

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

March 19th, 2023

After Vision Shifts

No 8am Service – AGM

Website: stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz



THIS SUNDAY

Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm 23
John 9:1–41

Sentence: Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ *John 9:39*

Collect: God, help us to see the ways you turn the ordinary elements of life into something amazing. Shift our perspective to place you at the centre so we may be transformed as we look at the world differently. Amen.

Preparation for Sunday from “Love to the World”

1 Samuel 16:1–13

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: God, meet us in our disappointments and show us glimpses of hope.

Psalm 23

Question: Read Psalm 23 from the perspective of God. What strikes you about God’s promise for you?

Prayer: God beyond our imagining, open our hearts to know you afresh as your love is unveiled in new and exciting ways.

John 9:1-41

Question: In the week to come, take time to notice where you see God in the ordinary and grimy parts of your life? Where are your spiritual blind spots, and what can you learn from noticing your limited vision?

Prayer: God of the ordinary, touch our eyes that we may see you in all aspects of life. Illumine us, O God. Where we cannot see, bless our sight. Where we are sure we see with clarity, reveal our blindness.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- Pray for the work at Anglican Action especially for the work they do for men released from prison. That we learn to see them with the same love as God sees them. That they experience a hope for a better future, and see their mentors as positive role models.

- Pray for our AGM this Sunday and for the people nominated to serve on Vestry.
- Pray for those who are sick especially Jean and Norm, Fiona, Lynda, Ken and Warren
- Pray for all families mourning the death of a loved one, especially the family of Vi.

GIVE THANKS

- For the great celebrations in the Fiji Cathedral last weekend with the consecration of their 8th bishop and also Archbishop of Polynesia, alongside Archbishops Philip and Don.
- For our journey through the Bible and the themes each week, as we understand better what God wants of us each week.
- For the long-standing ministry to the community on our behalf which Vi offered through the Op Shop
- For those who manager the parish accounts – especially the skills that Rodney offers alongside Diane and Beverley.

Focus

Change comes when we shift our perspective to see how God works in the world. In 1 Samuel a shepherd boy is chosen to be the future King; in the Psalm David describes how he feels safe, protected and unafraid with God as his shepherd. In Ephesians we are exhorted to be children of the Light and to seek to act in ways that are pleasing to the Lord; and shun and expose the darkness.

In the focus scripture in John, a man born blind is given sight on the Sabbath and the Pharisees jump on that as the initial controversy in the situation. However, the healed one, not only gains his eyesight but also becomes a disciple and believes Jesus is the Messiah and is not afraid to challenge the Pharisees with his new found insight.

Do we see people as God sees them or do we allow our societal norms and perspectives to cloud our vision?

What are the big questions that will take a vision shift to more fully understand the answers that God has provided in his loving care?

Prayer: God, help us to open our eyes to a new way of seeing, a new way of viewing the world and our communities as you would have us see them. Amen

Next Sunday: March 26th, 8am & 10am; Out of the Depths

Wednesday 10am

Readings – Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45

26th Mar	Sides people Anne Murfitt	Welcome	Data Barbara	MOW Lynne	Reader Jacky	Intercessions Charlee or Anne Murfitt	Morning tea Rodney & Murray
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Lenten Study each Wednesday 7.30pm - zoom <https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/95506180897>

Last weekend, Anglicans from across the Pacific have joined in celebration to ordain and install the Most Rev Sione Uluilakepa as Bishop of Polynesia and welcome him as an Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Read about it in the Taonga **Anglican Taonga : New Zealand's Anglican News Leader** Article **+Sione Polynesia takes the lead**

**April 2nd Palm Sunday
Monday Thursday 7.00pm Communion service**

Good Friday Walk of Witness will begin at 10am at the Baptist Church and concluding at the Methodist Church

BUS PILGRIMAGE April 29th 10 am - 3.00 pm Seats are going fast! Phone or see Val or Chris 021894811 or email stmattmorr@xtra.co.nz to book \$35.00 or to discuss options with finances are a barrier.

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