

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

December 27th, 2020

Theme for Sunday:

Reaffirm, Redeem, Rename



Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Luke 2:22-40

Sentence: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Psalm 148:1

Collect: Spirit that strengthens us, grant us the courage to shout praise and adoration for the work of your hands. Grant us the peace and clarity of mind to think, act, and love in your name. Amen.

From Love to the World

Monday December 21st

Psalm 148

Introduction to Prayer: Praise God all you creatures.

Response to Scripture: God's name is exalted. Let us praise God!

Q: Write a few lines – a description, prayer, or short psalm – that refers to local features of God's creation.

Prayer– Creator God, today may my life join creation in praise of you!

Tuesday December 22nd

Isaiah 52:7-10

Q: Recall a time when you have felt the joy of being released from captivity – whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Prayer – Gracious God, today may I celebrate your good news of peace and freedom from exile.

Wednesday December 23rd

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Q: How does today's commentary help you to understand the meaning of righteousness? And what more would you like to know?

Prayer– Righteous God, plant justice and praise firmly within my community.

Thursday December 24th

Psalm 89:1-4

Q: Who and what are you remembering this Christmas Eve as you anticipate Christ's coming?

Prayer – O God, as I remember your past faithfulness, may I wait with expectation to be surprised by you again.

Friday December 25th Christmas Day**John 1:1-14****Q:** Where is God's tent in your neighbourhood?**Prayer** – Light of the world, as we celebrate Christmas today, remind us that you continue to pitch your tent alongside ours.**Saturday December 26th****Galatians 4:4-7****Q:** What words or images do you use to describe your intimacy with God?**Prayer** – Abba God, I give you thanks and praise that I am your child and heir.**Sunday December 27th****Luke 2:22-40****Q:** Who are the faithful elders of your life and church community? Thank them.**Pray** for migrants, refugees, and stateless people.**SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

- **Pray for** our friends and families this week of Christmas. Help us to make time for each other to listen and to love.
- **Pray for** people driving to their holiday destinations, that they will be considerate and stay safe on our roads.
- **Pray for** those throughout the world who can't celebrate with family and friends because of Covid.
- **Pray for** family members and friends are struggling with their health at this time. We pray for God's blessings and continued healing for them.
- **Pray for** those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

GIVE THANKS

- **For** family and friends and that we can enjoy our Christmastime with them.
- **For** medical staff who have to work over Christmas. May they be truly blessed for their work.
- **For** all the gatherings of hospitality and care that has been occurring around our community, especially within our church family.
- **For** the leadership team for Cursillo as they prepare for the special time away, and for the pilgrims who are planning to attend

Focus

Christ has come and now we are called to focus on how that has changed us. In Isaiah, the imagery of a shoot in a garden helps us to understand that our redemption is not a one and done act of God but a nurturing and cultivating process. The Psalm too helps us understand that all of creation joins in the praise of God's continuing goodness.

In Luke, the ceremony of circumcision and naming are carried out as the law of God, passed down from Moses, prescribed. This child was to be not only the redemption of Israel, but also salvation for all people as the prophetic voices of Simeon and Anna declare.

God keeps reshaping and restoring our world and us. Do our lives, our choices reaffirm this reality?

How can we remind each other that we have been adopted, renamed and redeemed by God?

Prayer: Help us to love in your name, to think and act in ways that reaffirm all your blessings. Amen.

Next two Sunday's, 3rd and 10th January at Methodist Church

And then back at St Matthews January 17th onwards. Our next newsletter will be just prior to this

Wednesday 10am resumes on Jan 20th

Cursillo takes place at Otorohanga January 14-17 pray for the pilgrims and leaders of this special time away

Lance and Val will be away from Jan 28th to Saturday Feb 16th – can be contacted by text 027 4448286 (Val) and 02 555 3286 (Lance). Otherwise contact Deacon Mary Maxwell on 07 889 7890 / 021 1183650 or Warden Jacky Hutchings 07 889 7170 / 021 368 523 or Pastoral Coordinator Margie Thomas 07 8896248 / 0220413403

