

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

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## **Through The Night**

**Website: [stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz](http://stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz)**

### **THIS SUNDAY**

**Readings: Genesis 12:1–4a**

**Psalm 121**

**John 3:1–17**

**Sentence:** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above". John 3:6

**Collect:** Spirit, you lead us into the night. Sometimes the darkness is scary; sometimes it brings peace. In the stillness of the night, help us come to you. Let us experience you in ways we have not before. As we wrestle with the questions of our lives, help us know what really matters. Amen.



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

#### **Genesis 12:1-4a**

**Question:** What does it mean to "walk by faith"? What can we learn from the ancient story of Abraham, about following God in the 21st century?

**Prayer:** Promise of God, help us listen to your call and live in your promise.

#### **Psalm 121**

**Question:** Pray Psalm 121 slowly, focus on each phrase, let the psalm inhabit your whole being. How do you respond to God at the end of this?

**Prayer:** God of promise-keeping, we are thankful for the promised blessing provided not only for Jews but even for all people.

#### **John 3:1-17**

**Question:** In what way does Nicodemus misunderstand Jesus?

**Prayer:** Father God, please guide my heart and my mouth to respond with right answers, that I might turn away from confusion to be born again.

### **SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

- Pray for the pupils and staff from Hukarere School (an Anglican School) in the Esk Valley in Hawkes Bay. We pray for the recovery of their taonga (special items) and anything undamaged, and that they can find a safe place to rebuild.
- Pray for wisdom in relocating businesses and families to be able to re-establishing their livelihoods.
- Pray for the Archbishop-elect of Polynesia, Sione Ulu'ilakepa and his consecration next Sunday
- Pray for those who are sick especially Fiona, Lynda, Jean and Norm, and others we know who are unwell.

- Pray mourning the death of a loved one.

## GIVE THANKS

- For the \$920 that was collected last Sunday for Anglican Missions to distribute to the flood victims, and for the ongoing support being received.
- For the work the office staff do to keep the administration of St Matthew's running smoothly, for our Vicar Val, and Assistant Priests Lance, Elizabeth and Lindsay. We give thanks for the Vestry and the Ministry Team for all the work they do.
- For the parents Lauren and Campbell, Aleck and Catherine, Brett and Joanne, Jo, Elysia and Gareth, James and Stephanie who have brought their children to be baptized today

## Focus

This week the passages were about the wilderness of the night. As they aged, I'm sure Abram and Sarai might have wondered if / how God was going to make them a blessing to their family, their nation and then to the world when they were without descendants. In the Psalm we read a call for God's mercy as many have no doubt done in the middle of the night when they are struggling.

In John we meet Nicodemus who goes to discuss and debate with the Jesus and likely the disciples at night as he is trying to learn what is it that matters most.

In Romans we learn that it is Abraham's faith and trust in God that rely on God's grace and not their own achievements.

**Have you, like Abraham, stepped out into the unknown trusting that God is with you on the journey?**

**How can we reach out like Nicodemus to try to learn and discern what matters most at this time and place in our own lives of the life of your family of faith?**

**Prayer:** Be with us "through the night" whether physical or metaphysical as we wrestle with the deep questions and seek to know you better God. Amen

**Next Sunday: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 8.30am & 10am; With Thirst for New Life.**

**Wednesday 10am**

**Readings – Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42**

12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sides people	Welcomer Diane	Data Rodney	MOW Margie	Reader Diane	Intercessions Margie	Morning tea Lynne and Margie
-------------------------	--------------	-------------------	----------------	---------------	-----------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------

**Devonshire Teas on Saturday!**

**Shared Lunch this week!**

**AGM March 19<sup>th</sup> – NB. if you want to have something on the agenda it must be sent to the parish office by Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> There will be NO 8.30am service that day.**

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

**BUS PILGRIMAGE with Archbishop David Moxon April 29<sup>th</sup> – book a place now!  
\$35.00 ph see Val or Chris.**

**Vicar: Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286, Lance 027 555 3286 Email [vjriches@outlook.com](mailto:vjriches@outlook.com)**