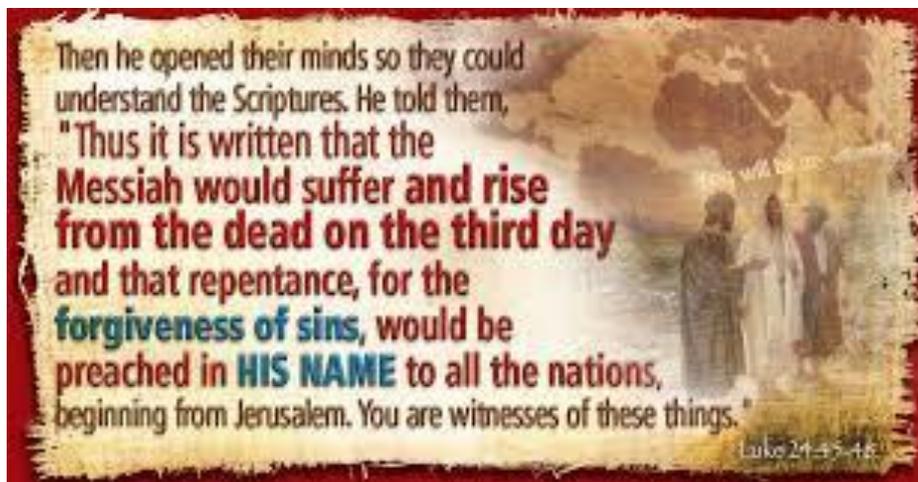


# **St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Theme for Sunday:**

## **We Are Witnesses**



**Readings: Acts 3:12-19**

**Psalm 4**

**Luke 24:36b-48**

**Sentence:** Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. *Acts 3:19-20*

**Collect:** Ever-present God, we desire your transformative spirit among us. Yet, we confess that many times we only stare, mouths gaping and knees trembling, at the sight of your miraculous presence. Forgive us for when we stand in disbelief. Fill us with Christ's peace, Peter's conviction, and the healed one's joy so we may be your witnesses. Amen.

### **Preparation for Sunday from "Love to the World"**

**Acts 3:12-19**

**Q:** What are some of the "circuit breakers" that God gives us to move from accusation and retribution towards forgiveness?

**Prayer-** Forgiving God, keep me from retaliating when I have been hurt.

**Psalm 4**

**Q:** Do you sleep well at night? If so, what's your secret? If not, what help do you find in today's reading and commentary?

**Prayer -** God of light, illuminate my path today and lift me out of dark places.

**Luke 24:36b-48**

**Q:** How do you balance healthy scepticism, anxious doubts, and peaceful acceptance in your life and relationships?

**Prayer:** Gracious God, reassure me of your presence; calm my fears and anxiety.



## **SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Pray** for The Royal family as they mourn the loss of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

**Pray** for India as they deal with Covid 19 and for patience as our leaders work out a way to let them back in to New Zealand and keep us safe as well.

**Pray** for the continued roll out of the vaccine to all workers in MIQ and then to all of us, the most vulnerable first.

**Pray for** those who are sick, especially Lynda and Caleb and others we may know.

**Pray for** those who are mourning the loss of a loved one and those mourning an anniversary of the death of a loved one.

## **GIVE THANKS**

**For** opportunity for people to gather next week for ANZAC.

**For** the vintage car club and the joy they gave to Selwyn Centre this week

**For** the changing of our seasons, both in creation and in us as well.

**For** the various groups who use the Hub on a regular basis.

**For** all the volunteers who do various things at St Matthew's such as the flowers, cleaning brass, and lots of others who do jobs we take for granted.

## **Focus**

These disciples are stuck in their experience of grief. Initially they don't recognise Jesus. When they do they are filled with unending joy which pours through the rest of the Scripture events as well as becoming their own.

The Easter story one of radical love that we are called to proclaim today. We each bear our grief, our struggles and our mistakes. We are called to reflect deeply with in. We are called to turn towards the risen Christ with open arms and open spirits, welcoming the good news! Christ is alive!! Christ is risen!!

## **Next Sunday: April 25<sup>th</sup> (Love is a Verb)**

**Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18**

<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Sidespeople</b> Shona and family	<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Data</b> Barbara	<b>MOW</b> Peter	<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b> Colin	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b> Greer and Meg	<b>Intercessions</b> Mary	<b>Morning Tea</b> Melanie & Olwyn
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