



Church on the Hill

Sunday 4 September 2016



Theme: Gratitude
Vicar: Revd. Susan Gill
Preacher: Revd. Susan Gill
Readings: Psalm 136:1 – 9 and 23 – 26, Luke 17:11 – 19

Sentence:

Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.

- *Psalm 136:26*

Prayer for the day:

Generous God, we want to be people who praise you; people who are grateful for who you are and for what you have done for us. We think of some of those things now. We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass. We thank you for creating us with senses by which we hear the songs of birds, see the splendour of mountains and fields, taste berries and delicious fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers. Grant us a heart opened wide to all

this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when the fantails dance with joy. We thank you that for each new day filled with your blessings, made possible through what Jesus has done for us. Thank you for his cross and rising again and for our forgiven sins. Thank you for our families and friends; the love we find with them and the challenges we face with them. You teach us much through human relationships. Thank you that in you all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and the possibilities you bring. **Amen.**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



The Welcoming Prayer

I have a short attention span. So I like to try various methods of prayer for a while. Trying new things helps me in my relationship with the Lord. Some of you will prefer to stick with what you know. That's cool.

Never-the-less, the Welcoming Prayer is useful in dealing with hurts or negative emotions. It's also a great way to pray for our world. The Lord seems to work his healing for me through this method. (I am not sure where it originally comes from but it is related here by Richard Rohr – a spiritual dude I really respect.)

First, identify a hurt or an offense in your life. Remember the feelings you first experienced with this hurt and feel them the way you first felt them. Notice how this shows up in your body. Paying attention to your body's sensations keeps you from jumping into the mind and its dualistic games of good-guy/bad-guy, win/lose, either/or.

After you can identify the hurt and feel it in your body, welcome it. Don't fight it. Don't blame anyone or yourself. Welcome the grief. Welcome the anger. It's hard to do, but for some reason, when we name it, feel it, and welcome it, the Lord's

transformation can begin. Stay in the moment. Hold the creative tension, but don't think about it, critique it, or analyse it.

When you're able to welcome your own pain, you will in some way feel the pain of the whole world. This is what it means to be human—and also what it means to be created in the Lord's divine image. You can hold this immense pain because you too are being held by the very One who went through this process on the Cross. Jesus was holding all the pain of the world, at least symbolically or archetypally; though the world had come to hate him, he refused to hate it back.

Now hand all of this pain - yours and the world's - over to God. Let it go. Ask for the grace of forgiveness for the person who hurt you, for the event that offended you, for the reality of suffering in each human life.

Richard doesn't promise the pain will leave easily or quickly. He goes on to say that to forgive is not to forget. But letting go frees up a great amount of soul-energy that liberates a level of life you didn't know existed. It leads you to your True Self which leads to a closer sense of being with God.

So feel free to try it or not...

Learning together in love,

Susan

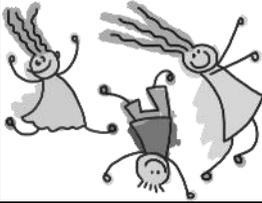
Church open for Prayer - Join in on Monday from 9.00am to 2.00pm to pray for your personal needs, our parish, our community and the world. Pop in for hot soup and prayer. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

Senior's tea and talk - 10.00am -11.30ameach Wednesday morning in the Richmond Seniors rooms, adjacent to the Age Concern Offices, Oxford Street. The cost is \$3.00 to cover morning tea. Please come and invite any senior neighbours you may have. It would be great to have many of our people there as we start this exciting new venture! For more information or to offer help please see Shiona or Yvonne.

Can you help? An elderly gentleman is in need of a set of drawers to put his clothes in. Is there anyone who can give him some drawers? Please contact Yvonne if you can help. Much appreciated.

Cafe Connection - Our next monthly gathering will be at The Wooden Spoon Cafe, 10.30am Thursday 15 September. All very welcome to join us for a happy time of socialising, coffee, and food! You will find us at the big reserved table in the middle. Hope to see you there! Yvonne

Spring Fair - We are going to hold our Spring Fair on Saturday 15 October. Many thanks to all those who gave feedback. The outcome is that we will separate the garage sale and fair and in September will just run a Fair from 10.00am to 2.00pm. It will include all our usual stalls, and have a strong family / all age focus. If you have any ideas about what we can do to draw in families, including grandparents and grandchildren, please talk with me! The proceeds will go to Missions. Shiona [Frengley 544 4155](mailto:Frengley5444155@vodafone.co.nz) or frengles@vodafone.co.nz



= KIDZ CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 4 September - Christmas preparation activities

Next Week Sunday 11 September - Review of New Testament and quiz

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 – Living in this consumer-driven world, we are all deeply infected by what some call “affluenza.” We pray that leaders of nations and all people will see what really matters. Help us to get over our sense of entitlement and wipe out our might as a right entitlement. Bring your justice, mercy and peace to all people especially those in war-torn and famine-ravaged places. Continue your work in the Middle East, Africa, Italy and across your world.

Mission Partners – We thank you Lord for the amazing work the Sussex family have done in Cambodia. We see your provision in the dental lectures Phil has prepared and the way they are now delivered by local lecturers. Thank you for Phil's lecturing and the improvement in the standards of oral surgery. Thank you for Becky's input to the lives of many children at Hope Christian School. We are grateful for the wonderful experience of Christian community and education that Bryn, Toby, Pippa and Molly have had. Be with them all as they plan to come back to New Zealand in January 2017.

Diocese – We are also grateful for all the work based in the Anglican Centre; work that contributes significantly to the parishes of our Diocese and to the spread of the gospel here and further abroad. Please be with our Bishop as he leads the staff team and with them all as they cope with continuing change. Especially we remember David Hollingsworth, his wife Dee and their family as David continues to have treatment. Pour out your blessings on them Lord we pray.

Community – We thank you for the work being done in our community to bring a living wage to all. We remember your injunction that the worker is worthy of their hire. Be with Nick Gastrell and others as they wage this campaign locally. As our local body elections come closer, please be with the candidates enabling a fair and respectful election process. Be with Jono and Vanessa Martin, Steve and Kathy King, Youth Pastor Jude Saxon and all the staff and church members of Richmond New Life Church. Enrich them and their church life so that they can reach out into our community with your love.

Our Parish – Thank you for our churches of Holy Trinity and St. Alban's. Your provision has enabled repairs to begin on the roof at St Alban's and the recent bathroom upgrade at the Vicarage. You are a faithful God and are doing a great work with the new Building Team. Encourage them as they make significant progress. We pray for Susan as she leads this Church and for the Vestry who provide governance. Thank you also for the talks on Christianity and Islam. May they respectfully reveal your truth and give a greater understanding of both faiths.

Special people in our church family – Heavenly Father, we ask that you bring healing, comfort and strength to Debbie, Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Laurie D'Eganneh, Sonja, Ingrid Blackbeard, Val Jordan, and others known to us. We pray also for the residents and staff in rest homes and hospitals in this Parish, that they know your peace and love.

Sweet Lord, save us. Heal all that is broken in our lives, in our streets and in our world. **Amén**

This Week...

Monday 5 September

7.00pm Men's Forum (J Klootwyk)
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 6 September

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)
11.30am Lunch on the Hill
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Wednesday 7 September

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

Thursday 8 September

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)
7.30pm Christianity & Islam

Sunday 11 September

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Praise on the Hill

Coming up...

Thursday 15 September

- 10.30am Café Connection

Saturday 17 September

- Love in Action Day
- Barn Dance Evening

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 11 September

Holy Communion

Sunday 25 September

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 11 September *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader:	9.00am D Pritchard	10.30am Fiona Summerfield
Reader:	9.00am A Hodges D Day	10.30am Marie Tilley
Sidespeople:	9.00am W Wilkinson	10.30am Marie Tilley
Welcomer:	9.00am B Page	10.30am Shireen Lyon
Tea:	M Mercer, S Paine	
Chalice:	9.00am G Thomas, W Wilkinson	10.30am N/A
Flowers:	M Reynolds	Creche: M Martin

Theme for Next Sunday: Creator God; order from chaos

Readings for Next Sunday: Psalm 104, Revelation 21:1 - 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 Leader	Antonio Sardella	027 3525598			

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm