

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*



Sunday 09 May



**8am & 10am Holy Communion Services
Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption—Page 456
Presider & Preacher The Reverend Bruce Allport
Liturgist—Taine Harvey**

◆ ***Readings***

- ◆ Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6
- ◆ Psalm 98 John 15:9-17

Sentence of the Day

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
John 15:12

Collect of the Day

**Alleluia! Holy One, you are our constant companion.
Send your Holy Spirit so that our journey in faith may continue
to be lived in all its fullness into eternity.
Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

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
- ◆ **Bay Cities Symphonic Band here at St. Luke's Church Rotorua**
@2pm Sunday 20 June 2021



- ◆ **Volunteers in our Centre shop** would be much appreciated

Next Sunday

- ◆ **Thanksgiving and Praise— Page 476**
- ◆ Acts 1 :1-11 ◆ Psalm 47
- ◆ Ephesians 1:15-23 ◆ Luke 23:44-53

**St. Luke's account for automatic payments / giving is
BNZ 02 0412 0041175 003**

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

*Thank
you*

Meditation 15 for the 6th Sunday of Easter, Peter and Cornelius, God's initiative and the divine Plan, Acts of the Apostles 10.44-48.

Our reading from Acts consists of the last four verses of Luke's account of Peter's vision of the sheet held by its four corners and let down from heaven. The sheet contains animals of all sorts, clean and unclean as designated by the Jewish Law. Peter is told to kill and eat. He refuses and is rebuked by the divine voice. The vision prepares Peter to respond positively when gentile men appear at his door. Gentiles were regarded as unclean by the Jews. Christians must learn that God has no favourites. In response to his vision Peter goes with the men to Caesarea where Cornelius has also had a vision telling him to send and fetch Peter from Joppa. Peter will explain Christianity and the nature of faith to Cornelius and his friends and relations.

When Peter and his companions arrive at Caesarea they are greeted by a gathering of God-fearers anxious to hear Peter's message. Luke gives us an outline of the sermon: Jesus and the Galilean ministry of healing, the message of peace and inclusiveness; the nature and work of the Holy Spirit; the death and resurrection of Jesus. Peter concludes by witnessing to his personal experience of the risen Christ. Before he even finishes speaking the Holy Spirit descends on the Gentiles and they experience the glossolalia (speaking in tongues), the outward sign of the Spirit.

The Jewish Christians who have accompanied Peter are very surprised that Gentiles have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, but God has no favourites. The visions and the messages reflect a divine Plan. Peter's ready response shows that he understood God's Plan to include the Gentiles in the Christian Church. It is important that we too understand and practice inclusiveness. We are within God's Plan and should respond to His call/s. We notice that the initiative is with God at every stage. We can make our baptism a token of a life of discipleship in response to God's many-faceted Plans. As with the Ethiopian eunuch last week it is by baptism that we are incorporated into the Church.

Reverend Dr Calum Gilmour

Welcome!

Carole Pepperell has joined us this week as Administration Assistant and comes to us from a background in Operational Management.

Carole has been coming to the Bay of Plenty all her life and now resides full time at Lake Tarawera.

Carole also enjoys boating, swimming and loves a great coffee!



How to contact us

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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***