



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 25 September 2016



**Theme:** Getting through the night  
**Vicar:** Revd. Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Karl Summerfield  
**Readings:** Psalm 30, John 11:1-45

**Sentence:**  
Jesus wept.

- John 11:35

## Prayer for the day:

We praise you loving God, for you are the all-powerful One who grieves with us. When life throws curved-balls you understand the depths of our pain and despair. You walk beside us in all circumstances. Give us faith to trust you when we have no clue as to why things happen as they do; especially when we can't sense you

with us. Give us hope to believe the sun will rise again in the midst of darkness. And please give us the strength we need, not only to keep going ourselves, but also to comfort others. We pray this in the name of the one who weeps with us, our friend and brother Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## Reflections...



### Love in relationship

I have a book called "Your God is too small". I confess to not even having read it yet – however the title came to mind as I have been reflecting on who God is – especially who the Lord is in relationship.

Evangelical Christians, and others, often talk about the 'persons' of God – the 'persons' who make up the Holy Trinity. Of course we don't mean human persons as such (even though Jesus became flesh in order to reveal the Father and Spirit to us). But God is made up of persons who we relate to: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can have a relationship with each one of the three persons of the Godhead.

Yet the Lord is something more than persons too – much more in fact.

Richard Rohr has been influencing my thinking lately. I've paraphrased some of his thoughts: A lot of our Western thinking comes from Aristotle who taught that there were ten different qualities to all things. Richard focuses on two important qualities – substance and relationship.

Substance is the highest quality. It is independent" of all else and can stand on its own. In early Christian traditions, the West tried to build on Aristotle to prove that this God whom we understood as Trinitarian was a substance. We didn't want a fleeting kind of God. We wanted a substantial God whom we could prove was as good as anybody else's God!

However Jesus called himself the Son of the Father and was one with the Father. His priority is relationship. Our meaning and your identity too, is found in the Father. Jesus says to his Father, "I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent

me, and that you loved them even as you loved me" (John 17:22-23).

Humans are not an independent substance; nor are any parts of creation. Everything exists in radical relationship, which we now call ecosystems, orbits, cycles, and circulatory systems. But to the Western mind, relationship can seem inadequate. "Who wants to just be a relationship? I want to be a self-made man or woman."

Individualism has negatively impacted Western Christianity. Augustine described Trinity as God in three substances united as one. That thinking developed to God as one substance who has three relationships. Aquinas said that God is one substance, but the relationships make up the very nature of that substance. He called it 'subsistent relationship'.

Now we recognise that God does not need to be, "substance" in the sense of something independent of everything else. God is relationship itself.

Richard describes salvation as simply the readiness, the capacity, and the willingness to stay in relationship. "As long as you show up with some degree of vulnerability, the Spirit can keep working. Self-sufficiency makes God experience impossible."

Yet independence is counter-cultural. Jesus showed up in this world as a naked, vulnerable and defenceless baby. Becoming vulnerable means being totally open to the influence of others.

The Way of Jesus is an invitation to a Trinitarian way of living, loving, and relating—on earth as it is in the Godhead. We are invited into the Trinity relatedness. We are invited into vulnerable relationships with each other. This relationship emanating from God is called 'love'.

God is far more than I have imaged him to be in the past. How do we live in Trinitarian love?

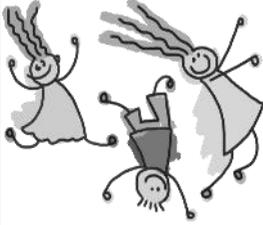
Learning together in love,

*Susan*



## Service times change from next Sunday 2 October

The new times will be **8:45 am** and **10:45 am**. These service times will be in place for a trial period from October 2016 to February 2017 inclusive. In February we will ask your opinion as to how this is working. Then a decision will be made as to whether we stick with the new times or go back to the way things were.



## = KIDZ CHURCH CALENDAR =

**Today Sunday 25 September** - Prince of Egypt

**Next Week Sunday 2 October** - School Holidays - activities at the rear of the 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** – God of peace and justice; we pray for peace in your world, especially for a lasting truce in Syria. We pray for the Governmental leaders around the world, asking that they put aside their own interests so that coexistence. But we dare to ask more than that; knowing you hear our prayers; please bring mutual understanding to the people groups currently at war. We ask for your intervention where the worst humanitarian consequences have occurred: Syria and Iraq, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen, and the Lake Chad basin. We pray for Turkey and Libya. We ask you to prevent the conflict Burundi and the South China Sea from getting any worse. And we thank you for the hopeful example presented by Colombia, where considerable progress is being made toward ending a 51-year insurgency.

**Mission Partners** – Missional God, your desire is for all people to come to know you. Thank you for your Spirit's work through the Corrin family in Central Asia. Continue to draw people to you through them – whether it be through Chris's work mentoring small businesses and working with men, through Catherine and her contacts with women or through the children and their friends. We ask for protection for them all and great opportunities to witness to your goodness.

**Diocese** – As we think about Victory Church in Vanguard St Lord, we thank you for your provision for them to buy the property next door. Now, they ask for your guidance as to what to do with it! They also give thanks for your Holy Spirit's work among them and ask for your deeply challenging work to continue and increase. Please also provide the unity they seek along with a greater vision and energy. "More of you Lord Jesus": is their prayer. We also uphold Greg and Jackie Holmes who lead them.

**Community** – Thank you Lord, for the churches in Waimea and Richmond. We pray for the Catholic church whose journey to amalgamation for the three parishes of Richmond, Motueka and Takaka continues. There have been some bumps but we praise you that they seem to be on a steady path. Thank you for their discovery of the gift of unity in diversity. Please continue your work in and through Father Seph, Lay-pastor Merrick Mitchell and all the parishioners.

We pray for those in need of decent housing in our area - whether they want to rent or buy. We pray that as the land is opened and developed, there would be provision for some kind of affordable housing for those who are not financially well off. We also ask for your hand in the local body elections thanking you for those who put up their hands. May the election process be respectful and the outcome be according to your will.

**Our Parish** – Companion God, thank you for the healing, comfort and strength you bring to those we have prayed for. We continue to pray for Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Laurie D'Eganneh, Sonja, Pam Butler, Val Jordan, Ingrid Blackbeard, Eric Gaffa, David Hollingsworth and others we know. Please surround the residents and staff in rest homes and hospitals in this Parish with your peace and love.

**Special people in our church family** – Lord you satisfy the thirsty and fill the hungry with good things. Establish our hearts in your mercy, Lord: and establish your mercy in our hearts. **Amen.**

## This Week...

### Monday 26 September

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

### Tuesday 27 September

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)  
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)  
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)  
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

### Wednesday 28 September

10.00am Senior's Tea & Talk (Age Concern)  
10.00am Wednesday Service  
2.00pm Afternoon AAW

### Thursday 29 September

12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

### Sunday 2 October **NOTE: New Service Times!**

8.45am Holy Communion  
10.45am Holy Communion

## Coming up...

### Saturday 15 October

11.00am Spring Fair

### Friday 4 November - Sunday 6 November

Murchison Missions Trip

### Friday 17 February - Sunday 19 February 2017

Convergence Camp -Bethany Park Kaiteriteri

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

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 2 October**

**Sunday 16 October**

**Holy Communion**

**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 2 October *Thank you for serving us all!*

**Leader:** 9.00am J McConachie  
**Reader:** 9.00am A Heslop, V Matthews  
**Sidespeople:** 9.00am B Page  
**Welcomer:** 9.00am J Lines  
**Tea:** E Erskine, G Thomas  
**Chalice:** 9.00am B Payne, E Erskine  
**Flowers:** A Burrough

10.30am S Gill  
10.30am M Martin  
10.30am T Manglesdorf  
10.30am L Blackmore  
10.30am V McNaughton, H Thomson,  
E/D Stanger  
**Creche:** M Brosnahan

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Confession and forgiveness

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Psalm 51, John 1:11 - 18

## 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

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## Office Hours

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