

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

September 20th, 2020

When you come to church please 'sign in', disinfect and sit at least 2m apart.

Stay kind, stay safe.

If you don't feel well, stay home.

Theme for Sunday: Wilderness/Outback Sunday

Readings: Deuteronomy 8:2-10 Psalm 18:6-19
Matthew 3:13-4:2

Sentence: He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. *Psalm 18:19*

Collect: Loving God, we thank you for the wild, beautiful, eternally changing world that is always beyond our understanding. In the wilderness, help us to find wonder and awe, to mourn when the land calls us to mourn, and to rejoice when it calls us to rejoice. Amen.



From Love to the World

Monday September 14th

Exodus 16:1-36

Introduction to Prayer: Sing, O people, sing praises to our God.

Response to Scripture: May God's wonderful love be told forth.

Q: From what do you need to be set free, and what stops you trusting that God can transform your life?

Prayer– Pray for the courage to trust God and share life with your neighbour.

Tuesday September 15th

Philippians 1:1-11

Q: What is one thing you could do this week to encourage other people and affirm their Christian faithfulness?

Prayer– I give thanks, O God, for the faithful and caring people in my church.

Wednesday September 16th

Philippians 1:21-30

Q: Is Paul's claim that faith in Christ is worth dying for too extreme? How can you affirm that faith in Christ is central to your life?

Prayer– Gracious God, give me the courage to witness to you even when it is hard.

Thursday September 17th

Matthew 19:1-12

Q: How have attitudes to marriage and divorce changed over time?

Prayer – Pray that you may let go of things that have held you for too long.

Friday September 18th**Matthew 19:13-30**

Q: How, and why, do we explain away Jesus' teaching about possessions in today's reading? What needs to change?

Prayer – Heavenly Father, help me to break the web of desires that cut me off from you.

Saturday September 19th**Matthew 20:1-16**

Q: Solidarity means valuing others as much as we value ourselves. In what ways do you, or could you, demonstrate this?

Prayer – Pray for the generosity of spirit that celebrates good fortune for your neighbour in need.

Sunday September 20th**Psalms 105:1-6,37-45**

Q: How do you express thanks for "the wonderful works [God] has done" in your life?

In your prayers remember the lands and people of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for** the people in countries where Covid 19 has been overwhelming and hospitals are overflowing, and people are dying.
- **Pray for** the people in New Zealand who have Covid 19, especially those in hospital. Pray for their recovery and the slowing down of new cases.
- **Pray for** our friends and family who are unwell, especially Carole and Lynda.
- **Pray for** those who mourn the loss of a loved one, especially Ron Jones and his family in the loss of Shirley.
- **Pray for** the Cursillo Ultreya (gathering) to be held on Saturday.
- **Pray for** the United Youth Choir and their concert here on Sunday.

GIVE THANKS

- **For** the daily signs of spring, especially the colourful iris' and other spring bulbs.
- **For** our government's stance on preventing the spread of Covid 19.
- **For** those among our church family who go out of their way to care for others.
- **For** our church leaders, especially our Bishop Phillip and Archdeacon Terry
- **For** the leaders in our own parish – especially our clergy, vestry and synod reps.
- **For** the times that we have a God moment in our ordinary daily lives.
- **For** each other and the stories we share together.

Focus

This Sunday we are contemplating the wilderness as a place of spiritual sustenance, a place that teaches us who we are. Perhaps like Jesus, when we journey into a wilderness, either physically or spiritually, it can be a time of self-discovery.

How have you experienced/understood the last few months, have they been a wilderness time?

How has hope shown up in seemingly hopeless times?

Prayer: May the wilderness spaces in our lives be times of growth and understanding of who we are and whose we are. Amen

Next Sunday: River Sunday

Readings: September 27: Genesis 8:20-22,9:12-17; Psalm 104:27-33; Rev 22:1-5; Matt 28:1-10

27 th Sept	Sidespeople V. Crispe	Welcomer Carole	Data Peter	MOW Margie	1 st reading Rodney	2 nd reading Carole	Intercessions Margie	Morning Tea Margaret Foubister, Linda and Margaret
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We are not allowed to serve drinks or food under the umbrella of the church. Thus, all events that revolve around hospitality have been cancelled until we are back in Level one.

This Sunday September 20th 2pm Concert – United Youth Orchestra from Hamilton with Conductor Yoshiki Tatsumi.

<https://www.facebook.com/United-Youth-Orchestra-132518860157640/>

As we are still in level two we will not have afternoon tea after the concert.

Our reflections:

When have you been lost? Physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually.

Many things can cause one to experience a wilderness – loss of a loved one, or home or animal. A place of not being sure where to go or how to fend for oneself. Strange environment, internal turmoil, doubt, uncertainty can all cause one to feel as if they are in a wilderness.

What experiences of being in a wilderness do you relate to?

In what ways has Covid offered you a wilderness experience?

After a wilderness experience people are different – new perspectives, values, appreciation or fears