



Church on the Hill

Sunday 20 November 2016



Theme: Celebrating Aotearoa
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Psalm 136:1 – 9 and 25 – 26, Mark 4:26 - 34

Sentence:

God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

- *Genesis 1:31*

Prayer for the day:

Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery. Yours is the inspiration that has shaped our lives in this land of Aotearoa New Zealand. Thank you for Maori and Pakeha and all who inhabit this place. Yours is the power that has

brought us to new dangers and opportunities. Set us, your new creation, to walk through this land, watching and learning, loving and trusting, caring and nurturing, until your kingdom comes in all its fullness. **Amen.**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Speaking love instead of 'stupid'

One of the things that happen as we get older is that we become more direct in our speech. We care less if others don't understand us. That is a good thing I think. I notice it in myself too. As a Christian I know that my identity is found in Christ; not in being a good wife or Vicar or anything else at all. The Lord loves me. It's great when others do too. (Thanks for all the birthday love btw.) But when they don't, that is okay too.

Maybe a particular 'bishop' up North subscribes to this theory. However his particular brand of speaking it as he sees it is often harmful and hurtful and just plain stupid in my view.

A few years back now, a lovely young singer/songwriter had lunch with some of us in the Vicarage after church one Sunday. (We didn't know who she was. Micah and some others took her out and showed her some of our sights.) She and I remain Facebook friends. Here is her wise Facebook response to said 'bishop':

I didn't want to give Brian Tamaki's comments this week any time or energy, but why not speak love where he has spoken hate?

I buried my head in the sand with Trump which I've been made to vaguely regret. This mess is much closer to home.

Unfortunately as humans we have the tendency to deal with our inner anxiety/fear/uncertainty by finding an enemy and dehumanising them in thoughts and actions. It makes us feel better about ourselves. We build walls so that we can forget "they" are just like us. I found this clip of Mike Hosking and Bob Parker to be beautiful and quite insightful. I love that they could confidently say "this is not what I know Christianity to be." Parker calls for other Christians and theologians to engage. See:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/its-disgusting-sir-bob-parker-outraged-over-brian-tamakis-shocking-christchurch-quake-comments>

There is a Christianity that is charged by love, that is gentle, that is open, that is thinking, that is humble, that is brave, that embraces the "other", that evolves with humanity, that doesn't think it knows everything. It took me 26 years to find it.

The singer/songwriter is Lydia Colè and she is a very wise young woman.

Perhaps the title for my comments here are not very kind or loving. But I am over people who bring Jesus and his followers into disrepute. Yes we need to pray for Brian Tamaki and we need to pray for Donald Trump. At the same time, when someone is saying stuff that is stupid and distances people from ever wanting to follow Jesus, then people who try to follow Jesus need to respond.

Some of you have asked how we can help those affected by earthquakes practically. The Diocese are coordinating a children's appeal and also looking for volunteers to provide short term accommodation for those affected by the quake. Details are on the *Earthquake* page of today's Pewsnews.

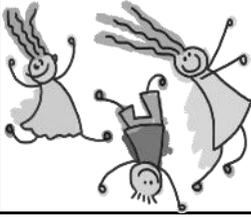
Lord Jesus, please somehow enable your followers to bring people closer to you and not to push them away. Charge us with your love, that is gentle, that is open, that is thinking, that is humble, that is brave, that embraces the "other", that evolves with humanity, that doesn't think it knows everything. Be with the people affected by the earthquakes. Surround them with your love and let no condemnation or further trouble fall on them. Amen

Learning in love,

Susan

Tea and Talk - 10.00am -11.30am Wednesday 23 November in the Richmond Seniors rooms, adjacent to the Age Concern Offices, Oxford Street. The cost is \$3.00 to cover morning tea. Park at the church if it is easier!

Church open for Prayer - Join in on Monday from 9.00am to 2.00pm to pray for your personal needs, our parish, our community and the world. Coffee and prayer. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 20 November - Mystery Guest!

Sunday 27 November - Christmas Carol Practice, make decorations

Sunday 4 December - Christmas Party

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 - Our hearts go out to those civilians who are trapped in Aleppo and Mosul, open up the ways for them to safely leave and to receive the food and water they need for life. Grant a change in the hearts of those on all sides of the conflict to put compassion before military gain. We remember the new government in waiting in the United States and pray that men and women of wisdom, insight and godly vision may be appointed to the new administration. We pray for the Christian governor of Jakarta, Ahok Purnama, who has been named as a suspect in a case of alleged blasphemy of insulting the Qur'an. He is a Christian from a Chinese ethnic group and the case is seen as a test for Indonesia's commitment to religious and racial freedom.

New Zealand - We especially remember today all those who have suffered loss of homes and livelihoods in the recent earthquakes, particularly those in Kaikoura and Seddon and Ward. Bless the efforts of all who seek to bring help, comfort, housing and to restore communications and services to those badly affected. We give thanks for the limited loss of life but we pray for those who have lost family members. Give wisdom to central and local government as they plan major repair works.

Mission Partners - We pray today for Phil and Becky Sussex and their family in Cambodia. Give them wisdom and discernment as they prepare to complete their time in Cambodia and prepare for their return to New Zealand. Give special guidance to Phil that he will make wise decisions about the handing over and sharing out of equipment to those who are committed to carrying on the clinic work.

Diocese - We give thanks for Phil and Greta Greenwood and their team at St Barnabas, Stoke and pray Your continuing guidance in their work in the parish. Bless and encourage Luke Shaw as he prepares for ordination on 30 November, and Kathy King as she leads the continued growth and success of the seniors outreach ministry through lunches, trips and seminars. Bless and guide in the preparation of the upcoming Christmas events: Shine - Carols on the Lawn, Christingle, and their Christmas Services that people in their community would be touched with the true message of Christmas.

Local community - We pray for Jono and Vanessa Martin and Steve and Cathy King and their team as they lead Richmond New Life Church. Bless their work among the young people and help them to both spread the gospel and also to build true disciples of Jesus among all the folk of their congregation.

Our Parish - We thank you for the enthusiasm of the new Building Group as they prepare the latest iteration of the building plans. Guide and overrule in all their thoughts and discussions that we and they might see what Your plans and agenda are for this new building and for the activities You want us to be developing. Guide Susan, the Wardens and the Vestry as they seek to lead this church, give them unity and Your vision.

Those in need within our own church family - Please be with Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Laurie D'Eganneh, Pam Butler, Val Jordan, Ingrid Blackbeard, Eric Gafa, Christopher and Sonja and others we know. May Your peace, healing and comfort surround them, and grant them the abiding sense of Your presence with them. We also pray for the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

This Week...

Monday 21 November

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 22 November

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 23 November

10.00am Senior's Tea & Talk (Age Concern)
10.00am Wednesday Service

Thursday 24 November

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W.Wilkinson, J Lines)
7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 27 November

8.45am Holy Communion
10.45am Praise on the Hill

Coming up...

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 27 November

Sunday 11 December

Morning Prayer

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 27 November *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader:	8.45am S. Gill	10.45am M Did-Dell
Reader:	8.45am J McConachie, P Jordan	10.45am J Sardella
Sidespeople:	8.45am J Lines	10.45am M Martin
Welcomer:	8.45am S Entwistle	10.45am M Ross
Tea:	V McNaughton, N Thomas	
Chalice:	8.45am S Frengley, P Jordan	10.45am N/A
Flowers:	A Burrough	Creche: Glenda Thomson

Theme for Next Sunday: Wonderful Counsellor

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 2:1 – 5, Matthew 24:35 - 44

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			

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Office Hours

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