



Richmond Parish News

Sunday 23 December 2018



Theme: A Ruler from One of the Little Clans
Priest in Charge: Ian Smith
Preacher: Ian Smith
Readings: Micah 5:2 - 5a, Luke 1:39 - 45

Sentence:

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure...
- Micah 5:4

Prayer for the day:

Majestic God! You who moves powerfully through the little things, through those who feel insignificant. Open our eyes as we worship you

today, to see your strength in our weakness and be overwhelmed by your faithfulness and love.
Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



A Note from the Priest in Charge...

A very warm welcome to our last Sunday in Advent and today we will be looking at the significance of the insignificant... a very strong biblical theme.

So, when God calls through the prophet Micah (a shorter version of Micaiah meaning 'who is like YHWH?'), "a ruler from one of the little clans", we should pause and give some thought as to what this might signal in God's working with humankind. We will begin our reflection then, by asking; what does it mean to be insignificant? At the root of insignificance lies the idea of being too small or unimportant to be worth consideration.

It describes a person without power or influence, or, 'without a voice'. It also finds its expression in what we call today, meaninglessness.

Ah, you might say, this describes me exactly! And, if this is true, you are in very good Advent company, for most of those chosen for some role in the ministry of God; to see God's son born, raised, educated, into a trade, then into ministry, were exactly these types of people!

So then, let us in our worship today, present ourselves afresh to God so that God's Spirit might work through our smallness into the greatness of all that God is building among us in this Advent time! Grace and Peace!!!

Arohanui

Ian

Missing? - If you lost some cash in the church recently could you please talk to Jean or John Palmer or Shiona Frengley.

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

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.

Time Capsule - Any photos or items to go in the Time capsule can be left at the office.

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 the Christian refugees from the conflicts in the Middle East that you will provide safe havens for them, as you provided a safe place for the Holy Family when they fled persecution.

Help our neighbour Tonga to cope with the rise in use of the drug methamphetamine, may the churches take the lead in providing wisdom, care and counsel and a call to the nation to prayer and godly action.

Missions – We pray for the Corin and Hughes families at this time of Christmas, where their thoughts turn to family here in New Zealand. Help Chris and Catherine and N & R to make Christmas special for the children, even in a culture that does not celebrate the coming of the Christ. Encourage their work for you, as they seek to minister to the needy and to lift the impoverished out of hardship and to bring the light of Jesus to their neighborhoods.

Diocese – We pray for the Wairau Valley Parish with Joe and Susan Keighley. We thank you for their Christmas Tree Festival which can attract over 1000 people through their church. May those visiting encounter something of the real Christmas story through what they see. We pray that the Renwick and Wairau Valley church communities will continue to seek to find new ways to open doors and open hearts to the gospel. Help the Wairau Parish to offer support to other parishes in the Marlborough region during this difficult time of change in many parishes.

Local area – Today we pray for Richmond Community Church with Ross and Yvonne Ferguson. We pray for families who are struggling financially, especially for one family in a major financial crisis in their community that the church is supporting. We pray for two missionary families that the church supports, for Simon Bourn in France for total healing for a brain tumour and for the Langdon family in Korea whose eldest child has leukemia and the youngest child has been diagnosed with Down's Syndrome.

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 the diocesan and parish nominators as they seek your will for the future leadership of this church and of 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 24 December

11.30pm Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday 25 December

9.00am Holy Communion Service
11.30am Community Christmas Dinner
Richmond School Hall

Sunday 30 December

9.00am Combined Holy Communion

Coming up...

Monday 7,14,21,28 January

9.00am - 2.00pm Church Open for Prayer

Tuesday 8, 15, 22, 29 January

10.00am Tea and Company at back of Church

Thursday 10,17,24, 31 January

10.00am Women's Morning Tea
Ph. 544 5007 Val Matthews for information.

*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 25 December

Leader: 9.00am I Price
Reader: 9.00am C Barack, G Clover
Sidesperson: 9.00am J Lines
Welcomer: 9.00am G Thomas
Chalice: 9.00am G Thomas, E Erskine
Tea:
Flowers: D Martin

Roster for 30 December

9.00am J South
9.00am K South, S Entwistle
9.00am E Erskine
9.00am S Entwistle
9.00am B Lash, F Murbach
9.00am F Murbach, J Murbach
Crêche TBA

Theme for Next Sunday: My Father's House? Where?

Readings for Next Sunday: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 & Luke 2. 41-52

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	Position Vacant		Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Youth Leader	Position Vacant		Administrator	David Cowdrey	027 499 8684

Holy Trinity Church

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Website

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

Office Hours

Office closed from
Friday 21 December 2018
Re-opens Monday 21 January 2019