

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

March 12th, 2023

With Thirst for New Life

Website: stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz

THIS SUNDAY

Readings: Exodus 17:1–7

Psalm 95

John 4:5–23, 39-42

Sentence: Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

Mark 4:13-14

Collect: God of all life, sometimes we think our voices don't matter. We have important things to say and wonder if anyone will listen. We offer a different perspective from the world, and it is rejected. Give us big voices, Holy One. Give us voices that are loud enough to claim that you are the one who provided water in the desert, living water at a well, and that in you we find resurrection and claim it for ourselves. Amen.



Preparation for Sunday from “Love to the World”

Exodus 17:1–7

Question: How does God's gracious response to us enable us to respond in a similar way towards those who grumble and quarrel against us?

Prayer: Providing God, please unite our hearts and draw us into your presence.

Psalm 95

Question: What is most important, for you, as you worship God?

Prayer: Holy God, let us worship together genuinely with our heart, mind, and soul through Jesus Christ who is the way, truth, and life.

John 4:5–42

Question: Imagine you are overhearing Jesus as he speaks to the woman and to the disciples in Samaria. What is your impression of Jesus as you see aspects of his character displayed in these conversations?

Prayer: Deliver us, Lord, from every moment and grant us your peace in our day.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for the people on the island of Vanuatu who have suffered with cyclones and an earthquake last week. We pray for help for them to rebuild their shattered homes and families.**

- Pray for wisdom and good leadership as the forests of the East Cape and Gisborne areas are assessed and steps are taken to prevent future erosion of these regions.
- Pray for those working hard restoring communication and roads in the cyclone affected areas.
- Pray for our Annual General Meeting to be held next Sunday 19th March.
- Pray for our Polynesian tikanga as they gather to consecrate their new Archbishop and safe travel for all those gathering
- Pray for those who are sick especially Fiona, Lynda, Jean and Norm, Rachael and Vi.
- We pray for the family of William Doughty as they mourn is passing.
- Pray for all families mourning the death of a loved one.

GIVE THANKS

- For the wonderful families and great baptism celebrated last Sunday.
- For all those participating in the service and providing a superb lunch.
- For the resilience and perseverance of those struggling to reestablish their living situation and travel links as they live in parts of NZ experiencing isolation from cyclone Gabrielle
- For the donations from the wider church and the ongoing support for these communities; and the opportunities we have to support.

Focus

The theme of life-giving water runs through three of today's readings, while the reading from Romans speaks of God's grace as the source of life. In Exodus, Moses asks God for help and when he follows God's instructions and strikes the rock, water flows forth, to quench the thirst of the Israelites. Jesus saves the Samaritan woman and many of her neighbours from their thirst for the living water. The psalmist thinks back to the story in Exodus and gives thanks for God's provisions. It is a call to worship and obedience to a God who has proven faithful at every turn.

What voices in your community or in your life are calling for news of God's living water?

Have you ever tried to speak and not been listened to? What did that feel like?

Prayer: Lord, open our ears that we may hear the voices in our communities that are seeking justice, seeking to be heard and recognized. May we honour their search for a new life. Amen.

Next Sunday: March 19th, 10am; After Vision Shifts. **NB. NO 8.30am**

Wednesday 10am

Readings – 1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

19 th Mar	Sides people Jacky	No 8.30am Service	Data Chris H	MOW Lynnley	Reader Jacky	Intercessions Lynnley	Morning tea Margie & Jacky
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AGM March 19th – NB. if you want to have something on the agenda it must be sent to the parish office by Thursday March 16th

Nomination forms for Vestry are at the front of the church.

Lenten Study each Wednesday 7.30pm - zoom <https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/95506180897>

BUS PILGRIMAGE to Rangiaowhia with Archbishop David Moxon April 29th 10 am- 3.00 pm ! book a place now!

Seats are going fast !

\$35.00 phone or see Val or Chris, or email smattmorr@xtra.co.nz

Vicar: Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286, Lance 027 555 3286 Email val@wtanglican.nz