

# St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Attitude Of Abundance

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

Readings: Judges 4:1–7

Psalm 123

Matthew 25:14–30

Sentence: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! *Psalm 123:1*

Collect: That there is enough for all to live and flourish, Holy One, we thank you. We confess that we do not enact this reality. Help us live in an attitude of abundance, so all may have enough. Amen.

### Preparation for Sunday.

#### Judges 4:1–7

**Question:** What habitual patterns of relating to God might we tend towards? Reflect on your journey of faith and that of your community.

**Prayer.** God of unfailing patience turn our heads ever towards you.

#### Psalm 123

**Question:** Name before God areas of your life in which you struggle to relinquish control, and submit them to his merciful action and intention.

**Prayer:** Holy spirit search our hearts and renovate them; may we know you as you really are.

#### Matthew 25:14-30

**Question:** Prayerfully consider the primary images that shape your view of who God is.

**Prayer:** Name before the Lord your fears regarding your personal and communal security and surrender them to God in Trust.

### SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- We pray for an abundance of peace and love in our world to replace the hate and war, especially thinking of the Gaza Strip.
- We pray for the families we will support through the Community Food Bank, the food and presents help them now and they will encounter Christ through their gifts.
- 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.

### GIVE THANKS

- For St John ambulance workers and the caring job they do.
- For the peace makers of the world attempting to resolve conflicts between nations.
- For the members of our elected politicians trying to establish a stable forward thinking government.

## Focus.

Living with an attitude of abundance empowers us to divest some of what we have beyond "enough" so no one has less than "enough." In Judges God is at work providing a leader and deliverance when the situation seems hopeless. In the Psalm we see how the eyes of the servant look to the master just as we look to God for mercy.

In 1 Thessalonians Christians / disciples are seen as living and working to bring God's grace and compassion to all.

The parable of the talents, as with other parables, is open to multiple interpretations. To some, it is a mandate to take risks for the sake of following Jesus. Others see it as a warning about living the life of discipleship in maintenance mode and not making full use of the gifts God has given each of us. Some even think the third servant was a hero who stood up to his boss and buried the funds rather than taking actions that would have oppressed others.

**Where have you worked as a voice or witnessed voices raised in support of fairness for all?**

**Where, when, how do we encourage one another in our faith communities to live with gratitude and a sense of "enough for all" as being the norm?**

**Prayer:** Lord, we pray for the wisdom to use our gifts and our talents in service to all, so that we work to provide enough for all rather than just maintaining our own vested interests. Amen

**Next Sunday: November 26<sup>th</sup>, 8.30am & 10am**

**Reigning Christ**

**Wednesday 10am**

**Readings – Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15–23; Matthew 25:31–46**

<b>26<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Sides people</b> Lee Family	<b>Welcome</b> Melanie	<b>Data</b> Rachael	<b>MOW</b> Jacky	<b>Reader</b> Sienna	<b>Intercessions</b> Greene Family	<b>Chalice</b> Isabella	<b>Morning Tea</b> Melanie & Olwyn
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**Sunday afternoon Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm Following the Star – An interchurch event preparing for Christmas. We will begin at the Faith Life Centre (Thames St) and walk, following a star, to Methodist, Baptist, us and conclude at the Roman Catholic Church by 6pm.**

**We are adopting four families through the Community Food bank to provide Christmas food and gifts. They are:**

**Family (Code number 6): Mum, Dad, Boy 9yrs and Boy 7yrs & 6 month old (very sporty)**

**Family (Code number 2): Mum, Girl 10yrs, Boy 4yr. (creative arts focused)**

**Family (Code number 14) is a woman and her elderly mother.**

**Family (Code number 20): Solo Dad, Girl 12, Boy 7 (very sporty)**

**Please contribute to this local cause with gifts of food and presents. All is welcome – and bring to our Church or Parish Office. If you want to support a particular family, please indicate on what you bring. Please make this part of your prayer life.**

**Traditionally our Church has offered an Interaction family/children's Christmas service at 4pm on Christmas Eve. With Christmas Day being Monday will families still be home on the Sunday? We are asking whether you would prefer Friday, Saturday or Sunday (22,23,24<sup>th</sup> Dec.)**

**To help with catering provisions and ice blocks could you please email the church [stmattmorr@tra.co.nz](mailto:stmattmorr@tra.co.nz) or [val@wtanglican.nz](mailto:val@wtanglican.nz) with your preferred day and approximately how many people will come and ages. An early response would be appreciated so that a decision can be made by the beginning of December**

**Vicar: Val Riches 078880878 or 0274448286, Lance 0275553286 Email [val@wtanglican.nz](mailto:val@wtanglican.nz)**