



## Holy Trinity, Avonside

# The Grapevine

12 September 2021—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

It has been good to see the Covid cases reducing and to be on Level 2 again. I can go and have a coffee with a friend and can go shopping again and resume many freedoms. However, for us in the church we still need to accept numerous restrictions to keep ourselves and others safe. I am aware that many churches have chosen to put some very restrictive measures in place to meet the government requirements for worship gatherings.

I am thankful that our Bishop is also being very cautious. The last thing we would want would be to be the centre of another cluster! Bishop Peter met with other senior clergy in the Diocese and they wrote a comprehensive set of guidelines for all Anglican churches in this diocese.

Here is a summary of the rules we have been asked to follow:

- We must be spaced out two meters apart unless our neighbour is from our bubble.
- We may have no more than fifty attending.
- No food or drink is to be served.
- Masks are to be worn by everyone attending.
- Only the celebrating priest handles the wafers.
- No wine allowed at Communion.
- No singing.
- A strict record of attendees is to be kept either by QR code or a paper record.
- No books are to be used.
- Those at risk and with compromised health are encouraged to stay home.
- No shared microphones.
- People must remain in their seats and sign of peace will be a nod only.

This means we will have two morning services, one at 8.30am and the other at 9.30am. The first will be a said service while the second will be similar to our regular 9.30am but we will use recorded music. We will require you to let us know if you are coming so that no-one is turned away. You will wear your mask and you will sign in on arrival. People will enter the building from the door by the office but will leave from the doors at the front. You will receive only the bread of communion. There is to be no standing around after the service. We must all be vigilant about cleanliness particularly of our hands.

I would like you to call me or to send me an email stating one of these three:

- I will not attend church during level 2.
- I will attend 8.30am service during level 2.
- I will attend the 9.30 am during level 2.

On a brighter note, isn't it great to observe the beginning of spring. The weather is much warmer, the blossoms are blooming, the daffodils are bursting out, the little lambs are playing in the fields and everything feels brighter because of it all.

I am hoping to come visiting in the next couple of weeks. If you know someone who would like a visit or you yourself would like me to visit, please let me know. I am not a mind reader so I need some invitations and some hints as to where I should visit. Looking forward to seeing many of you soon.

In the meantime, please try the zoom service. Some special help has been sent out to you so give it a go and join the parish family in worship. There will be no service in the church this week but the zoom service is offered at 9.30am. I will send the invitation for this tomorrow. Services in church will probably start next week, 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The mid week service on Thursday will resume this week.

**Reverend Jill**

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**A Service for 12th September 2021 at 9.30am on Zoom**

E te whānau a te Karaiti,  
let us praise and worship God who has called us together.  
Let us celebrate God's majesty,  
and delight in the wonder of God's love.  
Together we shall confess our sins  
and receive assurance that we are forgiven.  
As the scriptures are read,  
we can allow God's word to speak to us,  
and ponder its meaning for our lives.  
In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness,  
we pray for others as well as for ourselves,  
and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.  
All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

O come, let us sing to the Lord,  
**let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.**

We sing to you, O God, and bless your name;  
**and tell of your salvation from day to day.**

We proclaim your glory to the nations,  
**your praise to the ends of the earth.**

**Hymn:**

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name  
The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name  
Bless You Lord

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will sing  
Your praise unending  
Ten thousand year and for ever more.

**Almighty God,  
To whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may truly love you,  
and worthily praise your holy name;  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

Hear the teaching of Christ:  
you shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.  
This is the first commandment.  
And a second is this:  
You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

Hear God's word to all who turn to Christ:  
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish  
but have eternal life.  
Let us confess our sins.

**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**

Through the cross of Christ,  
God have mercy on you,  
pardon you and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.  
**Amen**

**Sentence of the Day:**

Taste and see how gracious the Lord is; happy are those who find refuge in the Most High. *Psalm 34: 8*

**Collect:**

Almighty God, you are Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, the Word made flesh. Grant us the courage to take up our cross, and bear it gladly for the sake of the gospel, risking mockery and rejection, following the example of Jesus. Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever,

**Amen**

**Readings:**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a (Ian)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

James 3: 1-12 (Christine H)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn:**

Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and Yours alone.  
May my will forever be  
More and more Your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
Never let me go  
Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and Yours alone.

**Gospel:**

Mark 8: 27-38

This is the gospel of Christ

**Praise to Christ the word****Sermon:** (Mari)

“Mission Partner”. It’s a title that for me comes with a lot of baggage. It may be one step removed from the old “missionary” title, but I still picture the 50-something single woman having trouble with the old school picture projector just before she unrolls the incredibly long snakeskin she brought back from deepest Africa where she lives in a mud hut as a pillar of her community. This woman has no struggles (aside from the mess she is making of the picture projector) and no doubts in her walk with God. She is as strong as she is fearless and keeps laying down her life without a single complaint. ...then there’s me. I am 36, when I have the energy to put thought into what I’m wearing for the day I end up looking like a rainbow threw up on me, and my children don’t even react when they wake up in the morning and my hair has changed from some shade of blue to hot pink or some other colour. I have a real need for beauty in my home, near constant music and practically bottomless good coffee. So how did **I** get crowned with the oh so prestigious title of mission partner? I can only think of one answer to that question: God is a good, gracious and ridiculously creative Father. Ultimately it’s not about who I am or what I’m like. It’s who He is that matters.

It is because of who God is that I could sleep at night in a house full of cockroaches. It is because of who He is that my kids didn’t break from entering school where no-one understood them and they didn’t know what was being said. It is only because of who the Father is that in the middle of an intensely busy, chaotic and fearful spiritual environment, my house was a haven of peace for our house help.

Yes, it was hard. It was scary. It caused fights in our family. Heartbreak and anger was just as much part of our lives there as here in New Zealand, if not more. But we have a good Father who knows His children. And finally, approaching the 2 year mark living in Asia, we were starting to thrive. Exhausted, yes, but beginning to thrive. Then came Covid-19...

It is because of the pandemic we cannot return to our treasured South Asia. Having to ask questions like “is what we offer needed there in this time?” and finding the answer to be “no” gives your ego a good punch. We headed overseas with the expectation to be mission partners around 10 years, so to leave after not much more than 2 can easily feel like failure. But again, our Father knows how to care for his children. It has been such an amazing journey seeing God’s provision since we’ve been back. From the kids settling well, and all of us making great connections, to furnishing our entire home without having to pay for it. And the encouragements and understanding we have been met with has been an incredible gift. “If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your

children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him” (Mat 7:11). How come we forget this? Or, if not forget; just don't believe it applies to ourselves? Why do we get so shocked when God shows up and gives us what we need? I think we can all benefit from staring at those words till we start acting like they were true. If we lived like we actually believed this simple sentence, I think we would all find ourselves as mission partners wherever we set foot. Let's do it.

**Intercessions:** (Raewyn)

Lord, we need your help.

**Help us in our need, dear Lord.**

Dear Lord God, we pray for wisdom for our government in these times. They have so much to cope with. Guide them to make wise decisions. We pray for those harmed by terrorism in our country. May the new bills and laws which are being planned be just and helpful to all. May the people still recovering be surrounded by your love and healing.

Lord, we need your help.

**Help us in our need, dear Lord.**

We pray for your support for those affected by Covid-19 especially those who are ill, the frightened, the lonely, and those who have lost their livelihood and security. May the students of all ages who are now back together be protected by their own caution and by your power, we ask.

Lord, we need your help.

**Help us in our need, dear Lord.**

We pray for our national housing crisis. May justice and compassion increase in this land. May those who have resources generously help those without, and may the blessing of unselfishness be more common here.

Lord, we need your help.

**Help us in our need, dear Lord.**

And for our own parish we pray that we may be worthy of this new building you are preparing for us in this place. Give us your spiritual gifts in abundance, so we may be a light in Avonside and in Christchurch. May all those on our parish prayer list be filled with an awareness of your loving presence.

Lord, we need your help.

**Help us in our need, dear Lord.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Almighty God, your children call. O Christ the Son, your people save. O Holy Spirit, our souls inspire. O threefold God, your family bless and bring us all to You. O God, strengthen this parish, beginning with me, and direct our hearts into the love of God.**

**Amen**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen**

**Spiritual Communion:**

**I love you Jesus my love above all things and I repent with my whole heart for offending you. Never permit me from separating myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will**

**In union with you and Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, hearing your Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am unable to taste the Bread of Heaven or drink the Cup of Life, I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave His life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.**

O Lord and Heavenly father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and your whole church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of His passion.

**Amen**

**Hymn:**

This is my body, broken for you  
bringing you wholeness, making you free.  
take it and eat it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you,  
bringing forgiveness, making you free.  
Take it and eat it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go.

Do not forget me; then you will see  
I am still with you, and you will know  
You're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!  
You are my branches; I am the tree.  
If you are faithful, others will know  
you are alive in me.

Love one another: I have loved you,  
and I have shown you how to be free;  
serve one another, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living,  
he declared your love,  
gave us grace  
and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body  
**live his risen life;**

we who drink his cup  
**bring life to others;**

we whom the Spirit lights  
**give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name.  
Amen**

**May we continue to dwell in Christ, so that when he appears, we may be confident  
and unashamed before him at his coming.  
Amen**

May God be your comfort, your strength; God be your hope and support; God be your  
light and your way; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life, remain  
with you now and forever.  
**Amen**

**Hymn:**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

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### **Jill's Jottings:**

Everyone wants to be well thought of. Many people try to carve out a favourable image in the eyes of those around them, they will do anything to maintain that image. Jesus seemed to pay little attention as to what others thought of him. The people regarded him as a great prophet Peter went further. He declared Jesus to be the Messiah, the Christ. It would be impossible to exaggerate what the Messiah meant to the Jews. Many thought he would be a great military leader, another King David who would restore Israel to its former military greatness. It seems that is what Peter thought.

But that wasn't Jesus' idea of a Messiah. He told the disciples that the Messiah would suffer as Isaiah had foretold. He didn't want them to have false hopes only to be disappointed later and to feel that he had deceived them.

But Peter could not cope with the idea that Jesus would suffer. He was determined to save Jesus from such a fate. We can sympathise with Peter as we too may have felt the same. After all we want to save those we love from suffering. But much as we might love someone, we have no right to stand in the way of the other person's destiny. Jesus reprimanded Peter. He had no intention of living up to the popular expectations. He was not swayed by what people thought or wanted or expected of him. He was true to himself and to what God wanted of him.

Whatever our path in life, what really matters is that we should be ourselves, our unique selves, but the best we can be, the people God intended us to be. The only thing that matters is to be true to ourselves. Any other path is a false trail and will not result in growth or happiness or fulfilment or holiness.

### **Reverend Jill**

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#### **This week please pray for:**

Today: People living in Woodham Road, Patten Street and for Richard and those who care for our grounds. Please also pray for those who are unwell or in some difficulty, especially Graham, Sue, Margaret, Doreen, Vande, Fay, Robyn, Christine, Philip, Richard H and our Mission partners, Jon, Mari, Rachel and Jacob.

Monday: Special events, e.g. fair, meals etc.

Tuesday: Hospitality group, and those who serve morning tea.

Wednesday: Prayer and Praise.

Thursday: Worship leaders, lectors, intercessors and chalice bearers.

Friday: Sidespeople and welcomers.

Saturday: Our community activities, e.g. exercise activities, foot clinic.



**Activities in the Parish:**

Exercise class – weekly, Thursday 11am

Elder Care – weekly, Thursday 1pm

Parish Eucharist – weekly, Sundays 9.30am, Thursdays 10am

Study Group – Fortnightly, Wednesday 7pm on Zoom

All Age Church – monthly, 2nd Sunday, 11.15am

Community Committee – monthly 3rd Sunday after Church

Discipleship Committee – monthly, 1st Sunday after Church

Mission Stall – monthly, 3rd Sunday after Church

Prayer and Praise – monthly, 4th Sunday at 11am

Parish Lunch with the Vicar – monthly, 4th Sunday at mid-day

Vestry – monthly, 2nd Thursday, 7.15pm

Wednesday Café – monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 11.30am

Assn of Anglican Women – monthly, 4th Saturday at 10.30am

Foot Clinic – about every 6 weeks, next is to be advised.

**These events are all subject to our Covid 19 status –  
you will be advised nearer the time**

**Parish Contact Details:**

Vicar:	Reverend Jill Keir	021 212 3210
Vicar's Warden:	Elizabeth Forbes	021 216 5748
People's Warden:	Anna Clare	021 085 77404
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**Our Parish Prayer:**

Almighty God, your children call.  
O Christ the Son, your people save.  
O Holy Spirit, our souls inspire.  
O threefold God, your family bless and bring us all to You.  
O God, strengthen this parish -  
beginning with me and direct our hearts into the love of God.  
*Amen*