



Church on the Hill

Sunday 26 November 2017



Theme: Creative Solutions - Kia Kaha
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Exodus 35:30 - 35, Matthew 13:31 - 36

Sentence:

Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.
- John 21:25

Prayer for the day:

O Great Creator, we are gathered together in your name to worship you and serve each other. We offer ourselves to you and open ourselves to your creativity in our lives. We surrender to you our old ideas. We welcome your new and more expansive ideas. We trust that you will lead us and know it is safe to follow you. We know you created us and that creativity is your nature and ours too. We ask you to unfold our lives according to your plan, not our

low self-worth. Help us to believe it is not too late; neither are we too small or too flawed To be healed by you and through each other. Help us to love one another, to nurture each other's unfolding, to encourage each other's growth and understand each other's fears. Help us to know that we are not alone; that we are loved and lovable. May all our creations and creative processes by acts of worship to you. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Fearing God?

“Are we supposed to fear God? And if we did, would that be a good thing?” asks Benjamin Corey, in various blogs and in a book I’ve just begun reading. It’s called ‘Unafraid’.

As a child he was taught that he “was the depraved sinner who was so bad inside that I had earned an eternity of torment And not only had I already earned an eternity in the flames of hell– but my “loving” Heavenly Father was prepared to toss me into the lake of fire himself.

...Being tossed into a lake of molten lava wouldn’t even kill me– the punishment the seven-year-old version of me had earned was so severe, that I would actually live forever and ever and ever, being tortured and burned alive in the flames of God’s hell.”

The Bible does seem to describe having “fear” of God as a good thing but is what we describe as “fear” what the really Bible means? And how do we relate to someone we are scared to death of? Corey lost his faith in that kind of God and rebuilt a Christian faith centred upon Jesus.

That is where his book is coming from.

Corey says he “came to realize that the only way to describe what God is like is to describe what Jesus is like. Jesus claimed that he and the Father were one, and that when we see what Jesus is like, we’ll see what God is actually like. Even when the Gospel of John begins to introduce us to Jesus, it first reminds us that no one had actually seen God before that moment.

It is God who trades up the opportunity to spend his time with the religiously pure, opting instead to recline at the table with messy people like me.

It is God who storms the halls of exclusive religion, who is busy disrupting the peace of those comfortably inside, and who clears a space for the outsiders.

It is God who stands with the condemned, boldly telling the crowd to put their stones down.

It is God who turns to them– turns to us– and says, “Neither do I condemn you.”

It is God who came and who so desperately wanted us to finally see what he is truly like, that he allowed himself to be raised high in the air on a hill outside Jerusalem for all to see.

It is God who exposed the vicious lie that we should fear him in the most dramatic plot-twist of all time– because it was God who refused to retaliate when we mocked him, spat upon him, pierced his body, and left him to die.

Even in that moment when his blood dripped and his body writhed in agony– a moment that would provoke rage and anger and hate in anyone– he looked upon the faces of those who did it, and forgave them.”

I’m looking forward to reading this book which discusses some of the issues that concern me too. I’m also reading (very slowly) a two book tome called *Crucifixion of the Warrior God*. That one deals with the violence portrayed especially in the Old Testament. Oh, and I have a novel on the go too. Need a little lightness while dealing with these heavy but important topics.

Learning together in love,

Susan

Annual Budget 2018 - The Finance Team are currently working on next year’s budget and a deficit is looming. To assist us to manage this situation we are asking for sponsors the pay for the monthly page in the Waimea Weekly, \$550.00 a month. We are fortunate to have a capable group of people who work hard to prepare this page each month. The coverage that is achieved makes this a very missional publication and an excellent way to place the activities of the Church on the Hill and St Alban’s in the public eye. We would love to hear from people who would be prepared to pay for a month or months to enable us to continue with this outreach. If this sounds like something that you could do I would love to hear from you. We don’t want the money until next year, just prior to the month that you sponsor. If this is something that you could do, would you please contact me this month on 544 5314 or 027 544 5314 or email me at dpnikki@xtra.co.nz Thanks very much. Dave Pritchard, People’s Warden.

Youth Ministry - In a “Big Faith” move we are currently investigating appointing a Youth Ministry Intern to work in our church with our younger members. Again, “the money,” is an issue and we will need \$25,000 + If you could see your way clear to support this next year, I would love to hear from you. Same contact details as above. Thanks for reading this and giving it some prayerful attention. Dave

Decorating the church for Xmas: Want to help? We have been given a brilliant start by Kidz church, and need to finish some panels on the theme of the advent wreath and then decorate the church. Do you have a small Xmas tree and decorations we can use at the back of the church? If you can help please phone Shiona 544 4155

Seeking Work - My name is Deborah Curtis and I am looking for work; a bit less than full time, starting after Christmas. I have a variety of skills including administrative ability. I have a wide range of office experience and am an effective communicator. At the same time I am willing to try most things. Currently I am temping at the hospital and thinning pears in an orchard. I live in Hope and you can contact me on 027 345 8963. I'd really appreciate you praying for me and mentioning me if you know of anyone who is looking for a good employee.

10.45am Sunday Service Computer Operator - Are you comfortable with computer work? We are looking for volunteers to do run the computer. Training will be given. Ph. 544 0460 Margaret Martin or the office for more information.

Café Connection - All invited to The Wooden Spoon Café 10:30 am Thursday 30 November. See you there, Yvonne Smyth Elder Care Team Leader.

Final Lunch on Hill - You are all invited to the final Lunch on the Hill for 2017, Tuesday 5 December, diary it now! Yvonne Smyth Elder Care Team Leader.

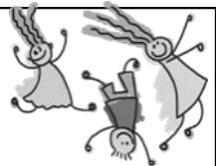
= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 26 November TBA

Next Sunday 3 December 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 – Almighty God we pray for Zimbabwe asking for a return to democracy and good government. We ask for justice for all who commit war crimes and for their victim's and families. Please provide for those who find themselves homeless whether it is because of natural disasters or economic and social factors. Help our own government in these early days, to establish good and fair policies that will mean all in Aotearoa have access to good health care, education and the necessities of life.

Mission Partners – We thank you for the good health care our partners in Asia received in Turkey and for the good natured acceptance of all the procedures and tests that were necessary. We pray for the doctors as they review the results. Give them discernment so they may make a correct diagnosis and offer the right treatment.

Diocese – We remember our neighbours in the Stoke Anglican Parish, giving thanks for the leadership of Phil and Greta Greenwood. We pray for them, for Luke Shaw and the rest of the ministry team there. May the presence of the church right in the centre of the community result in new people coming to know you and experience your love.

Community – We pray for Hope Community Church and the Senior Pastors Donald and May Irvine. Please give them wisdom and discernment as they lead the large staff team and work at sharing the Good News of Jesus outside their church. Their prayer is that their church would grow with more people coming to know you rather than transfer growth.

Our Parish – We are so grateful for the many people who volunteer in our church and community. Much of what they do goes unnoticed but they persevere anyway. Please help us to notice what others do for us and appreciate them. Pour out your blessing on your servants. Also be with 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. We continue to ask for comfort for the Barnes and Crundwell families as they mourn.

Mission Partners – We thank you for the good health care Sophia Corin (Chris and Catherine's youngest daughter) received in Turkey and for her good natured acceptance of all the procedures and tests that

This Week...

Monday 27 November

7.00pm Men's Forum (J. Klootwyk)
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 28 November

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

Wednesday 29 November

10.00am Wednesday Service
10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 30 November

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

Sunday 3 December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Holy Communion
7.00pm Remembering at Christmas

** Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Friday 1 December

5.00pm Friends and Fun Christmas Party

Tuesday 5 December

11.30am Lunch on the Hill Christmas Lunch

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 3 December - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am S Gill	10.45am S Gill
Reader:	9.00am A Heslop, V Matthews	10.45am M Martin
Sidespeople	9.00am B Page	10.45am TBA
Welcomer:	9.00am J Lines	10.45am TBA
Chalice:	9.00am E Erskine	10.45am V McNaughton, H Thomson, E/D Stanger
Tea:	E Erskine, G Thomas	
Flowers:	M Evans	Creche: M Brosnahan

Theme for Next Sunday: Jesus is coming!

Readings for next Sunday: Jeremiah 29:4 - 11, Mark 13:24 - 37

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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www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm