

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

April 4th, 2021

Theme for Sunday:

Easter Sunday!



Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9/1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 John 20:1-18

Sentence: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Collect: Christ is risen! Hope is alive and moves among us! Help us to proclaim this, Holy One. May we remember that despair is not the end of your story. Help us to live as an Easter people, who believe that God's love has no restrictions. Amen.

Preparation for Sunday from "Love to the World"

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Q: What does "being alive to Christ" mean to you and others close to you?

Prayer– Thank you, O God, that in my journey through life I am not alone. Help me to know that you are with me in every time of trouble.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Q: Psalm 118 refers five times to the enduring steadfast love of God. How, with whom, and where do you experience it?

Prayer – Despite life's difficulties and anxieties, may I rejoice in the Lord always and trust in God's never failing love. God is my steadfast rock.

John 20:1-18

Q: What new visions of God and changes to life's journey have occurred for you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Prayer: I praise you, God, that the resurrection message of Jesus as Lord proclaims your triumph over all justice and violence, giving hope to all.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for** peace in the world as we all reflect on the events of Easter and the resurrection message.
- **Pray for** people travelling over Easter that they may arrive at their destinations safely.
- **Pray for** those who are sick, especially Lynda, Caleb, and Keryn and others we may know.
- **Pray for** those who are mourning the loss of a loved one especially the family of Bruce Wright.
- **Pray for** our families to be aware of the presence of Christ this Easter.

GIVE THANKS

- **For** the visit of Archbishop Philip and the Rev. Sue Burns to St Matthew's and all who stayed and participated in the discussion of rural ministry.
- **For** the families who are making St Matthews their church family.
- **For** the many connections with the wider community and the opportunity to offer Devonshire teas this Saturday.
- **For** the ecumenical witness this Friday among the churches.

Focus

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. In John Mary goes alone to visit Jesus' tomb...and is the first to see him and to tell the good news to the rest. In Mark, Mary and Salome go together and are told to go and tell what they have seen.

People react differently to Jesus' resurrection from the dead: Mary weeps, Peter runs away, and may be in disbelief.

In Isaiah we read of salvation, blessings and a hope-filled vision and the Psalmist offers thanksgiving for what God has done.

**What do you think you would have done if you were the first to discover the empty tomb?
How has our revisiting of the events of Holy Week changed us?**

Prayer: Death has been conquered, and the hope of life after death is in full view. Alleluia. Amen

A Good News Story!

Greetings all

Here's the first Good News story to share with you – for you to share with your congregations in whatever way you like. God continues to bless our community through the work we do here – and we really appreciate the contributions your folk make to our service, be it food, money or prayer.

Our Good News story this month involves some Easter Eggs that were kindly donated to us from our supporting local churches.

A young Dad came into the office with his 2 little children. He only cares for them part time but the children's mother was taken suddenly into hospital. He was caught out with no food in the cupboards, no pay until next week and 2 extra mouths to feed. We helped him

out with a generous food parcel, gave him some encouraging words for the good job he was doing, and then asked if he would like to choose some Easter eggs for the children – and himself. He was amazed at the kindness of the community of churches in Morrinsville and so thankful, as there was no way he was going to be able to afford the Easter treats. This Easter Sunday there will be a sweet little family taking a moment to think about how care and love were shown to them this week. And all because our supporters are prepared to show the love of Christ even in the little things like sharing Easter eggs.

Thanks people! You are awesome.

*Your fellow servant in Christ,
Bronwyn*

Next Sunday: April 11th

Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

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| ^{11th} April | Sidespeople Crispe | Welcomer Carole | Data Rodney | MOW Lynne | 1st reading Diane | 2nd reading Elizabeth | Intercessions Lance | Morning Tea Rachael C & Anne T |
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This Week (Holy Week) :

Wednesday 7pm at St Andrews Cambridge Monologues for Lent

Thursday 7.30pm Foot washing and Tenebrae at St Matthews

Friday 10.00am Walk of Witness starting at the Methodist Church and concluding with Hot Cross buns at the Catholic Church

With an option to sit in our church from 10.15 and listen to organ music instead of walking

Vicar, Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286

Lance 027 555 3286