



Church on the Hill

Sunday 19 November 2017



Theme: Amazing Love
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Bishop Richard
Readings: 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

Sentence:

What marvellous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it - we're called children of God!
- 1 John 3:1

Prayer for the day:

God of love, we are reminded today that your blessings often don't follow earthly logic. The world believes that the rich are blessed, but Jesus reminds us that the poor in spirit are blessed. We pray for a more just world in which all have enough and none are left behind.

Though we avoid death's inevitable arrival, Jesus tells us that those who mourn are blessed. Help us to experience the truth of this mystery; bring healing and wholeness to those who are sick; and comfort those of us who have lost loved ones.

While people covet power, Jesus blesses the meek. May we follow Jesus in the ways of humility; help us to stand with the oppressed and see your face in those the world forgets. Give us a hunger and thirst for righteousness;

fill our hearts with love, overflowing with mercy; make our hearts pure, and give us a vision of your glory.

In a society divided by so many labels that we alone have created, remind us that we are all created in your image, each of us your beloved child. Help us to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation.

Gracious God, you have so richly blessed us with life, love and joy; with hope in the midst of despair. Help us to be the salt of the earth and shed your light into the world, sharing with others that which we have received, boldly proclaiming the good news of your love, and letting your way grow in our lives and throughout the world. We pray in Jesus' name and for his glory, **Amen.**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Engaging in clear conversations

Who noticed that my heading last week was 'Creating safe conversions'? I meant to write 'Creating safe conversations'! I only noticed it now as I re-read it in the light of what I wanted to talk about today which continues with the theme of how we communicate. Specifically I'd like to consider the dangers of not speaking normally especially of using 'Christianese'.

We can fall into the habit of using Christian jargon or slang – Christianese! When we do this it means that normal people ie those who don't regularly inhabit churches do not understand what the heck we are on about. Using jargon can also limit our own thinking and even perpetuate dodgy theology.

Here are some examples:

- Anointing of the Spirit
- Arrow prayer
- Covered by Jesus' blood
- Covet prayer (I covet your prayers)
- Divine appointment
- Fellowship
- God-incidence
- God of second chances
- Hedges of protection
- Laying out a fleece
- Put on our armour
- The sinner's prayer
- Travelling mercies
- Washed in the blood

And I haven't even come to theological terms like salvation, sanctified, justified, meta-narrative of

the Bible. Someone said recently that Christians are becoming counter-cultural in increasingly irrelevant ways. Using weird words is one of those ways. it isolates us. Then we wonder why we don't have the courage to speak about our faith. Maybe speaking about Jesus is scary because we don't have the words. Here's a suggestion: let's find them again. Let's speak like normal people in church and when we are together with our Christian friends. Let's spend some time thinking about how we could talk to our unchurched friends about the person who matters most in the world to us (hoping that's Jesus;).

I invite you to think for a moment about the word 'repentance'. What does that mean to you? What other words come to mind?

Now if we were talking to someone who doesn't understand much about Christianity we could explain that word to them. We could but ... explaining words takes time and can make people feel dumb for needing an explanation.

Another way is to replace the word. What would you replace the word 'repentance' with? Maybe: turning back to God or turning away from selfishness? What everyday words would you use?

Today Bishop Richard is talking to us about the amazing love of God. God's love is such good news! So many people today feel unloved and unlovely. How might you talk about God's genuine, unconditional, faithful love to those around you – using normal language?

Learning together in love,

Susan

Christmas gifts - Buy sets of specially wrapped preserves and give them at Christmas. You can choose which preserves you would like included. \$20 for four jars. Samples and a clipboard for your orders at the back of the church. If you have any questions please phone Shiona 544 4155.

Year to Date Financial Results October 2017

October Results	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date	Variance
Income	\$17,833	\$16,460	\$1,373	\$136,408*	\$164,603	(\$28,195)
Expenditure	\$13,089	\$16,189	\$3,100	\$162,791*	\$174,747	(\$11,956)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,744	\$271	\$4,473	(\$26,383)	(\$10,144)	(\$16,239)

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

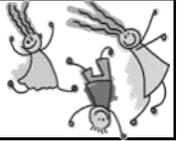
An evening service of extended praise and worship - Christians are all kinds of people, for some singing does little, for others singing is an expression of their praise and worship which leads to an encounter with God. Shirley Jackson and John Palmer will lead an hour of singing, Scriptural readings, listening and responding to God. This has been on their hearts for some time and it will give an opportunity for those who delight in this type of worship to have something in their own local church. Initially we would envisage this happening every other month. Please pray as we seek to see how God will lead us to develop this type of service. We already have a Taizé style service for those who appreciate a more meditative atmosphere, this new service would give opportunity for others to share together in something a little different. Next Sunday 26 November @ 7.00pm

= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 19 November TBA **Next Sunday 26 November** TBA

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 – Oh Lord sort us out please. One evil government is overthrown and another seems to replace it. Terrorism and hatred and self-interest thrive. Your world gets increasingly warmer. Yet we know you send the rain on the just and unjust. We cry out to you Creating and Sustaining God; God of justice and love. Show your people how to love and how to truly make a difference in this world. Stir us from our apathy. Cause us to pray and to act!

Mission Partners – We thank you for Christine Coussell's recent visit with us and pray for her as she moves into her new home in December. Thank you for the visitors she is looking forward to welcoming and that she will be among friends over the Christmas season. Please comfort her as she continues to mourn the loss of her beloved Allan.

Diocese – We thank you for the Rev. Victorian Askin ministering in Spring Creek near Blenheim. She has grown from our midst and we are so proud of her. Companion her always and give her wisdom and guidance as she leads that small church. May they be open to moving onwards and outwards into the community with the Good News about Jesus. Thanks for Messy Church going well and prayer for a Community of Healing beginning next year.

And we praise you for Bishop Richard and Hilary being with us today, and for their leadership of our Diocese. Please give them wisdom, good boundaries, and some fun times in the midst of all the busyness. May they have fresh vision, perseverance and a renewed sense of being loved by you.

Community – We pray for Richmond New Life Church planted many years by Steve and Kathy King. Thank you for their continued care for others and growing teaching roles locally and in other places. We thank you for the Senior Pastors Jono and Vanessa Martin and ask for your grace on their leadership. We pray for their busy family asking that they will grow together and in you. We pray your blessing on the businesses in our community and ask for healthy growth for the horticulture, viticulture and the orchards in this area. We continue to pray for the workers and supervisors on the Queen St upgrade.

Our Parish - We ask for your protection over our people and premises. Susan, and our Vestry need your wisdom as they lead our parish; especially working through finalizing a very tough budget for next year.

We also ask you to continue to pour out your love and grace on Albertha, Gwen, Ellie, Margaret, and others known to us. Please be with the residents and staff of the rest homes and retirement villages in our parish.

And especially offer your comfort to Val Barnes, her family and for all who knew and loved John. We thank you that he didn't suffer during the dying process and that he has known and loved you and your church. His life is safe with you.

This Week...

Monday 20 November

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 21 November

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 22 November

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 23 November

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 26 November

9.00am Holy Communion*

10.45am Praise on the Hill

7.00pm Extended Praise and Worship

** Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Friday 1 December

5.00pm Friends and Fun Christmas Party

Sunday 3 December

7.00pm Remembering at Christmas

Sunday 10 December

6.00pm Family Carol Service

Sunday 17 December

7.00pm Lessons and Carols

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 26 November Morning Prayer

Sunday 10 December 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 26 November - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	J McConachie	10.45am	J Palmer
Reader:	9.00am	J McConachie, P Jordan	10.45am	TBA
Sidespeople	9.00am	J Lines	10.45am	M Martin
Welcomer:	9.00am	S Entwistle	10.45am	TBA
Chalice:	9.00am	S Frengley, P Jordan	10.45am	N/A
Tea:		V McNaughton, D Martin		
Flowers:		A Burrough	Creche:	G Thomson

Theme for Next Sunday: Creative Solutions; Kia kaha

Readings for next Sunday: Exodus 30:30 - 35, Matthew 13:31 - 36

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