

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

November 1st, 2020

Theme for Sunday: On the Right Road (All Saints Day)



Readings: Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10

Matthew 5:1-12

Sentence: For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. *Revelation 7:17*

Collect: **Blessed One, you never cease to surprise us. We grow accustomed to a way of accounting for our lives that often puts us in the losing column. Help us claim the identity and direction you offer to us so that we may stay on the road to your freedom, justice, mercy, and compassion. Amen.**

As we reflect on the Beatitudes it suggests that in our sufferings and struggles that we might most intimately know God and be known by our Creator. This is so counterculture to the prosperity Gospel we sometimes hear preached or the dynamics of the empire building world in which we live and where so many people are disenfranchised.

As we celebrate All Souls Day we remember all those special people in our own lives who are no longer with us in this world. Loved family members and special mentors/role models and how they may still cheer us on in their own special way. There will be opportunity to light a candle in church this Sunday in memory of them.

From Love to the World

Monday October 26th

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Introduction to Prayer: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 107:1).

Response to Scripture: Ponder God's presence and deliverance today.

Q: How do you experience the presence of the "God of steadfast love" in your life?

Prayer– God of steadfast love, make yourself known to me today and every day.

Tuesday October 27th

Matthew 23:1-12

Q: How could the church live more faithfully in Jesus' way?

Prayer—Lord God, give me ears to hear your word of judgement. I turn to you and find forgiveness and grace.

Wednesday October 28th

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Q: How does the faith of the Reformers enrich your understanding of God's grace?

Prayer— God of grace, I thank you for continuing to seek me out so that I may know you and rejoice in your unconditional love.

Thursday October 29th

Joshua 3:7-17

Q: In the light of today's reading, what questions arise for your understanding of God's providence?

Prayer – Holy God, companion of your people during their journey through history, may I experience your promise and presence in all the situations I face today.

Friday October 30th

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Q: List the names of people in your life whose ministry embodies Paul's example. Write a prayer of thanks for them – or give them a call.

Prayer – Mothering God, you love me with a parents love and admonish me in love. Keep me open to hearing your words when spoken by others in your name.

Saturday October 31st

Romans 3:19-28

Q: How do you experience Christian life as a living out of the freedom of a salvation gifted to you by the grace of God? Explore this with your minister or a trusted friend.

Prayer – Gracious God, your love embraces all people. Teach me your good news; open my heart to your gift of salvation by grace through faith.

Sunday November 1st

Revelation 7:9-17

Q: Read Revelation 7:9-17 aloud, with emotion.

Pray for the lands and people of nations of the Pacific.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for** our **FAIR** on the 7th November. We pray for fine weather and plenty of people to enjoy the day!
- **Pray for** the beginning of November and the Guy Fawkes season, that people act responsibly around fireworks and for the care and protection of animals.
- **Pray for** our friends and family who are unwell.
- **Pray for** those who mourn the loss of a loved one, especially those families affected by road and activity tragedies this last weekend.

GIVE THANKS

- **For** the people who do the flowers, clean the brass, keep the church clean, and the myriad of little jobs that keep our church building tidy and clean.
- **For** the lovely taste of summer we have had.
- **For** the preparation happening for the **FAIR and all our great volunteers.**
Particularly we pray for our Co-ordinator Melanie Budd.

Focus

This week is when we are reminded of the saints who have gone before as we celebrate All Saints Day. Jesus set the example for our ancestors and for us alike of living with purpose ... living as a liberated, justice oriented, loving people of God. In Revelation 7 we read that diversity is no barrier to inclusion. The Psalmist too realizes that troubles should not keep us from living in the blessing and presence of God. When we are on the right road there is a connection to those who have

travelled that road before us, their support and encouragement can be felt.

How does a theology of inclusion run counter to our current day cultural norms and systems?

What markers tell you that your community of faith, or you personally are on the right road?

Prayer: May each child and adult gathered today in worship know the comfort of being beloved of God and the purpose and direction that gives. Amen

Next Sunday: Door Shut or Open

Readings: Nov 8: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

1st Nov	Sidespeople Murfitt	Welcomer	Data Barbara	MOW Lynnley	1st reading Colin	2nd reading Carole	Intercessions Lynnley	Morning Tea Rodney and Murray
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Melanie Budd has the Fair planning well in hand.

Stall Holders – Plants- Ariel McCracken
Cakes – Olwyn Downing
White Elephant – Chris & Jacqui Hutchings
Christmas – Rachel Churton
Knitting & Handcraft – Lyn Doughty
Books – Dianne Sia
Produce – Raewyn Court
Sausage Sizzle – Michelle Gubb
Lucky Dip – Anne Todd
Raffles – Margie Thomas
Morning Tea – Sharron Berry
Silent Auction – Val Riches
Jewellery & Bling – Melanie Budd

Some stalls still need helpers – please contact Melanie if you can help

There is a contingency plan if we move out of level one. Hopefully it won't be needed

Please let Melanie know if you have any items that need to be collected for the Fair.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

If you have any concerns please contact

Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286

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.

If you know someone who has been on a weekend, please talk to them – such as Ariel McCracken. Lance and Val Riches, Barbara Hopkin, Margie Thomas, Janice Thorne

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.