

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

28 November 2021

Luke 21:25-36

Advent:
Are we nearly
there yet?
Yes! Yes, we are!



Opening Prayer

Gracious God, as the Advent season begins, we cry out to you. We come to you looking for hope. When everything else we rely on fails us, our only hope is in you. When we do not understand what has happened, our hope is in you.

We know you, and we know you are here with us no matter what we are facing. We trust and hope in you because we know you are trustworthy. We come today to worship you, knowing that one day you will return and put the world to right. As we worship restore our hope in you our loving God. Amen.

Confession

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness:

we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen

Absolution

The God of love brings us back to himself, forgives us our sins, and assures us of his eternal love. In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Song

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun doth his successive journeys run; His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song; and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head; His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where e'er he reigns: the prisoner leaps to lose his chains, the weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blest.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:
Rev. Learné 021 984 002 or office@northwestanglican.org.nz



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

Reflection: From Bishop Ross

On Sunday we have a pre-recorded message from Bishop Ross. His words in this reflection are in italics. *Jesus warned and encouraged people that their faith would need to be worked out in situations of great challenge and even mortal danger. We have read today from part of his teaching in the Temple in the days leading up to his arrest. His words to the disciples take on this increasing focus about things to come, things they must prepare for, about maintaining hope in the coming kingdom of God. This is the final verse we heard: "Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."* That's a statement about perseverance, and in it I see two things for those who seek to find themselves standing at the coming of the Son of Man. One is discernment and the other is prayer. The whole of this short passage is wrapped around signs for which people must be alert. Jesus urges people to pay attention to what goes on in the world around them and to discern the activity of God within it. The parable of the fig tree reminds them that this kind of discerning interpretation is not foreign to them, and that they must learn to develop a spiritual discernment which can help them to identify, point to, and join with the activity of God..... Both these things are works of prayer, I believe, for they are works and gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who enables us to understand God's work, and it is the Spirit who gives us the strength to undertake it with God. On this first Sunday in Advent as we focus on HOPE let's rejoice in what we know...our God is good and loving and sent Jesus to be the saviour of the world. We celebrate that truth at Christmas. In Advent, HOPE also points us forward to the truth that Jesus will return again and the world will be restored to a far better place than we now know. Let's rejoice in that and find strength to persevere.

Questions

1. Take some time to think of all the good things that we can look forward to in the weeks ahead and be thankful.
2. Ask God to show you what he is doing now in and around you.
3. Ask God for strength, that we might persevere and stand with Christ in the world.

Intercessions

Create your own prayers for each of the headings below. As we pray, let's invite God to bring hope to the hopeless in the many situations around our world, in our community and nation and the people for whom we pray.

Pray for those who don't know Jesus.



Pray for NZ.



Pray for health workers, teachers and schools.



Pray for the sick.



Closing Prayer

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us to strengthen and renew us. Help us to remember that we do not need to be afraid. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, and may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel, God with us. Amen