



Church on the Hill

Sunday 17 September 2017



Theme: Waiting on the Lord
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Matty Grant
Readings: Psalm 40:1-3, Psalm 23

Sentence:

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.
- Psalm 23:6 (The Message)

Prayer for the day:

Lord of all, sometimes it feels like we wait and wait and wait for You. We know your answers come, not when we demand them, but in your perfect time. And you always hear us, looking beyond our words to our deepest need. You intervene in ways we could never have dreamed up. You lift us out of the ditch when we are broken and covered in mud. You stand us on solid ground. We are secure in You,

regardless of our circumstances. And so, we praise You; confident in who You are – Almighty God and Saviour. Please enable us to abandon our limited understandings and our self-will to you the Mighty One. And help us trust you, the Living God, always. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God now and forever.

Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Welcoming Prayer

Today we are privileged to have Matty Grant speaking with us about Waiting on the Lord. I wish more of us were able to hear his important message which follows on nicely from thinking last week about how we keep our Focus on the Lord.

So many are laid low with flu and various cold-like illnesses that seem to be very persistent. It's easy to over-spiritualise everything I know. And the Lord will find ways to use every bad or unhappy circumstance to teach us and to draw us closer to him. That doesn't mean of course that he causes the bad stuff – that is certainly not the case.

But life happens and we are finding ways to deal with it. Some work. Some don't. I'm trying something my Spiritual Director recently recommended to me. It's called 'The Welcoming Prayer' and it fits in with what Michaela told us a couple of week back about how our brain needs to face the emotion before it can begin to think logically and form a plan of action.

The method of Welcoming Prayer goes something like this:

When something unplanned or unpleasant happens notice the feelings you experience with the hurt.

Notice how they affect your body eg does your tummy ache or are your neck muscles clenched? (Paying attention to your body's sensations keeps you from jumping too quickly into the mind and its dualistic games of good guy/bad guy, win/lose, etc.).

After you identify the hurt and feel it in your body, welcome it.

Stop fighting it.

Stop blaming.

Welcome the grief or anger.

It's hard to do, but for some reason, when we name it, feel it, and welcome it, transformation can begin.

Don't be tempted to analyse yet. That will lead you back to your ego self.

In God's loving presence hold the creative tension, but don't think about it, or critique it. When you're able to welcome your own pain, you may be much more aware of the pain of

others too. Being fully human means being aware of others and their hard journeys too.

This pain will not overwhelm you because you are being held by the very One who went through this process on the cross. Jesus held all the pain of the world; though the world had come to hate him, he refused to hate it back.

Now hand all of this pain -yours and others - 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 life.

The pain may not leave easily or quickly. 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 closer to the Lord and to understanding who you are in him.

One final note; if you find the freedom doesn't seem to be coming, ask someone you trust to pray with you.

"Two are better than one ... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." - *Ecclesiastes 4 (excerpts)*

Welcoming everything that comes to see what the Lord would do through the emotions and consequences is far from easy. I am finding the less resistance I put up, the quicker I accept and learn.

(I confess to being a bit worried about writing this though. Often the Lord seems to take me at my word and work on whatever I have recently put out there. Perhaps I should just keep silent.

Ha, ha)

Kia kaha

Learning together in love,

Susan

Year to Date Financial Results August 2017

| August Results | Actual | Budget | Variance | Actual Year to Date | Budget Year to Date | Variance |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Income | \$12,929 | \$16,460 | (\$3,531) | \$107,636* | \$131,683 | (\$24,037) |
| Expenditure | \$15,370 | \$17,689 | \$2,319 | \$135,287* | \$142,219 | \$6,932 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (\$2,440) | (\$1,228) | (\$1,212) | (\$27,651) | (\$10,536) | (\$17,105) |

* Excludes \$30,000 specific donations income and expenditure (transacted in same month)

= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 17 September Shoe Boxes

Next Sunday 24 September The Early 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 - Compassionate God when will we stop our brutality to our fellow human being? 87,000 Muslim minority Rohingya people have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh since October 2016 with over 100 recent killings by the militia. Please bring your justice for them and aid as they try to find life free from terror and persecution. We pray that for all minority groups everywhere and for our fellow Christians who are persecuted for their faith in You. We ask for generosity and provision for all those impacted by recent typhoons and floods and for consolation for those who have lost loved ones.

Mission Partners - We pray for Christine and give thanks that she is planning to visit Nelson in October. Lord be with her as she takes time through the remainder of this year to do some deputation and get things settled. Be with her in this enormous transition from working with Allan in Asia to being a widow in Aotearoa NZ.

Diocese - We remember Cobden-Runanga with Tim and Nicky Mora leading the Parish. We pray the 1st of October when we they will focus on families and sticking together at Messy Church. We also pray for the Gray family who lost a son by suicide and for all the valuable youth work that Nicky and the team carry out via The Shed.

Community - We pray for our Roman Catholic friends as the Archdiocese of Wellington conducts their Synod over this weekend! May the Synod members be open and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for the coming together of five community leadership teams to make one parish and we pray for their ongoing formation and settling down to a common purpose and vision.

We thank you Lord for the combined church service on Sunday night at Grace Church. We are so blessed in that our Ministers work together and support each other so well. Lord would you please strengthen their relationships and those within the lay-folk in the different churches also, so that the wider community will see that we truly are your disciples.

Our Parish - Father we thank you for those who participate in Going Deeper on Sunday evenings. We pray for each member asking that you work in their lives so that they may know you more as they think and pray through various life issues. We pray for back-up leadership for Susan too.

And we pray for Susan, Wardens Karl Summerfield and Dave Pritchard, and the rest of Vestry too. Please pour out your Spirit upon them so they experience your guidance and lead us gently and wisely.

We ask for your healing power and grace for Yvonne, Albertha, Gwen, Pam, Chris, Lisa, Anne, Ellie, John Barnes, Rachel, Sally, Shirley and Tony Jackson, John, and all those who have been laid low with flu type bugs. We also pray for your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

This Week...

Monday 18 September

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 19 September

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

Wednesday 20 September

10.00am Wednesday Service

12.00pm Ticking the Boxes Seminar (Brightwater)

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 21 September

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 24 September

9.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Praise on the Hill

* *Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 1 October

7.00pm Taizé Service

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 24 September

Morning Prayer

Sunday 8 October

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 24 September - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader: 9.00am D Pritchard

Reader: 9.00am J McConachie, P Jordan

Sidespeople: 9.00am J Lines

Welcomer: 9.00am S Entwistle

Chalice: 9.00am S Frengley, P Jordan

Tea: V McNaughton, D Martin

Flowers: M Brosnahan

10.45am M Did-Dell

10.45am TBA

10.45am M Martin

10.45am TBA

10.45am N/A

Creche: Glenda Thomson

Theme for Next Sunday: True and False Prophets

Readings for next Sunday: Romans 16 : 17 - 27, Matthew 7: 13 - 20

Parish Contacts

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|-------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 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