

# St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Wholehearted

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

Readings: Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Psalm 78:1–7

Matthew 25:1–13

Sentence: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. *Psalm 78:1*

Collect: Holy One, we come into your presence with our whole selves, ready to trust in you wholeheartedly. May it be so. Amen.

## Preparation for Sunday.

**Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25**

**Question:** How have you learnt about God from other cultures?

**Prayer:** O Lord Jesus, all the power belongs to you.

**Psalm 78:1–7**

**Question:** What do you remember of the person who was the most influential in first sharing the scriptures with you?

**Prayer:** God of community, for the relationships we share and enjoy with other people of faith, we are most grateful.

**Matthew 25:1–13**

**Question:** What is the “oil flask” you need to “have ready” in your life?

**Prayer:** “The face of the master is always at hand in the face of people – the hungry, the stranger, the sad.”

## SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- We pray for the fire fighters in Australia and the New Zealand fire fighters who have gone over to help them fight the bush fires.
- We pray for the new Government and the coalition they need to form.
- We pray for those who are sick, especially Jean R and Craig, Kenny, Noeline, Stuart, Lynda, Dulcie and others we may know.
- Pray for all families mourning the death of a loved one, especially the Jensen family.

## GIVE THANKS

- For the St Matthew's ‘family’ and for all the enthusiastic helpers who make everything work well.
- For the spring growth making the flowers, vegetables and the trees come to life in our gardens and around our homes.
- For our young people as they sit exams.

## Focus.

In the Joshua passage the people are challenged to make their choice on whether to serve the gods their ancestors served in Egypt or the Lord God that brought them out of Egypt. They choose to follow God. So too in the Psalm the people remember and are reminded of all that God has done and remember so that all the generations after will learn of God's goodness too.

In Thessalonians we are reminded of the hope of God's people that we will be united with Christ and each other after death.

Finally, the focus scripture with the story of the ten bridesmaids is a wake up message. We must be prepared for the coming of the Lord, we must be engaged whole heartedly and have our lamps and oil ready at all times.

**Has your community of faith made it clear that you have chosen "whom you will serve"?**

**How do we prepare, and provide for all to be included wholeheartedly in our welcome, in our message, in our community of faith?**

**Prayer:** Engage our hearts, our minds and our all in your work of justice, mercy, grace and love in this fractured world. May we find and offer a message of hope to all. Amen

**Next Sunday: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 8.30am & 10am**

**Attitude of Abundance**

**Wednesday 10am**

**Readings – Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123; I Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30**

19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Sides people Miers	Welcome Carole	Data Shantal	MOW Margie	Reader Rodney	Intercessions Margie	Morning Tea Rodney & Murray
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**Next event – “Guess who’s coming for dinner?” – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Following the Star – Sunday afternoon Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm** This is an interchurch event preparing for Christmas. We will begin at the Faith Life Centre (Thames St) and walk, following a star, to Methodist, Presbyterian, us and conclude at the Roman Catholic Church.



**We are also “adopting” four families through the Community Food bank – to provide Christmas food and presents. More details next week .....**

**In the meantime I am wondering if we can out together some simple recipes with ingredients to give to the families to make for themselves – eg trifle or Caesar salad or white Christmas biscuit thing.... Or .....**

**The Diocese asks “We have a curate (priest in training) returning from St John’s College in Auckland to work in the Morrinsville region. We are looking for affordable accommodation to house him, his father and a teenage child. If you can help or know of anything suitable, please contact the Diocesan Manager”**

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