



Church on the Hill

Sunday 25 February 2018



Theme: A new way of seeing
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Micah Did-Dell
Readings: Gen 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38*

Sentence:

You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.

- Mark 8:33b

Prayer for the day:

God of our father and mother, Abraham and Sarah, you made a covenant with your people; draw us also into covenant with you. Let us see your glory, sing your praises, and be part of

bringing your kingdom here on earth. Through Jesus Christ Our Redeemer, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Lent and the journey

Today is the second Sunday in Lent. During this season we often consider what of the old life we need to lay down and what new things Christ is inviting us to. Prayer is a vital part of our journey through this Lenten season. Traditionally prayer has been described as lifting our hearts to God. Lifting our hearts requires action on our part. That could be views as good works on our part. But prayer doesn't depend on us; rather it depends on God.

Thomas Green SJ has described prayer as 'opening our hearts to God' in order for God to come in. Someone else has described prayer as 'conscious relationship with God'. Both descriptions require something from us – an openness to relationship and dialogue with God.

How would you describe prayer? More importantly how would you describe your own prayer life? What new things might God be inviting you to, in prayer and in life, this Lenten season? What new things might God be inviting us to as a church?

Some of my Lenten season will be spent walking the Camino. Holy Week will be a vital part my walk. I have no real idea of what to expect during that week really. I know many pilgrims; many Roman Catholic pilgrim and others on the trail. (Of course there will also be many who are not religious at all.) I'm sure all the churches will hold services during that week. Most of them will be in Spanish but the Lord is not limited to human language.

I'm trusting God in the midst of what won't always be easy. I'm sure my body will be sore and tired

and probably I will be homesick. Certainly I will be missing Kevin and my family, and you of course. However in the midst of this time I know that God will be with me as God is with you. The Lord won't lift me out miraculously and placed me further along the track so I don't have to walk – that would kind of defeat the point. But God will walk beside me. I will see more of God; I will learn more of who God is and who God has created me to be in relationship with the Divine Trinity. My heart longs for more of that. My heart aches for us, as a Church, to know the fullness of God and to understand the amazing welcome that we and all people have in this loving, embracing God.

I know that you will welcome Ian Smith as Priest in Charge, and his wife Yvonne, into your midst. Ian will help us all in this journey towards a greater understanding of God, of ourselves and of the calling on our lives as a Church. (No pressure Ian!)

While I'm away I'll be praying for you and I know you will pray for me. Some have asked me to send occasional emails about my trip and what I'm doing. The easiest way for me to do that is to use my church email list. When you receive the first email (probably be on the second week of my sabbatical) just reply and tell me you don't wish to receive any more. I will then take you off the list. I won't be offended I promise.

In the meantime, keep on pressing into God as you live out our faith in the real world.

*God is good - all the time.
All the time - God is good.*

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.

World Day of Prayer for 2018 - Friday 2 March. This year the Richmond Catholic Community is hosting this important and far reaching day of prayer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 35 William St, Richmond at 11.00am. We invite you all to come and to share this invitation with your communities that they may come too and join in Worship and Fellowship. Cuppa and light refreshment following the service. The woman of Suriname, a small country in the north east of South America have prepared the service to be celebrated all over the world. It focuses on the goodness of God's creation and our part in looking after it.



Hi, my name is Joshua Allan-Johns and I am the new Youth Leader at Church on the Hill. I am taking on leadership of the Friday night youth group that runs 7.00pm - 9.00pm during the term. I've already had a great time getting to know the youth and have been greatly encouraged by their welcoming attitude and enthusiasm.

I am excited to bring as many of our youth as possible to Easter Camp in Christchurch on March 29 - April 2, where 3,500+ young people gather together for 5 days to enjoy live music, food, fun activities, great community and to learn about the Easter story. If you'd like to help us get to camp; by providing sponsorship, prayer or even camp Mum and Dad, please let me know.

My main goal for the youth is to see them bond together as a group and for them to be disciplined and grow together on their journey with Christ.

I am fresh from Christchurch where I have had nine years' experience in youth leadership, gained a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and some study towards a Bachelor of Theology. I am a vocalist and bass guitar player and enjoy playing in worship bands. I maintain a healthy interest in Science as a whole and have an extensive games collection, both physical board games and digital video games.

I am also a 24/7 Youth Worker at Waimea College and a student at Bishopdale Theological College. If you have any questions in general or about the youth group specifically, please contact me at either 027 711 6800 or intern.churchonhill@xtra.co.nz

Prayers for the Week

The World - Lord God of the nations, hear our prayer for the people of South Sudan, who have suffered through the longest civil war in the 20th century. Once again they are displaced due to the ongoing violence. We pray for all those involved in aid work; enable them to bring help and comfort to all vulnerable people. Alert leaders of the nations to challenge those engaged in conflict, to turn their energy into good and settle disputes speedily. Be with those, around the world and in our own land, who continue to clear up after storms and natural disasters, providing all they need.

Mission - In this election year we pray for a positive process and outcome for Bangladesh. We ask for good sense and peace to prevail. Be with R and N, and family as they continue their language studies. Thank you that the girls have settled well into school, their teachers are nice and they have made lots of friends. Thank you also that the N and R feel fairly confident reading and writing. Please help with their speaking ability.

Diocese - We pray for the Awatere Joint Christian Venture and our Diocese as they discern your will for the future of this parish. We remember Dawn Daunauda teaching English in Vanuatu, asking for your protection for her and your blessing on her life and work. We ask for a positive outcome regarding Motion 29 at our Diocesan Synod on 10 March; that we learn to respect those we may disagree with and truly follow your ways.

Community - The Presbyterian Church has welcomed another minister to work alongside Jon and Viv Parkes. We ask for a smooth settling in for Sage Harris and his family and a great working relationship with Jon and the church. Be with them all as they explore building and ministry options.

Our Parish - We give thanks for our children and young people, asking for your provision for the youth to go to Easter camp. We also request a greater understanding of what it means to be an intergenerational church family learning in love from each other. Continue to guard and bring to wholeness: Gwen Thomas, 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 26 February

9.00am Church open for Prayer
7.00pm Men's Forum
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 27 February

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)
7.30pm Lenten Study in Church

Wednesday 28 February

10.00am Wednesday Service
1.00pm AAW Meeting (J. McConachie)

Thursday 1 March

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

Friday 2 March

10.00am World Day of Prayer at Our Lady of
Perpetual Help Catholic Church

Sunday 4 March

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
12.30pm Church Picnic

Coming up...

Tuesday 27 February // 6,13,20,27 March

7.30pm Lenten Study in Church

Tuesday 6 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 25 February

Morning Worship

Sunday 11 March

Holy Communion

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

Roster for 4 March - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	J McConachie	10.30am	John Palmer
Reader:	9.00am	A Heslop, V Matthews	10.30am	L Summerfield, V McNaughton
Sidesperson	9.00am	B Page	10.30am	C, G & R Barak
Welcomer:	9.00am	G Thomas	10.30am	TBA
Chalice:	9.00am	A Burrough, E Erskine	10.30am	S Stephens, C Ward, M Barak
Tea:		M Gibson, S Stephens		
Flowers:		N/A	Creche:	M Brosnahan

Theme for Next Sunday: Foolish Wisdom

Readings for next Sunday: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

Parish Con-

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

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm