



Church on the Hill

Sunday 24 September 2017



Theme: True and False Prophets
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Allan Wasley
Readings: Romans 16 :17 - 27, Matthew 7: 13 - 20

Sentence: Just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.
- Matthew 7:20

Prayer for the day:

Loving God and Father, we pray that we hear and accept the truth of Your word. Help us to turn and listen intently to Your words of wisdom and to be open to Your understanding. We know that to treasure Your word and to store it in our hearts and minds is indeed wisdom. Respect and trust in you is the gateway to discernment. Give us greater discernment we pray. Help us to see what is worldly and harmful and what is Godly and helpful. Increase our knowledge and

understanding so that we may love You and all You have created. Most of us are quite good at discerning evil. Please guard our hearts and keep us from all things that you don't want us involved in; even if those things are good things. We so easily get distracted and overwhelmed with good things to do. Help us to help each other in this. Together we pray for the indwelling of your Holy Spirit in our lives as we seek to make Jesus know in all things. We ask this in His name, **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Some Random Thoughts...

Depression - Matty Grant spoke encouraging words to us about Waiting on the Lord. I know many appreciated his message. A sermon is always a snippet. It is never the whole story and so, needs to be taken in context with the whole series.

So our series of Kia Kaha is about ways of coping with life when it is difficult. Matty mentioned briefly that when we feel 'depressed' we should wait on the Lord, and he will restore us. I'm sure if he had more time he would have put a caveat in his sermon. I'm sure he would have said that waiting on the Lord doesn't mean going off medication or assuming that we are going to feel great in a short period of time.

The word 'depression' ranges from feeling a bit low one day to having a seriously debilitating illness that can last for years. Micah gave a very good sermon some time back ...if you want to explore the issue more fully.

How can we best support those with depression; physically, emotionally, spiritually? How can we nurture ourselves in the process? Where is the Lord in all of this?

Unity among churches - Today Revd Allan Wasley is speaking in our church. I am speaking at the Waimea Parish (Brightwater) and Revd Harrison is speaking at Wakefield. We have chosen to swap our pulpits for a number of reasons. One of which is that a change is as good as a rest for all of us – preacher and congregation alike. A much more important reason is to strengthen the unity among our churches.

We can do that in all kinds of ways including participating in the fun quiz on Friday 6 October at Brightwater. (There is no cost for this one!).

When we pray for each other it helps if we know who we are praying for. I know you will welcome Allan warmly and enjoy his ministry here this day. I wonder what questions will arise for you and how you will process them during the week?

Prosperity Gospel - How do we experience God's blessing? What makes us feel blessed?

I wonder if we are aware of how truly blessed we are in Jesus?

Reading from James this week reminded me of the sometimes shonky ideas that are around about what God's blessing is.

Prosperity is as short-lived as a wild flower, so don't ever count on it. you know that as soon as the sun rises, pouring down its scorching heat, the flower withers. Its petals wilt and, before you know it, that beautiful face is a barren stem. Well, that's a picture of the 'prosperous life'. At the very moment everyone is looking on in admiration, it fades away to nothing.

Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is blessed.

For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.

- James 1:9 – 12 (*The Message*)

Dealing with difference - Catherine, David and myself were talking at staff meeting this week about different cultures. It seemed to us that if we wanted to embrace people outside our Christian community then we need to stretch our empathy to others who operate from a different understanding than we do. I believe that principle applies within our own fellowship too.

We share a common faith in Christ; what a tremendous strength this is. Yet we are so different on many different levels; possibly on every other level! And even the way we believe and live out our faith is unique to each of us.

Scratch the surface and there is much we disagree about. In the past there is much we have disagreed about. I guess the new building is one example. Now we are pretty much on the same page and making brilliant progress thanks to our Building Team.

That's not a bad thing. Our diversity enhances our unity if we can express that in ways that are safe and respectful.

In what ways can we encourage participation in our church life? In what ways can we encourage others to give their opinions and genuinely listen to them so that we understand one another better? In what ways can we be an even stronger and more welcoming community than we are right now?

This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other. - John 13:35

and care for God, for each other and for me.

Kia kaha

Learning together in love,

Susan

I very much appreciate the love of God, which I experience through you. Thank you for your love

= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 24 September The Early Church

Next Sunday 1 October 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 - Sovereign Lord we pray for your world asking for your mercy and provision in the need we see in so many places. We pray for Mexico and the Caribbean in the wake of earthquake and typhoon. We pray for the United Nations asking that they use their power for the good of the most vulnerable across this earth. Help us to care for the people and for this fragile blue planet. We pray for our own elections and our Prime Minister. Help the parties form a workable and compassionate government so that our health services are brought up to scratch and housing needs are met. Help the government to be fiscally responsible while finding creative ways to care for the 'least of these'. Please help us to play our part in this too.

Mission Partners - We remember Murray and Féy Cotter involved in church planting and team leadership in Albania. They ask us to pray for a member of Féy's study group who lives with her daughters in an abusive situation. We also pray for wisdom for Murray who is working with her husband. Anoint Murray and Féy with your Spirit as they go about their ministry and protect their family back in New Zealand.

Diocese - We thank you for our sister churches in Golden Bay; especially the Anglican churches at Takaka and Collingwood. We pray that Philip and Linda Lyes enjoy this quieter time of the year with farmers busy lambing and several parishioners on holiday. We also pray for the parish nurse who is not well.

Community - We thank you Lord for the work you are doing in and through Steve and Lyn Rollo at the Church of Christ especially in their Ablaze service on Thursday evenings. Thank you for Steve's heart for those who struggle in life, for the work you are doing through him and Lyn. Especially pray for those newly baptised and ask that you strengthen their love for you and bring growth to them in their discipleship journeys.

We pray for wisdom for the Liquor Licensing Trust as they process the Black Bull application for a new store near the Queen St intersection.

Our Parish - We are grateful for the work and ministry of both AAW (Anglican Association of Women) groups Lord. We pray for Jean McConachie, Anne Webb and their committees. Thank you for the fun they have together, for the pastoral care they provide for their members, and their contribution to our church as a whole.

We give thanks for Susan, the Wardens Karl Summerfield and Dave Pritchard, and the rest of Vestry too. Thank you also for the Building Team and the tender we have accepted for the new building. We pray for a favourable and speedy reception from TDC towards the consents required.

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 25 September

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

Tuesday 26 September

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

Wednesday 27 September

10.00am Wednesday Service
10.00am Tea and Talk
1.30pm Afternoon AAW (J McConachie)

Thursday 28 September

10.30am Café Connection (Wooden Spoon Café)
12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)
5.00pm Evening AAW Shoebox Fill (A Webb)
7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 1 October

9.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Holy Communion

** Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 1 October

7.00pm Taizé Service

Tuesday 3 October

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

Saturday 14 October

9.30 Local House of Prayer Training

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 8 October

Holy Communion

Sunday 22 October

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 1 October - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am J Palmer	10.45am S Gill
Reader:	9.00am A Heslop, V Matthews	10.45am TBA
Sidespeople:	9.00am B Page	10.45am J Green
Welcomer:	9.00am J Lines	10.45am TBA
Chalice:	9.00am B Payne, E Erskine	10.45am S Stephens, C Ward
Tea:	E Erskine, G Thomas	
Flowers:	A Burrough	Creche: M Brosnahan

Theme for Next Sunday: Losing altitude; Kia kaha

Readings for next Sunday: Psalm 69:13-18, 30-33, Matthew 14:22-33

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