



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 6 December 2015



**Theme:** Freeing Prisoners  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

## Second Sunday of Advent Prayer:

Lord of all, remind us of the things that are truly important. Come to this world, come to us, come to all people and bring the freedom that few expect but everyone needs. **Amen.**

## Sentence:

You are the Holy One enthroned on the praises of your people. Our ancestors trusted in you and you delivered them; they put their trust in you and were not disappointed. -- *Psalm 22:3-5*

## Prayer for the day:

Praise and honour to you living God; you chose the Hebrew people and brought them, step by step, to hope for the Christ; the Messiah. Give us grace to see our need for freedom also.

Holy Spirit help us to see the salvation Jesus has won for us. We pray this in the name of our One God, Father, Son and Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## *Reflections...*



### **Advent Waiting**

Many of us don't like to wait. I don't. We belong to the generations who expect everything now. And yet the Lord rarely shows up 'now'.

And yet, the best things do come to those who wait. This week I spent some deliberate time waiting on God – not for anything specific really – just kinda hoping that he'd show up and meet with me.

This life can be a battle in some ways. There is an enemy out to trip us up. People do hurtful, crazy things at times. Words are spoken thoughtlessly. Things outside of our control often don't go the way we want. We miss the ones we have loved and lost. All of these things can impact us more at this time of the year.

There are no easy answers..... ever! In fact we should always distrust easy answers, pat phrases, scripture verses quoted out of context offered without thought.

Being a Christian doesn't save us from pain or difficulty. However our God promises that we won't ever be alone, even if we feel like we are. The Lord is always with us. During Advent we wait for Christ to come – we long to experience

something of the feelings of God's love for us.

What are you waiting for now?

Mary prayed "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." She allowed God to implant the seed of His Son within her and Jesus grew and was born.

Does your God want to implant something in you and bring it to birth? What might it be? How long will you have to wait?

I pray to God – my life a prayer – and wait for what he'll say and do. My life's on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning. *- Psalm 130:5-6 (MSG)*

As a church we are waiting on several things in 2016 (while taking the practical steps we can in the meantime)

- Beginning the Lantern – our new parish and community centre
- New staff – a youth leader and seniors team leader
- The helpers needed to develop our children's ministry

Please watch and wait and pray with us for these things along with our growth towards Christ and our community outreach generally.

Learning together 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. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

**Budget Service** - Waimea Anglican Budgeting Advice Service is now available. Ph. 544 8901 or 022 020 5565 to get in touch with an advisor or talk to Anne Askin to find out more.

**Graduation** - Micah is graduating! Bishopdale Theological College invite you to join with them for the 2015 Graduation Ceremony. Friday 11 December 2015 at 7:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Nelson followed by supper. If you would like to attend, we are carpooling – meeting at the church at 6:20pm. Queries to Fran Martin: 548 8785 or office@bishopdale.ac.nz

**Produce** - Is your garden over-productive? Can you spare some excess strawberries lemons, herbs, etc. The school are asking those who have produce to spare to bring it to the school on Monday mornings for distribution to those who need it later in that same day (within the school community of course). This would be a great way for the church to show our support to the wider community. Thanks. Catherine Ph. 541 0854

**Taizé Service** - Tonight 7.00pm. Theme: *God with Us*. Reflective service on Advent.

**2016 Christmas Appeal** - This Christmas we are supporting Tear Fund with our Christmas giving.

### The Lantern



Together  
we can  
make it  
happen!

### Building Funds at End Of September 2015

Accumulated funds up to end of September 2015	\$ 712,269
Funds promised before 31 December 2015	\$ 76,810
Funding from community trusts applied for:	\$ 450,000
Total available (if trust applications are successful)	\$1,239,079

If you hope to contribute to the Lantern building fund before March 2016 or leave a legacy, please fill out a form so we can take this into consideration when budgeting.

- Jacob Klootwyk

**Thank you for your support!**



### Children's Programme

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church. Children are welcome to attend one of the following during the 10.30 sermon time:

/ Kids' Church under 5's in the crèche / Kids' Church primary school age in the church hall / Younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.

### Prayers for the Week

**God's World:** We continue to pray for those in power to do something positive towards Climate Change and that we each pray and do something each day, acting responsibly for our land, waterways and air and the planet God gave us to care for. We pray for the Pacific Islands that their low lands be protected and the people of the Islands be protected, fed and housed. We also continue to pray for the places in the world where there is unrest. May you grant peace. As the seasons in the northern hemisphere turn to winter, may shelter and warmth be provided for refugee children and families.

**Mission Partners:** This week we remember Fëy and Murray Cotter in Albania. We pray for them as they mentor others in setting up new Churches and give thanks for the work that they do. We give thanks for the new house to be provided winter is upon them. We pray that all who come through the doors may they be blessed mightily. We ask also ask for furniture to be provided for the house. Bless this family as they do God's work.

**Diocese:** This week we remember Phil Greenwood and family at St Barnabas Church in Stoke. May the Parish there be blessed this Christmas Season. We pray for all who work to keep God ever present in the lives of those who enter the Church. We give thanks for the Children there. May they grow to love and serve God.

**Local Community:** At this time and Season we pray for the Methodist Church. We give thanks for the ministry of Martin Oh and all who minister to the people young and old. May they see the work of God enrich all their lives.

**Our Parish:** We give thanks for God's presence at the Christmas Parade and all who worked to make it happen. We remember those working to prepare Christmas lunch and give thanks to all who have donated food towards this. We give thanks and pray for the Lantern Building that God will continue to bless the building of this project. We give thanks and pray for the Vestry and Office workers in our Parish and ask for your provision of the staff members we need for next year

**Those in need within our own church family:** Loving God continue to pray for George and Bev, Carole Burke, Lisa, Fiona, Ellie, Freda, Linda, Bill, John Barnes and others known to us. We pray for the residents and staff of rest homes and hospitals within our parish. May your grace, mercy and peace be with them.

## This Week...

### Monday 7 December

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### Tuesday 8 December

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

### Wednesday 9 December

7.30am Prayer

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)

10.00am Wednesday Service

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Fregley)

### Thursday 10 December

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

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

### Sunday 13 December

9.00am Holy Communion\*

10.30am Praise on the Hill\*

7.00pm Carol Service with Richmond Primary School Choir

*\*Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## Coming up...

*- Refer to sheet in Pewsnews*

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 13 December** Holy Communion

**Sunday 27 December** Morning Prayer

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

## Roster for 13 December *Thank you for serving us all!*

**Leader:** 9.00am Peter Bean

10.30am J Palmer

**Reader:** 9.00am M Gibson, D Day

10.30am K Thomson, G Mangelsdorf

**Sidespeople:** 9.00am M Gibson

10.30am M Tilley

**Welcomer:** 9.00am J McConachie

10.30am S Lyon

**Tea:** M Watson, M Evans

**Chalice:** 9.00am G Thomas, M McRae

10.30am N/A

**Flowers:** M Evans

**Creche:** M Martin

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Philippians 4: 4-7, Luke 3: 7-18

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Living Justly

## 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	Kay Peterson	544 8844	Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey	544 8844
Youth Pastor	Micah Did-dell	544 6495	Budget Advice	Anne Askin	544 8901

## 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  
1.00pm - 5.30pm