



Church on the Hill

Sunday 14 December 2014



Theme: A Child Shall Lead Them
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Children's Play
Readings: Isaiah 61:1- 4, 8 – 11, Luke 1:46 – 55

Sentence:

With justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

- *Isaiah 11:4b*

Prayer for the day:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ.
Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Immanence

Christ is coming! Christmas is almost upon us so Christ must be almost here.

In our Christian calendar we have two times of waiting and preparation; Lent and Advent. Lent is six weeks and actually we wait right up until Easter Sunday when we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Advent is only four weeks but we seem to cram so much into those four weeks.

We bake, and we shop or make gifts, and we get our cards or letters out. Someone told me this week that Christmas can be a very girly thing. I hadn't really thought about that before. And yet there is some truth in that – the women tend to do most of the preparation. Someone else I discussed this with thought Christmas is girly because blokes are Christmas grouches. That might be true for some, I don't know.

What I do know is that blokes have a vital part to play in Christmas preparation. Part of that

role is making sure that his family knows the real reason for Christmas. Jesus was a bloke. The shepherds in the story were blokes. Joseph was a bloke - a real strong bloke who did what was right in the face of ridicule. In our preparation it is easy to overlook the reality of the gritty story of a family in trouble and of the God who was with them.

'Immanence' is the word that describes God as being everywhere. It is a word which implies great power. Only a God who is immanent can give us the power and strength we need. Only a God who is immanent can show us the right way to live. Only a God who is immanent can really care for all of creation.

Christ is coming in one sense. Yet Christ is already here by the power of his Spirit.

So blokes – this is the kind of God who sent Jesus and who is with you. I encourage you to take responsibility for equipping your family with the truth of the Christmas story and the reality of the God who moved into our neighbourhood.

Much love,

Susan

Carol Singing around the parish - We will be having our carol-singing night at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16 December this year. If you know anyone that you think would appreciate a visit from us could you let Jan South know - Phone 544 8413. If you are free and would like to join us as a musician or a singer please put your name on the list at the back of the church. We also like to take with us some little packs of biscuits and a posy of flowers, so please put your name down if you could help with those as well.

Christmas Dinner - Registrations and tickets are available at the Richmond Mall service desk, but if you have already registered with me, your tickets are in the office for you to collect. Kay.

Morning Teas - The popular weekly morning teas will be held in January 2015. Next week details will be in your pews news on a loose sheet so that you can put it on your fridge for reference. A social event for all.

Vestry Meeting Notes - The Budget Service is ready to start operating in the New Year. The new data projector is in place. Work is continuing with the AV team and consultants to upgrade our system. Should we tith 10% of future giving to the building fund to a mission project along the lines Kevin and Anne Roberts talked about? If you have a view on this talk to one of the members of vestry.

Thank you - To everyone who has given me egg cartons. I have enough for a while now. Susan

Community Christmas Dinner - We finally have the list of food we will need for Christmas Day and I have placed lists and forms at the back of the church for anyone who wishes to record their donations to this event. Food to go to Teapot valley to be cooked can be dropped off at the office up to and including the morning of Wednesday 24 December but if you have frozen food please arrange for it to be delivered at a time it can be transferred straight into a freezer. Other food can be delivered as late as Christmas morning. Cash donations can be made at the office or placed in the box provided. If you require a receipt please include your name. There is also a map of Richmond, a highlighter pen and a pile of invitations for those willing to do a letterbox drop. Please highlight the street you will drop invitations in and take enough invitations to cover the area. Please do not put invitations in letterboxes with 'no junk mail' or similar on. Thank you for your help with these requests, this event would not be possible without your support. Kay Peterson Ph. 544 8844 (Office) or 547 6777 (Home).



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 and younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.

Prayers for the Week

Our World: We give thanks for those recognised for bringing peace to the world. People like Malala Yousafzai a young girl who is a voice against the oppression of children. May more people bring peace throughout this world.

Our Nation: We pray for the continuing concern regarding housing and foreign ownership and for those struggling with accommodating their family in healthy homes. May those in positions of power make decisions that benefit all people.

Our Mission Partners: We pray for Murray and Fay Cotter and their ministry in Albania.

Our Diocese: We pray for Stoke Parish, Philip and the team and the Carols on the lawn and their ongoing ministries in Stoke. We also pray for the preparation of the Convergence Camp in February and all those attending. May it be a good time for all.

Our Local Area: We pray for Richmond Baptist Church as they advertise for a new senior pastor. Help the right person to be appointed that will lead this church from strength to strength.

Our Church: We pray for the conclusion of the children and youth ministries for the year; giving sincere thanks for all the leaders and pray that these young people will continue to grow in their faith. We give thanks for Owen's new job at the Cathedral and ask for your blessing upon him and his family .

Those in Special Need: Franz, Ingrid, Luke, George, Carole, Noel, Wendy, Grant, Dorothy, Erica (Shirley Jackson's niece), Lisa and Fiona (St Albans), and Ellie, others known to us, those in the rest homes, hospitals and in our parish; and we give thanks to all those who care for others. We give thanks for answered prayers ask for the Lord's continued blessing on them.

This Week...

Monday 15 December

9.00am Church Open for Prayer
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 16 December

9.00am Prayer
10.00am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)
10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)
11.30am Lunch on the Hill
7.00pm Carol Singing around the Parish

Wednesday 17 December

7.30am Prayer
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (N. Thomas)
10.00am Wednesday Service

Thursday 18 December

9.00am Prayer
9.30am Friends 'n Fun
12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Friday 19 December

9.00am Prayer

Sunday 21 December

9.00am Morning Worship*
10.30am Holy Communion*

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

11:30 pm Christmas Eve Carols & Communion

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

8.00am Reflective Communion service
9:30am Family Communion and Carol Service

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 14 December Holy Communion

Thursday 25 December 10.00am

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

Roster for 21 December *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader: 9.00am J Palmer

Sidespeople: 9.00am K South

Welcomer: 9.00am B Page

Tea: A Burrough, V Matthews

Chalice: 9.00am N/A

Flowers: A Burrough

10.30am J Palmer

10.30am J Green

10.30am J South

10.30am J & A Green, N Pritchard

Brass: M Evans

Readings for Next Sunday: Psalm 96, Luke 2:1-14

Theme for Next Sunday: The Shepherd King

Parish Contacts

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	Youth Intern	Antonio Sardella	544 9237
Assistant Priest	Owen Haring	541 0820	Youth Pastor	Micah Did-dell	544 6495
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Children's Ministry	Ingrid Blackbeard	544 4917
Senior's Ministry	Kay Peterson	544 8844	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
			Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey	544 8844

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Office Hours

Monday 8.30am - 6.00pm

Tuesday 1.00pm - 6.00pm

Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm