

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

November 15th, 2020

Theme for Sunday:

Rejecting Fear – Embracing Joy



Readings: Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

Matthew 25:14-30

Sentence: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! *Psalm 123:1*

Collect: Holy One, you call us as witnesses to your world-transforming love and liberation. Yet, we are often cautious, denying ourselves the joy of your presence. Grant us the courage, we pray, to utilize our talents and gifts. Amen.

From Love to the World

Monday November 9th

Judges 4:1-7

Introduction to Prayer: Be silent before the Lord.

Response to Scripture: I will surely go with you.

Q: What disturbs you and what impresses you about Deborah?

Prayer– Lord, support me today as I seek to be obedient in love.

Tuesday November 10th

Judges 5:1-12

Q: Read the whole book of Judges to see the cycle of conflict then peace.

Prayer– Lord, grant all your people a time of rest and peace.

Wednesday November 11th

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Q: How do members of your congregation “encourage each other”? Could they do better? If so, how?

Prayer– Lord, give us the courage to declare what is right and the power to carry it through (Basil Naylor).

Thursday November 12th

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Q: Do you regard ordained ministers as having authority? If so, what sort of authority is it?

Prayer – Lord, may those who bear the burden of responsibility accept your guidance and be very wise (Caryl Micklem).

Friday November 13th

Matthew 25:14-30

Q: Can you name several occasions when you have lost the opportunity to serve God?

Prayer – Lord, may we place the overflowing basket of our gifts on the table of rejoicing (Kate McIlhagga).

Saturday November 14th

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Q: Have you ever felt a tension between faith in an omnipotent loving God in the midst of the daily facts of your life? What was going on?

Prayer – Lord, help me to make each day one of blessings.

Sunday November 15th

Psalm 123

Q: Where do you look for assurances of God's grace?

Pray for the lands and people of East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, and the Philippines.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for** Napier and the people who have been evacuated, lost possessions, have damaged homes, etc, from the deluge that caused the flooding on Monday.
- **Pray for** our own community and for the police, fire brigade, and ambulance workers who look after us when things go wrong.
- **Pray for** Ariel as she coordinates the Christmas Music Festival.
- **Pray for** our friends and family who are unwell, especially Lynda, Lorna and others special to us.
- **Pray for** those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

GIVE THANKS

- **For the Fair on Saturday**, especially all the people who gave up their time to volunteer. A big **THANK YOU** to them all.
- **For the** different groups who meet in our Hub each week.
- **For** all of the talents and gifts we have and that we use them wisely!
- **For** the "God-Moments" we experience unexpectedly during the week
- **For** people who encourage us

Focus

The gospel of Matthew is written to people with every reason to be afraid...their leader was executed on a cross by the Romans and they could face the same fate if deemed to be a threat. In the story of the talents, each person is given the freedom and responsibility to use their talents as they wish. The story suggests that risks are worth it if it allows you to reject fear and embrace the joy of the realm of God.

Is our faith helping us to embrace joy or are we letting fear hold us back from using our talents to their fullest?

Can we spread love and justice without taking a risk every now and then?

Prayer: Lord we confess we don't always use your gifts and talents as we should. Help us to change that at least once this week. Amen.

Next Sunday: Do You See Me?

Readings: Nov 22: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15–23; Matt 25:31–46

22 nd Nov	Sidespeople V Crispe	Welcomer Carole	Data Rodney	MOW Lynne	1 st reading Diane	2 nd reading Carole	Intercessions Lance	Morning Tea Linda and Margaret
-------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------	----------------	--------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------------

Coming up...

The Morrinsville Christmas Music Festival

Sunday 29th November 2020 beginning at 4pm.



For more information phone Ariel McCracken on 027 2945139 or email arielmcc@slingshot.co.nz

Cursillo Three-Day Weekend 14 – 17 January 2021 Falloon House, Otorohanga College

The Waikato Taranaki Anglican Diocese Cursillo is hosting three-day residential weekend enjoyed in the name of Jesus Christ. It is a short course in Christian living to support anyone involved in Christian Ministry.

Join us for a weekend of fun, learning and fellowship.

If you would like more information, please contact Jan Lockett-Kay
Waikato Taranaki Lay Director, jlk@xtra.co.nz or 027 222 3053.

Margie Thomas and Lance's and Val's daughter Heather are both on team 😊

The organisers hope to finalize numbers attending by 10 December.

Please give it serious consideration and get a good number from our parish. It's a great experience.

LOAVES & FISHES

We hope to get another Loaves and Fishes out before Christmas. If you already get the weekly newsletter by email, would you like to receive Loaves and Fishes that way too?

If you have something you would like included in the magazine please send to Val email vjriches@outlook.com or phone 027 444 8286 or Janice on 027 823 6370 or email janicegthorne@gmail.com

**If you have any concerns, please contact
Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286**