

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

January 16th, 2022

Abundant Love

A special welcome to people from the Methodist Church – so great to be able to worship together this month. According to Government and Church guidelines our 10am services on Sunday require a vaccination pass.

For all services the vestry asks for you to please continue to wear a mask on arrival and departure and during singing. Please use the contact tracer and hand sanitiser as you arrive at church. And if you are not well to please stay at home. There are zoom links to services if you are not able to leave home.

Our Wednesday services start this week on January 19th at 10am

THIS SUNDAY

Readings: Isaiah 62:1–5

Psalm 36:5–10

John 2:1–11

Sentence: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. *Psalm 36:7*

Collect: O God, your desire for creation is abundance. Elevate our vision and give us faith broad and wide enough to see your plenty. Amen.

Preparation for Sunday from “Love to the World”

Isaiah 62:1–5

Question: Recall times when you have lived with unfulfilled hope. How have you coped? Was your faith a significant factor in the experience?

Prayer: Loving God, in you I place my trust, now and always.

Psalm 36:5–10

Question: The Psalmist states that “all people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings” (v7). In a world of hurt, how can this claim become incarnate? Can you help in some way?

Prayer: O God, I pray for the refugees and displaced in this world, that they can find refuge in you.

John 2:1–11

Question: You have not seen Jesus, yet you believe. Can you reflect on why this is so? How were you nurtured in your spiritual journey?

Prayer: Loving Lord, may I always be alert to the signs of your transforming presence.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for** the people in the USA who have lost family, friends and possessions in the destructive tornadoes.
- **Pray for** our government and the decisions they have to make for our well being because of the pandemic and its new variant, and pray for us to remember to be kind to others even when we don't agree with them.

- **Pray for** drivers to be concentrating on their driving and consider others to prevent more road accidents.
- **Pray for** those who are sick, especially Craig, Sandra, Norm, Lynda and Caleb and others we may know. Janet Gray, she is in hospital with a suspected mini stroke. Lois Edmonds (one of our Artists) is awaiting surgery.
- **Pray for** those who are mourning the loss of a loved one

GIVE THANKS

- **For** our families and friends who gave us their loving companionship over the holiday period.
- **For** the work of the food banks and the generosity of the givers.
- **For** the lovely sunny weather we have had to enjoy our activities.
- **For** the many ways God speaks to us in our prayers and guides us through the Holy Spirit.

Focus

This week we look at scriptures that expound on the love God has for all creation and for his people. In Isaiah, God's people are restored to relationship with their God. The psalmist offers praise for God's unconditional love and in the Corinthians verses we are reminded of the abundance of love poured out in the gifts of the Spirit - each unique - each for the common good. Finally in the story of the wedding in Cana, Jesus performs his first miracle and the disciples believe. In each love shines through.

How can we respond with abundance and abundant love to the needs of our neighbours and community?

How might we practice faith like Mary and trust in God's abundance when there is a need?

Prayer: Forgive us for the times we doubt the abundance of the gift, the power of trust and the breadth and magnitude of the love. Amen

Next Sunday: January 23rd – Spirited Voice

23 rd Jan	Sides people Welcomer	Data	MOW Lynne	1 st reading Carole	Intercessions Angela	Morning tea Volunteers
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Vestry meets Tuesday 18th at 7.15pm

Vicar, Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286
Lance 027 555 3286