



Church on the Hill

Sunday 22 November 2015



Theme: Blessed to be a blessing
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Graham O'Brien
Readings: Genesis 12:1-9, Acts 1:6-11, Rev 21: 22-Rev 22:2

Sentence:

While you are going, be training everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the three-fold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And be instructing them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.
- Matthew 28:19 – 20

Prayer for the day:

Holy and loving God, in our baptism you called us to tell of the coming of your kingdom: give us courage, as you gave it to your apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life. May we go where you call us to go, do what you want us to

do, say what you want us to say, every single day. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever,
Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Intelligent and courageous faith

Lately I've been reading "Finding the Forgotten God" by New Zealander Ron Hay. I also came across a Press article, by Rosemary McLeod, entitled "However loopy it can be, Christian message is hope".

Both are excellent. Ron Hay was Vicar of All Saints church in Sumner before retiring early in order to write. Before that he taught English at secondary school. He writes clearly for those who "care about the big questions of life". In this present time of danger and questions, I imagine that is most people.

Obviously he writes from a Christian perspective but that doesn't mean he is narrow minded. He is well read and understands many viewpoints while reasoning that Christian faith is not irrational. Just the opposite – there are solid arguments to believe in the Creator who revealed himself through Jesus.

Ron goes on to discuss some of the 'biggies': suffering, science, other religions, is God good? But he doesn't leave it there; near the end of the book he tells the stories of thinking people who have decided to be Christians. He also points the way to an intelligent response to this God who knocks on the door of our hearts and minds.

I know one church member who has given copies of this book to his adult children. It is a great read for believers and everyone actually. You will need to use your brain – but it is not written in academic style. Rather it is highly readable and engaging.

Now to Rosemary McLeod – she is a journalist not known for Christian sympathies. Rather her biting wit has been aimed at Christians in the past and she freely acknowledges this. "It's been embarrassing to admit to a Christian background, so necessary to mock it for so long ..." is how she begins. The point of her article is that the goodness in the Western world comes from Christianity – "do as you would be done by, be kind".

She acknowledges that we wouldn't have invented the underlying beliefs ourselves. She also challenges the secularisation of Christian festivals, accusing us of "middle-class squeamishness" in watering them down.

Read the article on <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/columnists/74131456/rosemary-mcleod-it-can-be-loopy-but-cause-for-thanks-in-christianitys-legacy> It's well worth a read.

Christian faith is credible. There are many solid reasons for following Jesus as well as the amazing support he gives us day by day.

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.

Christmas Parade - The Richmond Santa Parade is on Sunday 29 November. Our float in the parade is themed *ALL ANGELS* so dig out those wings and haloes. We will have lots of bubbles and sparkle and some awesome music. Maybe even a donkey to lead us. We require older teenagers or adults to help us as follows:- 4 people to walk alongside the truck wheels in case a child runs out onto the road, and 4 more to hand out balloons to children in the crowd. We supply balloons, buckets to carry them in and a lovely bright orange Church on the Hill t-shirt to wear. You will need to bring a drink bottle, walking shoes and your own snack food. Remember all participants in the parade need to be at Edward Street by 11.15am. If you can help please contact Kay, 544 8844 or 547 6777 or Catherine 541 0851.

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.

Afternoon AAW Group - Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 25 November at Noon. This will be our end of year Christmas lunch to be held at The Three Rooms Restaurant, at the Arthur Wakefield Motel, Queen Street, Richmond. Cost is \$25 per person for a choice of 6 Mains and 6 Desserts. You are welcome to invite a relative or friend. We need numbers before 23 Nov. Margery or I will phone you prior to this. Enquiries to Jean McConachie 544 6921.

 <p>The Lantern</p>	<p>Together we can make it happen!</p>	<p>Building Fundraiser Honey is now available 500gms \$7.00 1kg \$13.00 // 2kgs \$25.00 See Anne Askin or Ph. 542 3284</p>	
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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 the refugee problem spilling out from the Middle East, encourage all who seek to bring help as the winter approaches. Give wisdom to world leaders as they grapple with the issue of Islamic terrorism, help them to see how we can maintain a free and open society yet preserve innocent lives from acts of terrorism. Grant Your comfort and peace to all those who mourn following the Paris shootings and bombings.

Mission Partners: This week we pray for the Corin family in central Asia as they mentor small businesses and share the Christian faith. They ask that You would bless the crop harvest this year. In addition please increase the spiritual harvest in the small towns and villages where these pastors are working and draw many people to Yourself through the faithful witness of these believers.

Diocese: We pray today for Kaikoura Parish with Kevin and Sandy Topp; encourage their work within the area and among the visitors that come through the town. Strengthen the links with the other churches in the town that the Christian witness will be united. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bishop Richard & Hilary and family with the passing of Richard's mother Helen in Christchurch last Sunday.

Local Community: We thank You for the ministry of Richmond Baptist Church with Pastor David Jensen. Bless their preparations for the Christmas season, encourage their children's ministry and focus the church on Your vision.

Our Parish: We pray Your guidance as preparations are being made for the Christmas lunch and other Christmas activities, including the Santa Parade. We thank You for Messy Church last week and pray Your wisdom, blessing and encouragement upon Tom and Lorna and the teams. May the missions giving envelopes today ignite our focus on missions abroad as well as at home.

Those in need within our own church family: Loving God we continue to pray for: George and Bev, Carole Burke, Sonja, Lisa, Fiona, Ellie, Freda, Linda, Bill, John Barnes, others we know and 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 23 November

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 24 November

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

Wednesday 25 November

7.30am Prayer

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

10.00am Wednesday Service

12.00pm Afternoon AAW (J McConachie)

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

Thursday 26 November

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

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 29 November

9.00am Holy Communion*

10.30am Praise on the Hill*

12.00pm Richmond Christmas Parade

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 8 November Holy Communion

Sunday 22 November 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 29 November *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader:	9.00am S Gill	10.30am S Gill
Reader:	9.00am S Entwistle, J Payne	10.30am J Sardella
Sidespeople:	9.00am S Entwistle	10.30am J Green
Welcomer:	9.00am E Erskine	10.30am M Ross
Tea:	F & J Murbach	
Chalice:	9.00am B Payne	10.30am N/A
Flowers:	R Armstrong	Creche: S Milligan, J Vercoe

Readings for Next Sunday: Genesis 4:1 - 16, John 2, 13 - 22

Theme for Next Sunday: Alienation

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

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
1.00pm - 5.30pm