



Church on the Hill

Sunday 1 October 2017



Theme: Losing altitude; kia kaha
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Psalm 69:13-18, 30-33, Matthew 14:22-33

Sentence:

But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.
- Mathew 14:30

Prayer for the day:

It is so easy for us to take our eyes off you Dear Lord. When we are vulnerable, and life is hard, we can get things out of perspective. When that happens, things seem worse than they really are. Thank you that even in the midst of very difficult circumstances, we are not without hope. Even in death, the grave is not the last word. Thank you for walking beside us always. Help

us to keep you in the centre of our lives. Help us to love and obey you. Help us to keep faith with each other; reminding ourselves of your great love and purpose for us all. Help us to co-operate with you as you work out that purpose for all of creation. We pray this in the name of Jesus and through the power of your Holy Spirit; one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Justice or Morality?

A recent facebook post quoted the Washington Post in depicting Christianity in an 'either' 'or' kind of way. Here's the post:

And not just in the United States. In many parts of the world it feels as though the church is separating into two versions, one that values personal piety, gentleness, respect for cultural mores, and an emphasis on moral issues like abortion and homosexuality, and another that values social justice, community development, racial reconciliation, and political activism.

One version is kneeling in private prayer. The other is kneeling in public protest.

One is concerned with private sins like abortion. The other is concerned with public sins like racial discrimination.

One preaches a gospel of personal salvation. The other preaches a gospel of political and social transformation.

One is reading the Epistles of Paul. The other is reading the Minor Prophets.

One is listening to Eric Metaxas and Franklin Graham. The other is listening to William Barber and John Perkins.

One is rallying at the March for Life. The other is getting arrested at Moral Monday protests."
www.washingtonpost.com/.../colin-kaepernick-vs-tim-tebow-a-t.../

I have resisted saying much about our national elections but I wonder if our party politics isn't divided along similar lines. National for morality and Labour for justice. (Okay, I know that's very simplistic but it does hold some truth.)

The discussion about justice and morality is not new in Christianity. A major focus on morality tends to be very strongly tied to the Evangelical wing of the church. And there's nothing wrong with morality – especially when we tend to our own morality and ensure we ourselves are

following Christ in that.

Sticking my neck out here, I think the issue that underlies the conflict between Christians over morality or justice is not a Biblical one but a cultural one. Perhaps Christians are influenced far more by the individualistic cult of the West than we are by a Biblical world view.

The Bible was written not written for individuals primarily but for a community. Much of the Bible is concerned with how that community functions in relation to God's world. The whole Bible is important.

All of it must be read and understood through the lens of Jesus Christ and through the suffering of the cross. And there are a lot of personal moral issues that Jesus never addressed.

There's an evangelical group in the US seeking to balance some of the one-sided views evangelicals there hold. (Of course we don't have such biases here ;) The group is called Red Letter Christians – because it focuses on living out the words of Jesus. It was founded by Baptist Pastor Tony Campolo.

Check out their website:
www.redletterchristians.org

There you will find their goal: "To take Jesus seriously by endeavoring to live out His radical, counter-cultural teachings as set forth in Scripture, and especially embracing the lifestyle prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount."

I wonder why we separate Christianity out into focusing on morality or justice? Jesus always put people first. He constantly confronted the powerful groups of people and championed the cause of those on the fringes. Sure he didn't bang on about morality but he lived morally.

Would we Christians be more effective in our work in the world if we did the same? Would more people actually want to follow Jesus if they genuinely saw him in the way we live? What if we learned to say less and love more?

Kia kaha

Learning together in love,

Susan

One Voice, One Day, One Nation - People throughout the world will join together to sing our NZ National Anthem as ONE VOICE at the New Zealand time of 12.00pm, on Sunday 22 October. Will you join churches of New Zealand, standing together in unity; simultaneously declaring our Anthem all across our

country? We will sing and pray the hymn during both services in the morning too.

BTC - The School of Theology is next week! This year's theme is *Discipleship-Shaped Mission*. Come hear a range of speakers on this topic. Registration from 9:30am Friday 6 October. First session at 10.00am Friday. Public Lecture Friday 6 October 7:30pm, Joe McGarry. Saturday 7 October first session at 9:30am
Venue: All Saints Church. No cost – register online at www.bishopdale.ac.nz/schooloftheology, or in person on the day. Come for part, or all of the event.

= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 1 October

Next Sunday 8 October

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 - Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.... Lord of all creation, we pray for this earth which groans with the weight of pollution and violence and disaster. We pray that you would prevent the war of words between Korea and the US from getting out of hand. Please help the central and local governments of Caribbean islands, Mexico and other troubled places to work with aid agencies in bringing relief to their countries. We give thanks for the young women released by Boko Haram back in May. Please help as they adjust to life once again. We also continue to pray for the other over 100 girls still held prisoner.

Mission Partners - Thank you for Chris and Catherine and their family at work in Central Asia. We pray for the children settling back into school after their 9 week visit to NZ. Thank you for Catherine's work teaching Physics, ethics, life skills, and practical financial skills. Praise God that Catherine and the kids visas came through easily. We pray for the slightly more complicated process for Chris's application asking for gracious authorities!

Diocese - Today we remember the parish of Greymouth and Kumara along with Marge Teft and Robin Kingston who lead that parish. We pray for wisdom and energy as they lead their intense service schedule and reach out into the community in Bible in Schools, Hospital and Rest Home ministries, Kids n Coffee and many more ways.

Community - We pray for the Church of Christ at Spring Grove and the elders who oversee the small group of people who worship there. May they continue to be fed by your Word, freed by your Spirit and be aware of our Father's loving embrace for them all.

We pray for wisdom for the Liquor Licensing Trust as they process the Blackbull application for a new store near the Queen St intersection. We also ask for your protection for the Church's Education Commission and the work their many volunteers carry out in schools across Aotearoa. Please help common sense to prevail so they can continue that work.

Our Parish - We thank you Lord for the Senior's ministry in this church and community. Thank you for Evelin and the way she has worked so willingly co-ordinating Lunch on the Hill and other activities. We pray for Yvonne who returns to work this week and ask that she will slot back into place easily and not get too tired physically.

We pray for Susan and all the church leaders, thanking you for them and asking for your wisdom and grace to flow from them. 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 thank you for Elsa's safe return after her mission trip to Fiji. We ask for your healing power and grace for Albertha, Gwen, Anne, Ellie, John Barnes, and any others who need it. We also pray for your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

This Week...

Monday 2 October

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 3 October

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 4 October

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 5 October

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 8 October

9.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Praise on the Hill

Coming up...

Saturday 6 October

7.00pm Inter-parish Quiz night at Brightwater Anglican Church

Saturday 14 October

6.00am Sunrise Walk for Wellbeing

Friday 27 October

5.30pm - 7.30pm Variety Show

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 8 October - Thank you for serving us all!

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|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| Leader: | 9.00am | J Sardella | 10.45am | J Palmer |
| Reader: | 9.00am | M Gibson, D Day | 10.45am | M Tilley |
| Sidespeople | 9.00am | M Gibson | 10.45am | M Tilley |
| Welcomer: | 9.00am | J McConachie | 10.45am | S Lyon |
| Chalice: | 9.00am | G Thomas, M McRae | 10.45am | N/A |
| Tea: | | M Watson, M Evans | | |
| Flowers: | | M Evans | Creche: | M Martin |

Theme for Next Sunday: Whose perspective? Kia kaha

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 49:1-7, Revelation 5:6-14.

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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Website

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm