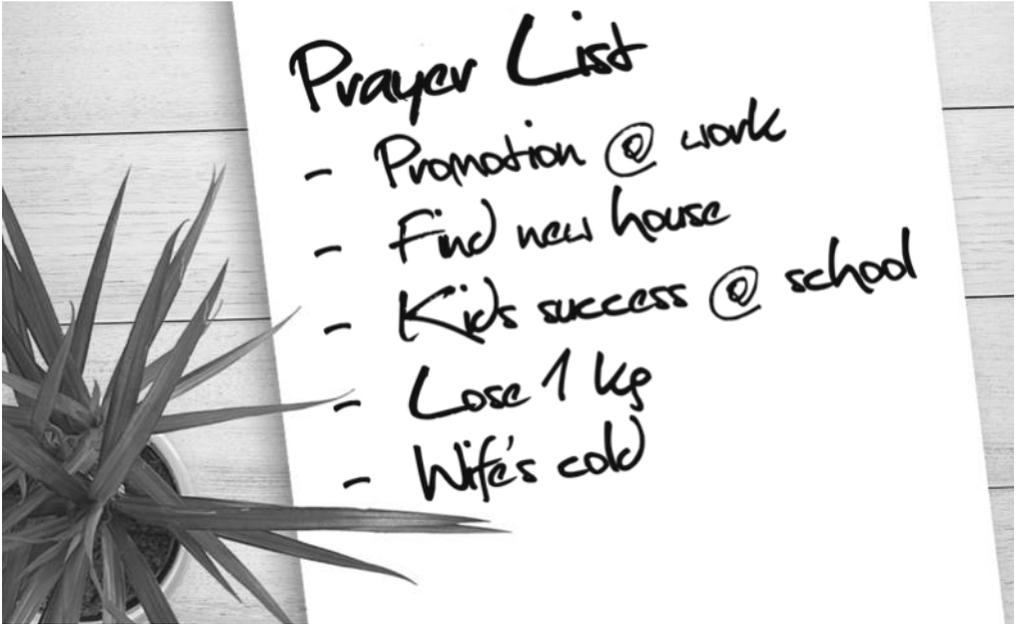




Church on the Hill

Sunday 23 July 2017



Theme: Endless Shopping Lists
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Matthew 6:5 -13, 1 Timothy 2:1 - 6

Sentence:

Pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

- 1 Timothy 2:1

Prayer for the day:

Is it true, Lord that prayer changes the one who prays? Then teach us to pray. Teach us to pray with clean hearts and with simple words - and without words at all. Teach us to lean into you sincerely and without inhibitions, knowing that you welcome us without reservation. Teach us to trust that you are for us. You are for us and

for those we hold in our prayers. You are for your world and all of creation. And so, we don't come to twist your arm in prayer. We come to align ourselves with you and your "Yes" for all you have made. We pray this in the name of your Son and in the power of your Spirit.

Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Rumbling with our stuff?

Every community has its jargon; language that we understand but it needs to be clarified for others. I was very impressed with the way Antonio did this as he explained elements of the 10:45am service to an extended whanau who were there for a baptism.

Recently I've been reading a book written by Brené Brown. The book is called 'Rising Strong' and it's about picking oneself up after failure. The reader is encouraged to recognise that mistakes don't define us; we, ourselves are never mistakes. We are not failures no matter how much we stuff up! It is possible to grow stronger as we learn from our mistakes.

Brené is a well-respected author and TED talker. Everything she writes is based on solid research. She also reveals a great deal of her own experience as well. Brené models what she teaches about vulnerability.

One of Brené's key themes is that leadership and relationship are only possible if we are vulnerable with each other. If we don't disclose our stories, our mistakes, who we are, then no-one can truly know us. This makes friendships and working relationships very difficult. Of course if we have little or no self-awareness of our own stuff, we won't be able to open up to anyone else either.

Just about every person in the Bible experiences failure of some kind:

- Abraham should have stayed in the land and trusted the Lord, he fled to Egypt because of the drought.
- Moses ran ahead of the Lord and killed the Egyptian when trying to help his people.
- David stayed home and committed adultery with Bathsheba when he should have been at

war, and then he planned her husband's murder.

- Peter denied the Lord, and the other the disciples abandoned him.

Yet there is 'no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus'. As Christians we understand that Christ's forgiveness enables us to rumble with our stuff. The Holy Spirit's enlightenment brings clarity to the stories of our own unworthiness that we often tell ourselves. The Spirit brings what can be hidden in the darkness into the light so that it can be examined.

This is kind of what Brené refers to as 'rumbling'. Rumbling takes great courage. It's messy and difficult. It's the place of the greatest struggle, says Brené, and it's a non-negotiable part of the process of rising strong.

The Biblical characters mistakes are not always transformed into successes. Yet the characters themselves grow in relationship with the Lord, with others, with themselves. The Lord works with them to reach out to others.

I wonder if this work of God doesn't happen so much 'in spite of' human mistakes but almost 'because of'. It is only as we make mistakes that we know how much we need God. When we have it all together we often go on our merry way, ignoring him and others.

Mistakes, and the lessons we learn through them, help us grow in the Lord. They help us Rise Strong if we will 'rumble' with them. We are told that Jesus grew spiritually:

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people.

- Luke 2:52

Spiritual growth must be marked by something other than sinning less. Perhaps honestly examining our mistakes and learning from them is part of this.

Learning together in love,

Susan

Combined Service

10.00am Next Sunday 30 July

SHARED FINGERFOOD LUNCH TO FOLLOW SERVICE



It's time to start thinking of items to fill the boxes we send to children in the Pacific Islands. Your gifts and messages that go with love are greatly appreciated - especially the illustrated booklet of the Good News of Jesus Christ. A plastic box is at the back of the church for your donations and leaflets are in the rack to give you ideas of what to buy. (K-Mart and \$2 shops are great places to start) A4 size shoeboxes are great fun to decorate with children. If you have family, friends or others who would like boxes contact me. The cost to send a box is now \$10 and any donations towards this are welcome. The main "box fill" will be done in conjunction with the Evening AAW group meeting on Thursday 12 October. Time to be advised. You are most welcome to participate in this project. **For info: Dawn Martin Ph. 547 3434**

SHOE BOX APPEAL

= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 23 July Activities at back of Church

Next Sunday 30 July 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 9810



Prayers for the Week

God's World - We pray for the poor of this world, whether they are poor because of unjust social systems, disasters, bad decisions on their part or just being born into poverty. Help governments and NGOs to really understand and to address the root causes of poverty in each different society, including here in New Zealand. We particularly pray for the provision of shelter, food and friendship for the poor and homeless in our country at this time of winter.

Mission Partners - Today we pray for the Nathan and Rosey and their family thanking You for the financial provision for their work and the granting of visas. Help them as they left family in New Zealand, encourage them and provide suitable accommodation for them and schools for Ruby and Eva. Give them perseverance in language study.

Diocese - We pray for the work of Wakefield Parish, with Allan and Joy Wasley and their team, thanking You for the work of Mainly Music with young families and the recent working bees. Help them to reach out to the people moving into the Wakefield area and bless the witness of the church in Tapawera and Murchison.

Local Community - We pray today for unity in the local churches. We thank You for the covenant made between the local ministers to support one another, may that support and mutual respect become more tangible and real. Help the ministers to see how each church's activities contribute to the local Christian witness in this area.

Our Parish - We pray today the Waimea Weekly Editorial Team, help them to see new opportunities to make the gospel and our church activities relevant and eye catching to the local community. We ask Your special blessing on Yvonne and Ian as they cope with Yvonne's injury, bring peace and healing to Yvonne at this time. Guide Susan, Evelin and others who are covering for Yvonne's duties while she is off work.

Those in need within our own church family - We remember Yvonne, Albertha, Gwen, Pam, Chris, Lisa, Anne, Ellie, John Barnes and Rachel. May Your peace, healing and comfort surround them, and grant them the abiding sense of Your presence with them. We also pray for Your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

This Week...

Monday 24 July

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 25 July

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

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

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

Wednesday 26 July

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 27 July

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 30 July

10.00am Combined Service followed by shared finger foo lunch

Coming up...

Sunday 6 August

7.00pm Taizé Service

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 23 July

Morning Prayer

Sunday 13 August

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 30 July - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader: 9.00am S. Gill
Reader: 9.00am S. Entwistle
Sidespeople: 9.00am E. Erskine
Welcomer: 9.00am S Entwistle
Tea: TBA
Chalice: 9.00am B. Payne
Flowers: M. Brosnahan

Theme for Next Sunday: Communion

Readings for next Sunday: Hebrews 7: 23-28, Luke 19:1-9

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