



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 10 September 2017



**Theme:** Finding Focus; Kia Kaha  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** Jeremiah 29:10—14, Matthew 26: 34—40

**Sentence:** I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity."  
- Jeremiah 29:14

## Prayer for the day:

Heavenly Father, we pray today for the strength to yield our wills to you moment by moment, and that throughout the day our focus will remain on you, as we go about our daily lives. We thank you that your strength is made perfect in our weakness. Teach us to depend on you and remember that your grace is sufficient for us. We know that in you we have the wisdom

to make good choices, the strength to face each day; and the grace to live and thrive, no matter what difficulties or problems may arise. Holy Spirit help us to be there for others in their difficulties too, and wherever possible, to point them towards Jesus, our friend and brother, Saviour and lover.

**Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## Reflections...



### Listening...

My friend Harry and I are meeting for a coffee. Harry says he is struggling and completely confused. He doesn't know what he believes anymore. Tears fill his eyes. He says he's even questioning the existence of God. He's afraid that he might turn into an atheist. He wrestles night and day with his confusion, shame, and guilt. He says he really feels like a refugee lost at sea and wonders if he'll ever find solid ground again.

He's in no-man's land, belonging nowhere and to no one. There doesn't seem to be anyone who can listen or who understands. To make matters worse, those who love him are very concerned. They think he might back-slide and express it in comments loaded with ulterior motives that make his self-doubt loom even larger in his mind.

He's embarrassed... not just by his tears. He admits that this is what his life is actually like... he can't just live life because he's stuck; tangled up in thoughts and confusion.

I listen without judgment:

I don't try to correct him or change him. Why?

Because I think he's in an honest space even in the midst of pain. He's growing and it hurts. I hear his shame, his frustration, his fear, his guilt. These feelings are natural, even though they appear negative, judgmental, and even destructive. I tell him that he's doing an amazing job and that if he gives himself time he will come out the other side of this dense fog where he will find confidence, peace, and even happiness again.

I remind him that he's smart and will figure this out. I believe in him!

In this tender moment, I just try to make him feel as normal, healthy, mature, and courageous as possible. Because that's what examining our faith takes! He has rejected his conditioning and wants

to become a better, wiser, happier person. I affirm that.

Why are we gentler with others than we are with ourselves?

Here's the thing .... the same grace, love, and care I show to others I must show to myself. When I'm feeling down or ashamed or guilty, I apply this simple technique: I treat myself like I would treat a friend like Harry.

I remind myself of God's great love for me. That simple fact, arouses the self-love, self-confidence, and self-care I need to be okay with where I am and to press on. Affirming who I am in Christ helps me to care for myself. It brings back my confidence and enables me to forge ahead with the courage I need to move on.

You could try it too? When you're struggling with faith, with a specific situation or person, or with life in general, treat yourself like you're your own best friend. Pretend you are sitting across the table from yourself in your favourite coffee shop. Listen to yourself as if you are crazy about this person, knowing the Lord is also crazy in love. Let your heart open softly as you embrace everything, excluding nothing, about this person. Hopefully you can suspend judgment of yourself and gain some patience for yourself.

How can we all love ourselves, the way we love others? Let's marvel at the profound meaningfulness of our own journey towards wholeness, peace of mind, and happiness in the Lord.

*Modified from an article by the Naked Pastor.*

Peace on your path, my friends.

**kia kaha**  
forever strong

Learning together in love,

*Susan*

**Community Christmas Dinner** - Organising is underway again! If you are interested in being involved, please contact Michaela on 544 4502 or at ymacca@yahoo.co.nz We will be asking for donations of food in November/December. In the meantime, please save your ice cream containers for us to use - they come in really handy!

**Christmas Shoe Boxes** - Box fill is from 5.00pm Thursday 28 September in the Hall Lounge. More details in next week's Pewsnews. For info contact Dawn Martin Ph. 547 3434

# Richmond Churches Combined Service

7.00pm Sunday 10 September at Grace Church  
A great opportunity to show our Christian unity in this region

Richmond Minister's Association Event

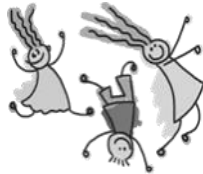
## = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 10 September Shoe Boxes

Next Sunday 17 September 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

**God's World** - Lord we are dismayed by recent weather events in Texas, Puerto Rico and Southern Asia. We pray for needed assistance to be delivered in these places with urgency and equity. We also pray for places where battles are still being fought including the war of words between North Korea and the US. Especially we pray for the ordinary people affected by these things. We ask for your freedom and justice to come in this world as well as the next.

**Mission Partners** - We thank you for N and R and their passion to see girls and young women set free from the sex trade. We pray that you would help them in these early stages of learning the local language. Give them opportunities to practice with local folk and patience to stick at this long learning journey. We also pray for protection and blessing as their children settle into a new school and radically different culture.

**Diocese** - We thank you Lord for the positive Synod experienced last week at Mapua. We are especially grateful for the calibre of our young people. And we echo Ivy Price's prayer: "Open us to the possibility that you are calling a new generation to greater faithfulness a more authentic response to your will and purposes than we have been able to make." Help us all to support and encourage the younger ones in faith and/or years among us.

We also pray for Dean Mike and Patsy Hawke and their team at the Cathedral. Mike asks that they may deepen the relationship the Cathedral has with both the city and the Diocese and that the Lord would bless their music ministry.

**Community** - Thank you for the way in which Peter Somerfield, the Senior Pastor of Grace church, has opened up that church for our local Minister's Association to host the joint service this evening. We pray you will help us all to appreciate one another's differences as well as our common faith in you. Bless Peter and the church richly in their endeavours to share you Gospel in word and deed.

We continue to pray for our own National Elections. Help us to educate ourselves about the candidates, the parties, and their policies, as we prayerfully and thoughtfully make our conclusions about who to vote for.

**Our Parish** - Today we pray for our Youth Group and its leaders; Antonio, David and the team. We pray for Antonio balancing study, 24-7 youth work at Waimea College and David as he tries to give his family, his work and youth work all their rightful place. We also pray for Hamish and Jonathan as they lead the Intermediates on Sunday mornings. And we remember all those studying for mock exams just now.

We ask for your healing power and grace for Yvonne, Albertha, Gwen, Pam, Chris, Lisa, Anne, Ellie, John Barnes, Shirley, Tony Jackson, Sally and Rachel. We also pray for your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

## **This Week...**

### **Monday 11 September**

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### **Tuesday 12 September**

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

### **Wednesday 13 September**

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

### **Thursday 14 September**

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

### **Sunday 17 September**

9.00am Morning Worship

10.45am Holy Communion

*\* Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## **Coming up...**

### **Tuesday 19 September**

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

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

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 10 September**

Holy Communion

**Sunday 24 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 17 September - Thank you for serving us all!**

**Leader:** 9.00am S Gill

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

**Sidespeople:** 9.00am J Burrough

**Welcomer:** 9.00am A Burrough

**Chalice:** 9.00am N/A

**10.45am** J Palmer

**10.45am** M Did-Dell

**10.45am** J Green

**10.45am** N Pritchard

**10.45am** M Ross, N Pritchard,  
E/D Stanger

**Tea:** J South, K South

**Flowers:** R Armstrong

**Creche:** TBA

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Waiting on the Lord

**Readings for next Sunday:** Psalm 40:1 - 3, Psalm 23

### **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**

27 Dorset Street

PO Box 3013

Richmond

**Phone / Fax** 03 544 8844

**Email** church.onhill@xtra.co.nz

**Website**

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

### **Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm