

St. Luke's Anglican Church

Where all are welcome!

*If visiting today, we are pleased to share in worship together.
Children are welcome to either remain in our services or use
children's activity packs in the Parish Lounge.
Baby-change facilities are available in the unisex toilet.*



Sunday 2 May 2021



8am & 10am Holy Communion Services

Thanksgiving for the People of God—Page 404

10am Service—Baptism of Boh Frances Gaddum

with an alternative Great Thanksgiving

Presider & Preacher The Reverend Bruce Allport

Liturgists Trish Brown & Fenella Playne

Readings

Ezekiel 36:22-28

Psalm 100

Acts 2:14-47

Mark 10:13-16

Sentence of the Day

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;

I will remove from you your heart of stone

and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

Collect of the Day

**God of grace, by the power of the Holy Spirit you have given
us a new life in the waters of baptism;**

strengthen us to live in righteousness and true holiness,

that we may grow into the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Boh Frances Gaddum, her family and sponsors as they join us this morning for Boh's baptism into the family of God.



Notices

- ◆ Please continue to be respectful of people's personal space
- ◆ **Annual Tax Certificates** —please collect from back of the church
- ◆ **Royal School of Church Music Programme**
 - ◇ **Sunday 9 May 2pm at Morrinsville Methodist Church** featuring hymns and worship with historic pipe organ followed by afternoon tea and the RSCM Annual General Mtg
 - ◇ **Sunday 30 May 4pm at Holy Trinity Church Tauranga** Festival Evensong
- ◆ **Volunteers** in our **Centreshop** would be much appreciated
- ◆ **Foodbank**—nonperishable items of food are sought and greatly appreciated for this community cause, thank you.

Next Sunday

- ◆ **Thanksgiving for Creation & Redemption page 456**
- ◆ Acts 10:44-48
- ◆ Psalm 98
- ◆ 1 John 5:1-6
- ◆ John 15:9-17

St. Luke's account for automatic payments / giving is
BNZ 02 0421 0041175 003

For receipt purposes please include your
name and or giving number in the reference box

*Thank
You*

Meditation 14, for the 5th Sunday of Easter.

The Acts of the Apostles, 8.26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

This story relates the conversion of a high ranking Gentile from a far flung country. It marks a new stage in the development of the Church. God sends an angel to Philip and instructs him to join the eunuch who is reading from the prophet Isaiah. The eunuch was the Ethiopian Queen's treasurer and as such ranked high in the kingdom. He had been to the Temple in Jerusalem and was on his way home in his vehicle with his driver whom we know because he is later told to stop the vehicle. It is not clear what the vehicle was. It is often translated 'chariot' but this is too grand and warlike. One commentator suggests it was a plank on wheels, slow and uncomfortable – Philip was able to run and catch up.

The eunuch was reading out loud from the fourth Servant Song (Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12) without understanding what he was reading. In particular he was puzzled about the identity of the servant. Philip joins the eunuch on his vehicle and 'beginning from this scripture he preached to him the Good News of Jesus Christ'. This leads to the eunuch being baptised and so incorporated into the Church. At this point God again appears; He has other work for Philip the Evangelist who willingly obeys the divine command.

What has occurred is God's work, not Philip's. The supernatural element is important and shows God involved in His world and His Church. We may compare the story of Jacob's ladder where God acts directly to communicate with Nathaniel and the supernatural world is revealed. God is ever present and active in the world. Obedience is another element if we are to be sensitive to the supernatural. Both Philip and the angel were obedient without question.

An item of interest: The eunuch was reading out loud. In the ancient world it was customary to read out loud because there was no punctuation and it was difficult to get the phraseology right. It also aided memory.

Reverend Dr Calum Gilmour

Please note

**This week the parish office will be closed
Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 May and will reopen
Wednesday 5 May 2021**

The Vicar's mobile will be monitored



How to contact us

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Email admin.rotorua@waiapu.com

Web www.saintlukes.co.nz

Vicar The Reverend Bruce Allport

*Should you require pastoral care, please contact
Rev'd Bruce on 021 301754 / bruce.allport@waiapu.com
please note; his day off is **Monday***