



Church on the Hill

Sunday 12 February 2017



Theme: Choose Life
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Jean Palmer
Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 5:21-37

Sentence:

Choose to love the Lord your God and to obey him and to cling to him, for he is your life and the length of your days.
- Deuteronomy 30:20

Prayer for the day:

God of compassion and mercy, you give us laws to guide our lives. Grant that we may live in peace and respect with our sisters and brothers. Help us to treat each other in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation so that we may

approach your altar in peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Unity

Well dear church folk, here I am writing about unity again. It's far more than an important topic, it is a Biblical value we hold as a Church. Most often quoted is Psalm 133. The song is only 3 verses long but paints a beautiful picture of believers living in harmony. The reality is that harmony or unity that takes work; primarily it takes the work of building relationships and not just in church.

However today I want to look at unity as I give you feedback from the short survey taken over the last week. While we focused on service times, unity was a key factor for many in the responses given. The attitude of love displayed by many was inspiring to me and to Vestry.

The upshot is that from the first Sunday in March, 5th, the first service will resume at 9.00am. The second service will remain at 10:45am.

Of the 51 surveys submitted by first service folk 36 wanted the service at 9.00am. There was quite a variance among the other 15 folk, with several wanting it earlier. However the two factors that convinced Vestry that the majority are right are: The long gap between services makes it difficult for the two congregations to meet each other. Winter will be here and for some, it is difficult to get out early, especially for those who have to prepare in some way for the service.

Of the 25 surveys submitted by second service folk, 14 wanted to revert to 10:30am. The variation among the others was huge, ranging from 9.00am to 10:45am. However Vestry decided to remain at 10:45 because:

- The long gap between services makes
- it difficult for the two congregations to meet each other.
- Those preparing for the service need enough time to practice music, do sound checks, clear and set up Communion etc.

Vestry have also heard the desire for more combined services in this survey and also the broader survey conducted last year on worship. So we will likely offer four joint services in the next six months. Those are Easter Sunday (16 April),

Sunday 30 April (when we hope to celebrate all the hall has meant to us before it comes down in May), Trinity Sunday (11 June when we will enjoy breakfast together beforehand) and Sunday 30 July (the 5th Sunday of the month).

We all have our preferred ways of worshipping so we will include the best of both services in our combined worship. In the past, some people have avoided combined services. I don't understand this myself. At Vestry, hope was voiced that everyone, that is every single member of Church on the Hill, will make the effort to participate in shared events as much as possible – worship services, social events, mission projects, community facing events; even fundraising events and working bees. All these things enable us to know each other outside of church services.

In Psalm 133 the Lord commands pours out blessing where unity exists. That unity comes about when our focus is on the Lord and on each other's well-being, not on our own comfort or preferences. We have tried to take your preferences into account while holding to our God-given task of becoming more Christ-like ourselves and leading you in the same direction.

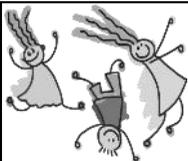
Your church leaders, and I, would love it if we all made more effort to know each other better. We would love first service people to make the effort to go down to the hall for morning tea. We encourage second service people to come early so you can meet some more people from this Church on the Hill family.

In our Lantern page in the Waimea Weekly this week the "Did you know..." reminds us that "Showing love for others is supposed to be a key attribute of Christianity." It echoes Jesus' words from John 13 put like this in the Message "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

My prayer: Lord my love for your body, and ours for each other, shine like that city on a hill you mentioned in Matthew 5.

Learning together in love,

Susan



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 12 February - In the beginning...

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

Church open for Prayer - Join in on Mondays (except public holidays) 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.

Tea and Talk - 10.00am this Wednesday 15 February at Richmond Seniors Clubrooms, behind Age Concern, 62 Oxford Street. \$3 for a lovely morning tea and good company.

Ticking the Boxes Seminar - 12.00pm Wednesday 15 February. *Staying in Your Home*, a demonstration of home aids to make life easier and a talk about home help options, also someone from the Hearing Association will have a display. Please come and invite your friends and neighbours. As this seminar is here in our hall, we will be providing the finger food lunch. If you are able to bring a plate I would be most grateful. I also need some preserves for a gift for our speakers. Is there anyone who can provide jams, chutney, etc? Many thanks, Yvonne

10.45am Service Sunday 19 February - We will be meeting at Bethany Park Kaitereteri to join with Convergence Camp at **9.30am** where Bishop Justin Duckworth will be speaking on *Intentional Living* followed by Communion led by Bishop Richard.

Prayers for the Week

God's World - We know that you are sovereign Lord God, and yet you grant us a terrible freedom. We pray for the places where that freedom is abused: especially the Middle East, Northern Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan. We pray for those who have no choice but to leave; please provide places of safe haven for them. And for those who remain Lord have mercy. We also pray for just governments to rule asking that where they are unjust you would convict them of what is right and give them the courage to change.

Our local community - We pray for the teachers and school children adjusting to one another and to the school timetable and culture once again. We thank you for support staff who work with special needs children and give the necessary administrative back-up. We also pray for chaplains across this land. We ask that the views of groups who are anti any kind of church involvement in schools will have no sway and that churches and Christians will be wise in their words and actions in all the schools. We pray for all those associated with Rotorua's St John's Presbyterian Church. Please be with all who mourn and help police find the cause.

Mission - We thank you that Murray and Fey Cotter have had a good break with family in the North Island. Now as they begin their deputation work, we ask for the inspiration and stamina they need as they speak to many different groups of people. We look forward to their time with us on Saturday 18 March.

Christ's Church - Thank you Lord for our Anglican family. Today we remember Jeff and Jo Cotton and the Atawhai-Hira team and ask for your blessing in that scattered community. We continue to pray for David Hollingsworth, Nick Kirk and Ian Thatcher.

Our parish - Lord you have blessed us with clergy. We thank you for our assistant Jean Palmer. Give her guidance as she looks into discipleship and oversees the organisation of Wednesday services. We thank you for Franz Murbach and Peter Bean and their leadership in those same services. We are also grateful for Barry and Ivy Price's involvement and their Sunday leadership too. And we praise you for Jim and Bev Payne's home group leadership among other things. We pray for all of them and for Susan, asking that you encourage them in their offerings of service. Please pour out your healing power on Peter Bean, Carol Burke, Ellie, Pam Butler, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja and others we know.

This Week...

Monday 13 February

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 14 February

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

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

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

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

Wednesday 15 February

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

12.00pm Ticking the Boxes Seminar

Thursday 16 February

10.30am Café Connection

12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Friday 17 February - Sunday 19 February

Convergence Camp at Bethany Park Kaiteriteri.

Sunday 19 February

8.45am Morning Worship

9.30am Camp Service

Meet at 9.30am at Bethany Park

Kaiteriteri for Convergence Camp

Service and Communion

Coming up...

Wednesday 22 February

1.30pm AAW Commissioning Service in Church
for both afternoon and evening groups.

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 12 February

Holy Communion

Sunday 26 February

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 19 February - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader: 8.45am J South
Reader: 8.45am A Burrough, K South
Sidespeople: 8.45am K South
Welcomer: 8.45am B Page
Tea: A Burrough, V Matthews
Chalice: 8.45am N/A
Flowers: M. Brosnahan

Theme for Next Sunday: Perfection

Readings for Next Sunday: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18, Matthew 5:38-48.

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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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm