

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

November 20th, 2022

Reign of Christ

Website: stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz

THIS SUNDAY

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1–6

Luke 1:68–79

Luke 23:33–43



Sentence: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

Luke 1:68

Collect: Gracious God – our shepherd, our guide, our sovereign – you reach out to gather us to you in so many different ways, showing us over and over how your realm of grace and love differs from the powers and principalities of our age, which we witness in our daily lives. Open our eyes that we may see you more clearly. Amen.

Preparation for Sunday from “Love to the World”

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Question: Are there parts of life in which you find yourself experiencing captivity? Do you know the longing for freedom and restoration to life?

Prayer: We look to you, our Lord, to restore order in a world filled with darkness and chaos. In this time before Christmas, we again pray “Come Lord Jesus!”

Luke 1:68–79

Question: If darkness, death and despair have been defeated, how shall we live in the Kingdom of Light?

Prayer: Envision the work of Jesus completed for a few minutes. What would the world look like? Pray for the Kingdom of God to come.

Luke 23:33–43

Question: Imagine: where might you be in the crowd as Jesus is crucified?

Prayer: Jesus, son of David, have mercy on us.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- **Pray for those facing disaster and made homeless from warfare and unemployment, and those you know are suffering today.**
- **Pray for the people of Myanmar as they suffer under the Military Junta rule.**
- **Pray for those who are sick, especially Lynda, Michael, Elaine, Sarah-Anne and Stuart.**
- **Pray for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.**

GIVE THANKS

- For the concert held at St Mark's in Te Aroha to raise funds for the repairs for the historic Church. There were great acts, singers, etc, and the hall was full.
- For the prompt help Val received from the hospital, and for all who work in health care.

Focus

In today's scriptures we are provided several different images by which we have come to know God. In Jeremiah we have the "shepherd" image as God gathers the scattered sheep from exile and gives them a ruler who will govern according to God's plan. Zechariah sings of a faithful God; a God who saves and a God whose way is a way of peace. In Colossians we see God as shown through Jesus as the image of the invisible God. A creator, redeemer and reconciler that empowers us to live new lives in Christ. Finally we have Jesus showing compassion and forgiveness in the midst of his death.

To what do we show allegiance?

Does our allegiance serve others, the world and draw attention to God's ways of peace, justice, mercy and love?

Prayer: May we be bold enough to allow God to be our guide, our strength and our faithful companion through life. Amen

Nov 20th **TRANSGENDER DAY** – to remember all who get murdered and noone searches for the killer – in USA and other parts of the world. No matter what you think or “know” about trans people – unless we sit and listen to them we do not earn the right to speak. As with many of us, I have a lot of listening to do. However in our “modern” age and civilization how can a certain group of people be treated with so little value that missing person or murders are not treated seriously.

**Next Sunday: November 27th – 8.30am & 10am – Advent 1 -
Tiptoeing Towards Peace**

Wednesday 10am

Readings – Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:1–14; Matthew 24:36–44

27th Nov	Sides people Anne Murfitt	Welcomer Carole	Data Rachael	MOW Lynnley	Reader Charlee (Rodney)	Intercessions Lynnley	Morning tea Melanie & Olwyn
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Coming up!

Sunday December 4TH 4pm Following the Star - Interchurch celebration of Christmas with a Walk of witness starting at the Catholic Church and concluding at our church at **5pm with our Community Carols.**

Vicar: Val Riches 078880878 or 027 444 8286, Lance 027 555 3286 Email vjriches@outlook.com

The Morrinsville Ezekiel Trust Food Bank is preparing to gift special Christmas food parcels to local families in need again this year - and they need our support.

Ideas for Food Donations for Christmas Appeal

Fizzy Drinks	Custard powder	Crackers
Sparkling Grape Juice	Tinned fruit	Nuts and raisins
Flour	Sugar	Jam
Marmite	Baking powder	Tinned tuna
Cooking oil	Cereal	Long-life Milk
Milo	Meringues	Chips
Hot chocolate	Brandy Snaps	Chocolates
Chocolate chips	Cocoa powder	Lollies
Icing sugar	Condensed milk	Relish/Chutneys
Dried fruits	Coconut	Microwave popcorn
Instant pudding	Jelly	Biscuits
Trifle sponge	Reduced cream	Onion soup mix
Fancy coffees, teas	Salad Dressing	Christmas crackers
Serviettes	Hand soaps	Moisturisers
Bodywash	Toilet paper	