



Church on the Hill

Sunday 4 December 2016



Theme: Mighty God
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Isaiah 11:1 - 10, John 1:19 - 27

Sentence:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6

Prayer for the day:

Gracious Lord, we thank you for your promises and for coming to earth as our Wonderful Counsellor. As we begin our Advent journey, help us to know the abiding hope that comes

from knowing that you will keep your promises to us. May we radiate that hope in everything we say and do. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Mighty God

As I've been reflecting on who our Mighty God is, two things come to mind; finances and the crazy Christmas season:

Each month we give you a financial update albeit a very brief one. As we near the end of the year, I want to give thanks to our Mighty God who has provided for us very well this year. In fact, this is the first year since I have been Vicar that we have not had to draw down trust funds simply to keep our budget in the plus. In previous years it has been approximately \$1500 per month we have needed on top of donated income.

Our Mighty God has worked through his people in spite of our attendance being down slightly. Certainly a bequest of \$70,000 was a wonderful surprise. Those monies have been put into an accessible trust in the meantime – most likely they will go towards an Assistant type person who will work with the under 40s as well as undertake administrative tasks that will free me up to work in my gifting's.

A few times this year we have asked for money for specific projects. Again our Lord has worked through his people and you have always responded positively. Thank you so much!

So that is one way in which I have seen our Mighty God at work this year.

As the crazy season is upon us, I've been pondering other ways in which I see the Lord at work. It occurs to me that I see God's hand more often if I have time to observe and reflect.

Busyness distracts me from seeing and learning from and working with our Mighty God. In some ways it actually limits the power of God because I have little time to connect with others as well.

So ...this Christmas season I am trying to avoid being too busy. To date my efforts are only mildly successful but I'm not giving up. I am choosing as carefully as I can, what I say 'yes' to. Can I encourage you to do the same (but do it better than me)?

Check out the list of services etc. over the Christmas Season that is in this newsletter and prayerfully decide which ones you want to support and then stick to that. Do the same with all the wider community events. Then shop less, offer gifts of time (e.g. babysitting, a foot massage, an outing together, window cleaning etc) rather than expensive gifts, cook less, and chill out with the Lord, with friends and with those on the fringes. And watch our Mighty God operate through you as you do that.

P.S. It would help me a great deal if you could let me know which service/s you might be able to assist with in any way.

Learning in love,

Susan

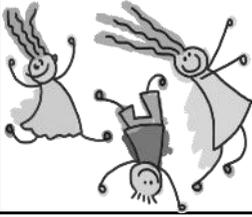
Church open for Prayer - Join in on Monday from 9.00am to 2.00pm to pray for your personal needs, our parish, our community and the world. Coffee and prayer. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

Community Christmas Lunch - Please bring your clean ice-cream containers and lids to the parish office your to use for left overs on Christmas Day.

Lunch on the Hill, Christmas Lunch - Final lunch for 2016, Tuesday 6 December. Diary this one now, you don't want to miss out! A superb meal has been planned, even if you don't usually come, try to be there! Starts 11:30, Koha donation, please tell friends and neighbours!

Tea and Talk - the last Tea and Talk for 2016, is at 10.00am this coming Wednesday 7 December at Richmond Seniors Clubrooms, behind Age Concern, 62 Oxford Street. \$3 for a lovely morning tea and good company. Thank you to all those who have supported this outreach, by attending, or helping. If you are available next year to assist, even if only occasionally please see Shiona Frengley. Tea and Talk resumes on Wednesday 8 February 2017.

All Saints Women Together - (AAW) invite all women to an Advent/Christmas service in the foyer at All Saints. Thursday 8 December at 7.30pm. Collection to go the Women's Refuge. Please either take something for the collection and/or a gift for the Women's Refuge. Supper will follow the service. For information phone Noeline Curtis 547 6483, Kathy Cuthbert 548 8654



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 4 December - Christmas Party

Next Sunday 11 December - Singing at Church on the Hill, St Alban's and the Warehouse

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

Leader: Accept our prayer

Congregation: Restore us, O Lord Almighty, make your face to shine upon us.

God's World - We pray for those civilians who are trapped in Aleppo and Mosul, open up the ways for them to safely leave and to receive the essentials 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 thank You that the church in Aleppo is launching various "initiatives for peace" and is urging Christians around the world to pray for Aleppo and its people. One local priest said "We continue to pray for peace and also for those who drop bombs on our houses, and churches." In Mosul, we pray for help to reach the seventy-two thousand who have fled so far, especially for warm accommodation, as winter has brought freezing temperatures.

New Zealand - We continue to pray for all those who have suffered loss of homes and livelihoods in the recent earthquakes, particularly those in the Kaikoura and Awatere parishes. Bless, strengthen and encourage the churches as they seek to help. Give wisdom to central and local government as they plan major repair works to restore communications and services to those badly affected.

Mission Partners - We pray for Allan and Christine in Asia. We pray especially for healing for both of them, with Allan with a pulled tendon and Christine still with concerns about her heart condition. Uphold them as the weather turns colder and pollution gets worse and may their visa renewals go through smoothly.

Diocese - We pray for the parish of Golden Bay with Philip and Lynda Lyes, recently installed as vicar. Help them to quickly understand the needs, challenges and opportunities of the parish. We continue to pray Your blessing on Ian and Karen Thatcher now living in Palmerston North.

Local community - We pray today for Grace Church and ask Your blessing on Peter Somervell and the elders as they prayerfully work on renewed mission and vision statements as they enter a new season of growth. Encourage the church, especially in their Christmas services.

Our Parish - We thank you for the enthusiasm of the new Building Group, guide them as they prepare the latest iteration of the building plans. Grant to Susan, the Wardens and the Vestry Your blessing as they seek to lead this church, give them unity and Your vision. May this church be a beacon of light at this time of the year, especially in our upcoming carol services.

Those in need within our own church family - Please be with Rob Blackbeard and family as they mourn the loss of Ingrid. We pray also for Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Laurie D'Eganah, Pam Butler, Val Jordan, 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 Your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

This Week...

Monday 5 December

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 6 December

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)
11.30am Christmas Lunch on the Hill
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Wednesday 7 December

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

Thursday 8 December

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

Sunday 11 December

8.45am Holy Communion
10.45am Praise on the Hill
7.00pm Evening Carol service with Richmond School Choir and Youth Band

Coming up...

Tuesday 13 December

6.30pm Carol singing in community, supper at vicarage

Sunday 18 December

4.00pm Messy Christmas

Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

11.30pm Communion and Carols

Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day)

8.00am and 9:30am Christmas Day Services.

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

St Albans' Appleby Services

10.30am Sunday 11 December Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday 25 December Christmas Day

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is:
03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

Roster for 11 December *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader:	8.45am J South	10.45am J Palmer
Reader:	8.45am M Gibson, D Day	10.45am TBA
Sidespeople:	8.45am M Gibson	10.45am M Tilley
Welcomer:	8.45am J McConachie	10.45am S Lyon
Tea:	M Watson, M Evans	
Chalice:	8.45am G Thomas, M McRae	10.45am N/A
Flowers:	A Heslop	Creche: M Martin

Theme for Next Sunday: Everlasting Father

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 35:1 - 10, Matthew 11:2 - 11

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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Website

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Office Hours

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