



Church on the Hill

Sunday 16 December 2018



Theme: Waiting to be Brought Home
Priest in Charge: Ian Smith
Preacher: Ian Smith
Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-18

Sentence:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- Isaiah 40:3

Prayer for the day:

Loving God,
John foresaw repentance, and justice to signal
your coming: shape our lives; sift our thoughts;
weigh our actions; and make us ready for that

great day; through Jesus Christ our Lord who
lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



A Note from the Priest in Charge...

A very warm welcome to our third Sunday in Advent service this morning! Our theme this morning begins to explore the Biblical idea of "Waiting to be Brought Home".

This idea should evoke certain emotions but one of the most poignant must be when our soldiers, fighting in Europe, found themselves sitting in wet trenches, freezing cold, longing to be with their families. The yearning to experience the warmth and joy of gift giving making the distance seem even greater.

In the Biblical narrative our journey to war began when Adam and Eve chose to make themselves the centre of their universe. They worked hard to cover the image of God at their very core and journeyed rather aimlessly into a world soon corrupted by their best endeavours.

Today's Gospel hears the prophetic voice of John asking that these poisonous endeavours be abandoned. Those called are being asked to strip off these endeavours in order to reveal the image of God buried in the very core of humankind. This is what it means to come home... to that place of peace and freedom... where God's life becomes ours and ours becomes God's... And so, this Advent we wait...

Arohanui

Ian

Christmas Giving - Over the Christmas evening services and on Christmas Day we have had a tradition over the years to donate money given at these services to charity. Following Micah Did-Dell's talk in November about the House of Bread Church in Bethlehem and their generous gift of olive wood communion cups, Vestry felt it was appropriate to support the House of Bread Church with these special offerings over Christmas, when our thoughts are already on Bethlehem.

Rosters - A big thank you to everyone who has served us in the past year. Please could you check the lists at the back of the church and indicate by a tick or a cross whether or not you wish to continue serving February - July 2019. If you are not sure at the moment just put a question mark. Thank you. Jean Palmer

Carol singing around the parish - Tuesday 18 December. Meet at church at 6.30pm. There is a list at the back of the church for you to fill in if you would like to be part of this as a singer or guitar player or could provide us with a couple of flower posies or little packs of biscuits. We will meet back at the church for some supper afterwards. If you know some one who would appreciate a visit please put their name on the sheet also or contact Jan South Ph 544 8413.

Honey - Building Fundraiser. 500gm \$7.50/1kg \$15.00 /2kg \$25. Contact Anne Askin Ph.542 3284.

Church open for Prayer - The Church is open for prayer each Monday (except public holidays) from 9.00am - 2.00pm. All welcome.

Church Property - Please check with Anne Askin if you want to remove or place anything in the Church. Phone 542 3284

Convergence Family Camp - 15-17 February 2019 at Bethany Park, Kaiteriteri Beach. The theme is *Information* with speaker Spanky Moore. Register - Online: www.stbarnabas.co.nz/convergence-camp or Mail: PO Box 2514 Stoke Nelson 7041. Brochures at back of church.

Children and Families - Do you have a passion for sharing the gospel with children? Do you desire to help families progress in life and faith? We want to provide an opportunity for you to work out your gifts. Our church needs the right person to work with children and families in our community. Depending on the giftings of the person appointed, the job description will be adapted but it will include teaching of children. Because this will be a 15-20 hour a week position, we can work in with Bishopdale Theological College to arrange an internship so that you can study as well as work. Please send your CV and a covering letter to church.onhill@xtra.co.nz or post to 27 Dorset Street, Richmond 7020 asap.

Seniors Coordinator - Is working with our seniors a job for you? Our Priest in Charge and Wardens are seeking expressions of interest from anyone amongst our congregation who might be interested in helping us coordinate our ministry to seniors. The Revd Yvonne Smyth, who resigns her position on 20 December, has effectively carried out this work and we need to try and replace her. The employment details would be worked out in conjunction with the expertise any interested party might bring. If this rouses any interest in you please get in touch with Revd Ian Smith by phone (021 02743043) or email (ian1217@icloud.com) by the 21st December 2018. Thanks!

Prayers for the Week

World – We pray for Yemen, after nearly four years of civil war, where an estimated 8 million people are on the brink of famine. We thank you for the recent breakthrough in peace talks in Stockholm and pray that the much needed humanitarian aid will now flow freely in that country. May the good words said around the table be translated into a real cease fire throughout the country.

We pray for Christians in the Middle East whose plight has recently been highlighted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Prince Charles. We thank you for those who have returned to parts of Iraq where they were forced out by ISIS, help them to rebuild their communities and grant them political stability. We pray for the Christian refugees from the conflicts in the Middle East that you will provide safe havens for them.

Missions – We pray for Murray and Féy Cotter. We thank you for their work in Albania and more widely in the Balkans, may that work continue to grow and prosper. Help them both to readjust to life in New Zealand. Help Murray to be refreshed by a time of relaxation and help him to see where he can continue his ministry. Bless Féy and her continued contacts with the work in Europe.

Diocese – We pray for the Waimea Parish at Brightwater with Martin and Pippa Harrison. We thank you for leading Martin and Pippa to Kaikoura and pray your abundant blessing on them as they go. Guide the church in Brightwater as they look to replace Martin and bless their Christmas services.

Local area – Today we pray for the unity of the churches in this area. We thank you for the Waimea Ministers Association and the annual covenant they make to one another. Encourage their day to day contacts with one another that their unity be seen more prominently by the local Christian community and by the community at large.

Parish – We continue to pray that the person of your choice will hear your clear call to be the next vicar of this church. Guide Bishop Richard and the nominators as they seek your will for the future of the leadership of this church and for the diocese as a whole as it seeks a new bishop.

We thank you for Yvonne and all the work she has done as Seniors' Worker. Help the church to put in place adequate pastoral care for our seniors after she leaves. Raise up someone to take Yvonne's place in this important area of our parish's work.

We thank you our young people and pray that you will continue to lead them as they seek your guidance on the future. Raise up we pray someone with a God inspired passion for working with children and families that we might see growth in this area.

We thank you for progress on the new building and ask your blessing on further funding applications that have been submitted to reduce our financial shortfall.

For those we know who are suffering at this time, may they know your peace, comfort and healing. We pray particularly for those who mourn the loss of close family. All these prayers we ask in the name of Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

This Week...

Monday 17 December

9.00am Church open for Prayer
9.30am Friends 'n Fun

Tuesday 18 December

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)
10.00am Fortnightly Bible Study Group (E Erskine)
6.30pm Carols around the parish
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

Wednesday 19 December

10.00am Reflective Service

Thursday 20 December

9.30am Friends 'n Fun
10.30am Café Connection (Y Smyth)
12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 23 December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Praise on the Hill

Coming up...

Monday 24 December *Christmas Eve*

11.30pm Candlelight Communion

Tuesday 25 December *Christmas Day*

9.00am Holy Communion
11.30am Community Christmas Dinner

Sunday 30 December

9.00am Combined Communion

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 23 December

Morning Prayer

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Service

Sunday 13 January

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 23 December - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	J Sardella	10.30am	John Palmer
Reader:	9.00am	S Frengley, M Reynolds	10.30am	L Milligan
Sidesperson	9.00am	J Lines	10.30am	J Green
Welcomer:	9.00am	A Webb	10.30am	S Milligan
Chalice:	9.00am	S Frengley, S Paine	10.30am	N/A
Tea:		M Mercer, S Paine		
Flowers:		A Burrough	Crèche	S Milligan

Theme for Next Sunday: A Ruler from One of the Little Clans

Readings for Next Sunday: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-45

Parish Contacts

Priest in Charge	Ian Smith	021 0274 3043	People's Warden	Dave Pritchard	544 5314
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Vicar's Warden	Karl Summerfield	03 970 2438
Senior's Ministry	Yvonne Smyth	542 3957	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Youth Leader	Joshua Allan-Johns	027 711 6800	Administrator	David Cowdrey	027 499 8684

Holy Trinity Church

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Website

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

Office Hours

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