



Church on the Hill

Sunday 11 March 2018



Theme: Appreciating the Simple Things
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Deuteronomy 16:10 – 17, Luke 12:22-30

Sentence:

Life is more than food, and your body more than clothing.

- Luke 12:23

Prayer for the day:

God of the harvest, gardener supreme, you who called us to be good stewards of your creation, feed us and equip us. Having provided for us, help us to look to a different harvest; a fruitfulness of lives, in service to you and others. God of the harvest enable us to nurture your creation faithfully and sustainably.

God of the harvest, prune and harvest us; that our lives might bring glory to you and might overflow in your life to all of the world.

We pray this through our Saviour Jesus Christ, in unity with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Lenten week; thinking about faith

This week our Lenten study group considered Abraham; the one designated as 'a man of faith'. We looked at Romans 4: 11 – 25. Paul describes Abraham as one who "believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing." (Verse 17)

Seriously! I don't know about you but I would not describe Abraham as a person of great, unwavering faith. Paul has a very generous view of Abraham. I'd want to look at the times Abraham mucked up. What about the times he offered his wife, the mother of this vast number of promised descendants, to other men as their sexual partner? What about his own sleeping with Hagar? It doesn't seem to me that he was content to believe that God would fulfil his promise. Rather it seems that this was a guy who had to make things happen when he thought God was too slow!

In our group we talked about how it is actually quite comforting to know that God didn't write Abraham off because of those stuff ups! In fact God looked beyond the stuff ups into the heart of a human being who had a genuine heart to follow God. God saw the person who was trying to be who God had called him to be; a father of many nations.

We talked about how doubt and faith are not really opposites; often they exist within us side by side. Sometimes doubt is greater. At other times faith is

greater. Just maybe our doubt causes our faith to grow stronger? Maybe if we allow genuine questioning, it brings us closer to who God really is, rather than co-existing with a god who we misunderstand? Maybe wrestling with God is a good thing that helps us understand who we are in relation to this God. Maybe fierce honesty, with God and with ourselves, is something God actually values?

Over the next few weeks Ian Smith will be with you all in this journey towards greater understanding of who God is and who you/we are in relation to this God. You are in great hands. I pray for you all; that:

Our Father and the Father of our Master Jesus Christ, will take you to the high places of blessing in him. May you be made whole and holy by his love and enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Because of the Messiah's sacrifice, may you know absolute freedom; the freedom which comes through God's provision of everything you could possibly need. May you perceive the plans he took such delight in making in Christ; a long-range plan, in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven; everything on planet earth.

May you see, in Christ, who you are and what you are living for!

The journey of Lent; the journey towards Christ continues

Learning together in love,

Susan

Stones - We will be starting on our new building soon and we want to give everyone a last opportunity to put your children and grand children's name on a stone, which will be buried in the foundation of the new hall. A gold coin donation will be appreciated for each stone to go to the building fund. - Kai Kruse & Jacob Klootwyk.

Food Course - *Food Food Food*. Don't We Love It! Come to our free three week course and learn how to: Cook on a tight budget / See how far you can make a kg of mince go / Cook meatless meals that are tasty. There's room for 6 people to attend these mornings (first in, first served). A fun time guaranteed while you learn some basic cooking skills, new recipes. Salvation Army Rooms on Oxford Street, Richmond starting @ 9:30am through to a shared lunch (eat what you cook) on Wednesday, March 14, 21 & 28 + April 4 & 11. Register by email to theway7020@gmail.com indicating if you have any allergies like dairy or gluten intolerance. Child supervision provided.

Ticking the Boxes Seminar - *First Aid For Seniors*. The first seminar for 2018 is at 12.00noon on Wednesday 21 March at St Barnabas Stoke. Details on the church noticeboard.

Bon Voyage Picnic - Washbourn Gardens 12.00noon TODAY

Positive Aging Expo - This popular event is coming up on Friday 6th April. We are making up a basket of goodies to give to a lucky winner, if you have anything suitable to go in it please give to Yvonne, thank you.

Book Launch – Open invitation to George Bryant's book launch for his book, *Agents of Change: Kiwis making a real difference* Stories of 15 Kiwis who are making a real difference, including Nelson's Andy Joseph and Richard Kempthorne. George is a key writer on social issues and NZ's leading Christian author. Nelson Cathedral, 5.00-7.00pm, Tuesday 27 March. Refreshments. Retail Price \$28.95 but buy a signed copy at the launch for only \$25. RSVP by Monday 26 March to: bryantgw@xtra.co.nz

St Albans 150 Years Celebration - Celebrations are on the last weekend of November. If you are interested in helping with or attending the celebrations please contact the office.

Easter Camp Fundraiser Today - Today we are running a Car Wash during and after the morning services and alongside this we will be selling freshly made Crepes. So if you would like your car to be enthusiastically cleaned or would like some delicious Crepes today is the time to support the youth. Thanks to the Bake Sale and a generous sponsorship we have raised \$484.50 of our minimum goal of \$787 to cover transport costs for everyone and registrations for families who can't afford it. - Joshua

Volunteers Wanted - Interested in writing the prayers for the newsletters?. We need two people for one month each; the months of April and May. Please contact Ian Smith Ph 021 0274 3043

Scripture Union Bible Reading Notes - Margaret Silke has been or rep for these notes for over 40 years. Thank you Margaret. She has handed over the ordering to Jan South. If anyone is interested in finding out about the notes or ordering please contact Jan South Ph. 544 8413 by Sunday 18 March.

Prayers for the Week

The World – Sovereign Lord we continue to pray for the people of South Sudan, who remain displaced due to ongoing violence. Bring about good government there and in Syria where people continue to suffer. We pray also for China; asking that political freedom will increase rather than decrease in that massive country. We pray for European government decisions on the EU too and especially for all those affected by any changes. We ask for your enabling for aid workers everywhere; that they may bring help and comfort to all vulnerable people.

Mission – We pray this week for good health for the Corin family in Central Asia, especially for Sophia. Please be with 'M' and the Night Shelter folk especially in this very cold weather. Continue to help Chris in his mentoring work with small businesses and pastors.

Diocese - We pray for the parish of Blenheim South and Sam and Paula Anderson and their team. Be with them as they seek to expand your Kingdom in that area. We pray for Bishop Richard and our Diocese as we face possible consequences decisions at yesterday's Diocesan Synod. Remind us all that this is your church. Enable us to persevere in love for you, in grace and respect towards one another; working for the good of those outside our church walls.

Community – We pray for Jono and Vanessa Martin and the work of Richmond New Life Church. Help them as they work towards being a closer community, offering genuine support to one another this year, and towards a greater impact for Jesus Christ on the wider community.

We pray for perseverance and strength for those who have suffered damage in the recent storms. Give wisdom to local councils as they seek to learn from these storms and prepare for future weather events.

Our Parish - We thank you for Carol, and her team, who nurture the ministry of Friends n Fun. Bless them for their faithfulness and provide opportunities for our church community to offer genuine support and encouragement to those who attend. Continue to guard and bring to wholeness: Margaret Silke and others known to us. Pour out your blessing on the rest homes and hospital staff and residents in our parish.

This Week...

Monday 12 March

9.00am Church open for Prayer
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 13 March

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)
10.00am Tuesday Bible Study Group (E Erskine)
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)
7.30pm Lenten Study in Church

Wednesday 14 March

10.00am Wednesday Service

Thursday 15 March

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

Sunday 18 March

10.00am Combined Communion Service

Coming up...

Tuesday 6,13,20,27 March

7.30pm Lenten Study in Church

Tuesday 20 March

11.30am Lunch on the Hill at Salvation Army Hall
57 Oxford Street

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 11 March Holy Communion

Sunday 25 March Morning Worship

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

Roster for 18 March Combined Service - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader: 10.00am Jean Palmer
Reader: 10.00am J Green, M Gibson
Sidesperson 10.00am J Green
Welcomer: 10.00am N Pritchard
Chalice: 10.00am Jean Palmer, J & A Green, E/D Stanger
Tea: J & K South
Flowers: N/A

Theme for Next Sunday: A Grain of Wheat
Readings for Next Sunday: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-29

Parish Contacts		Vicar's Warden	Karl Summerfield	03 980 4809	
Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	People's Warden	Dave Pritchard	544 7540
Priest in Charge	Ian Smith	021 0274 3043	Youth Leader	Joshua Allan-Johns	027 711 6800
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Senior's Ministry	Yvonne Smyth	542 3957	Administrator	David Cowdrey	027 499 8684

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Website

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm