

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.*



11 April 2021

**8am & 10am Holy Communion Services
Thanksgiving for the People of God—Page 404**

**Presider & Preacher The Reverend Gaelyn Brake
Liturgists Alastair Gibson & Cynthia Clark**

Readings	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

Sentence of the Day

Jesus said to him,

“Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

John 20:29

Collect of the Day

Alleluia!

**God of calm, you bring peace in the midst of distress;
still our troubled hearts when we struggle to believe,
give us the courage to doubt, give us peace in believing.**

**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.**

Notices

- ◆ Please continue to be respectful of people's personal space during this time of Covid-19.
- ◆ **Sunday 25 April—ANZAC day.** Services as usual with remembrance to the ANZACs as part of our services.
- ◆ **Thursday 29 April at 4pm the Anglican Parish of Gate Pā** invites us to remember those who fought and died in the **Battle of Pukehinahina.**
- ◆ **Lay Learning Days**
Come and be inspired by ways to deepen your engagement with prayer and energise your ministry



16 April—Holy Trinity Tauranga

17 April—St Barnabas Ngongotaha

Next Sunday

- ◆ **Thanksgiving & Praise—Page 476**
- ◆ Acts 3:12-19
- ◆ Psalm 4
- ◆ 1 John 3:1-7
- ◆ Luke 24:36b-48

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Meditation 11 for Low Sunday, The Second Sunday of Easter, Acts 4.32-35
The formation of the post-Resurrection Church.

The passage presents us with a picture of a warm and caring community in which there are no needy members because all are looked after. It is an idealised picture and quite quickly the community had to deal with problems. It appears that social needs were looked after by Peter and his group, and there was some sort of daily distribution. Acts 6 relates how a meeting was called by the Apostles which appointed six deacons to manage the social responsibilities. Apparently there were complaints and mutterings by groups and tensions soon emerged and the idealised picture had to be revised.

1 Timothy 5.5-16 reflects the more developed situation and gives us a more detailed picture. It is worth turning this passage up and reading about the problems faced by the early church. There were widows who claimed assistance which they did not need. Gossip was common and damaging to the church. The community had to be warned about the temptations posed by younger widows. Moreover members were reminded not to become an unnecessary burden to the community. The idealised picture did not apply long term and the sharing of possessions was according to need rather than a total communism of goods.

Relieved of social responsibilities the apostles were giving a powerful witness to the resurrection. Their ability to preach is described as a grace, a gift from God. The central message of their preaching was the resurrection, delivered against the background of a committed community.

This community showed its commitment by practical caring as described in verse 35 of our reading (Acts 4.35), and the story about Ananias and Sapphira at Acts 5.1ff who lied about their offering. The verse makes it clear that the sale of goods was not total, but that the richer members were selling possessions to relieve specific needs. The Greek text makes this interpretation clear.

Reverend Dr Calum Gilmour



How to contact us

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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***