

# Today's Services

9am: Sunday p.404  
Rev Gaelyn Brake  
Liturgist:  
Helen McDonald  
Welcome

Gathering: p.404  
Confession p.406/7  
Sentence & Collect  
1st Reading:  
Ezek 33: 7-11  
Ps 119: 33-40  
2nd Reading:  
Rom 13: 8-14

Gospel:  
Matt 18: 15-20  
Sermon :  
Rev Gaelyn Brake  
Affirmation: p 410

Prayers:  
Helen McDonald  
Lord's Prayer p.418  
The Peace: p.419  
Offertory

Communion: p.420

Prayer/Blessing/  
Notices

Dismissal p.429 screen

## Sentence Of The Day

Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.'

Matthew 18:20

## Collect Of The Day

**Creator God, you have made us not in one mould, but in many: so deepen our unity in Christ that we may rejoice in our diversity. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

**Amen.**

© The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, 2013 – used with permission

## Readings For The Week

### Monday 7 September 2020

Ps (123,124,125),  
126  
2 Sam 18:1-18  
Acts 10:34-end

### Tuesday 8 September 2020

Ps 132,(133)  
2 Sam 18:19-19:8a  
Acts 11:1-18

### Wednesday 9 September 2020

Ps 119:153-end  
2 Sam 19:8b-23  
Acts 11:19-end

### Thursday 10 September 2020

Ps 143,(146)  
2 Sam 19:24-end  
Acts 12: 1-17

### Friday 11 September 2020

Ps (142),144  
2 Sam 23:1-7  
Acts 12:18-end

### Saturday 12 September 2020

Ps 147  
2 Sam 24  
Acts 13:1-12

# St Luke's Anglican Church



6 September 2020 Ordinary 23

9am : Holy Communion Services Pg. 404

Presider and Preacher: Rev Gaelyn Brake

Liturgist: Helen McDonald

**Gospel reading: Matthew 18.15-20 – Forgiveness and reconciliation; harmony in the church.**

Jesus draws on traditional Jewish teaching in the gospel reading for today. He sets down the community rules for dealing with trouble between Christian brothers. It emerges that harmony is very important for the Christian community. This is reflected in the requirement to make three attempts at reconciliation when a dispute occurs. The injured party must first make an attempt to explain between the two of you in private. Then if this fails take two or three others with you. If this third attempt also fails the offended brother can invoke the whole church.

We are not to imagine that the universal church is meant. For most early Christians the church meant the local Christian community, often meeting in a house.

Disputes seem to be within these house churches. Ancient houses were mostly small and people lived at close quarters. These households were likely to have been the context that Jesus had in mind for this teaching.

There is a very good example of such houses in ancient Ephesus where the houses are terraced one on top of the other and there must have been very little privacy. In such a public context it was important for harmony to prevail. Another pointer to the context of the house churches is provided by a saying of Jesus preserved in the Gospel of Thomas at Saying 48. This Gospel is a collection of sayings purported to belong to Jesus and number 48 reads: 'Jesus said, if two make peace with each other in a single house, they will say to this mountain 'Move from here', and it will move'. This saying links the importance of harmony in the household with the power of prayer together. The saying does confirm the context of the household. There were also larger houses belonging to wealthy Christians who welcomed the community. The NT Letter to Philemon is a good example.

To return to our Gospel reading – verse 19 reads 'If two of you agree on the earth concerning any matter whatsoever they ask, it shall come about for them from my Father in heaven.' Once again we are pointed to the power of prayer and the importance of harmony and reconciliation. This Gospel reading wanders over several themes all of which have their importance for our parish as we embark on a new chapter – prayer, reconciliation, authority, forgiveness, punishment, prayer groups. All these values come into play at a time of change.

**Reverend Dr. Calum Gilmour**

# This Week

## ST LUKES PROGRAMME:

### Sunday 6 September 2020

9am Holy Communion

### Wednesday 9 September 2020

10am Holy Communion

### Thursday 10 September 2020

7pm Installation Rev Bruce Allport

### Sunday 12 September 2020

9am Holy Communion

## Notices

### Service Times

We continue the one service at 9 am, leaving a future resumption of the usual pattern to the new vicar, who may also have other views about worship services.

Please contact the wardens for any Parish urgent matters on:  
John Carr — 349 6205  
Carol Gillice—345 6409

### **Thanks from Reverend Anne!**

Thank you for the lovely flowers, the card signed by so many of you, the garden voucher, and for your kindness and warmth. I appreciate it all very much. Once the flowers fade, I will continue to remember you in some beautiful additions to the garden. It was a pleasure to be with you over the past few months; St Luke's has a fond place in my heart. I wish you every blessing for the future - Anne.

# Upcoming Events



## **Next Messy Church To Be advised**

### **Registering attendance at Bruce Allport's Installation**

We won't know until Sunday 6 September what the COVID-19 level will be for the Installation of Bruce as the new Vicar of St Luke's Rotorua, at 7.00pm on Thursday 10 September. Let the office know as there is limit spaces left if you have not registered.

**Bring a Plate:** While the country remains at Level 2, we cannot serve refreshments after Bruce's installation. However there may be a change to Level 1 in the days before, which would allow us to serve tea and cake. Those who are attending, watch out for a change to Level 1 and please bring a plate. If you are in any doubt about this, contact the office that week.

## Parish Directory

### **Parish Office:**

Charmaine Carr  
1223 Amohia Street  
PO Box 351 ROTORUA

E-mail: [admin.rotorua@waiapu.com](mailto:admin.rotorua@waiapu.com)

Website: [www.saintlukes.co.nz](http://www.saintlukes.co.nz)

[facebook.com/saintlukesrotorua](https://facebook.com/saintlukesrotorua)

Ph: 348 5390

Office Hours: Mon—Fri 8am - 12.30pm

Office closed—Thursday

Visitors—Please ring the bell.

For a home Communion or visit please call the Vicar or the office, Ph: 348 5390

### **Church Wardens:**

John Carr— Ph: 349 6205

Carol Gillice—Ph: 345 6409/027 425 4961

### **Seasons for Growth Coordinator:**

Wendy Leong -Ph :350 3384.

### **Prayer Chain:**

Ria Sandberg—Ph: 3574395

### **Pastoral Care:**

Rev Gary Husband

Healing Prayer Group (OSL)

Rev Gary Husband

Ph: 2160074

### **Centreshop**

Ph: 3490251

**For Direct Donations:** Parish BNZ Account

**No: 02 0412 0041175 003**

NB: Please type your name in the reference box, if you require a tax receipt.

*We thank you for your  
generous contributions.*

### We are at Level 2:

**No singing -**

**Maintain physical distancing**

**Keep contact tracing information**

**No physical contact in sharing the  
Peace**

**Communion served as wafer only,  
standing**

**No morning tea**

### Healing at St Luke's

There is an active Healing Group in St Luke's (Order of St Luke the physician). They meet at 12pm in the Chapel on the 4th Sunday of the Month, (from January to November) followed by a shared lunch. About 3 times a year there is a healing service.

All who are interested in Christian Healing are welcome, whether to ask for healing - or to pray for healing for others. There is also anointing for healing (for yourself or someone else) during communion at the 9am service on the first Sunday.

There is also prayer in the chapel at every 9am Service except the first Sunday.

**To find out more contact Rev. Gary  
Husband 2160074**

## Thought for the week



Use your voice for  
kindness, your ears for  
compassion, your hands  
for charity, your mind  
for truth, and your  
Heart for Love.