

ANGLICAN PARISH OF KAPITI

15 NOVEMBER 2020

Consumerism drives the modern world and it is never more obvious than in the lead up to Christmas when we are inundated with pressure to buy and accrue more stuff. The illusion we are being sold is that if we have more we will be more; be happier, more successful, more fulfilled. How great it is to know that God measures our success not by what we have but by what we do with what we have since everything we have is a gift from him. Today's Gospel reading from Matthew 25:14-30, like the parables before and after it, is a story about being prepared for Jesus return. Listeners (and readers) are invited to consider which of the servants they are like on the basis of how they have managed the "talents" that God has given to them.

To the Jewish listeners of Matthews day the talents represented the riches of the Torah, the covenant and the Temple. Today, they might represent any one of the things God has given us to manage: creation, science, technology, medicine, the gospel of the Kingdom of God. In modern English, talent has come to mean a special ability or skill. It reminds me that God has given all his people supernatural abilities through His Holy Spirit living and working within them. These supernatural abilities are gifts of the Holy Spirit, and because every believer has the Holy Spirit, we all have the gifts that He brings; given to each person as needed, for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Paul urges us to eagerly seek the release of these gifts in our lives -to embarrass us? No! So we can multiply the riches of God's kingdom, so the church may be strengthened and grow. We do not *possess* the gifts we exercise; We steward the gift(s) given us on behalf of the Giver. When we teach, the Teacher comes and teaches through us; when we give, the Giver shows up; when we show compassion, the Comforter comes and pours out his mercy; when we prophesy, the Living Word brings a message of truth, hope, or peace. The gifts of the Spirit are talents given to us by God to manage wisely. We do well not to grip them too tightly, thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought; nor to hoard them, saving them for some future use- but to use them as God intended to build each other up and to minister with the power and authority of Jesus himself- all to the honour and glory of the Giver of all Good Gifts.

May God find us faithful stewards of all He has entrusted us with

Julie

A special welcome to all who are visiting with us today.

We are family, we are disciples, we care for the last, the lost and the least.

Readings	15 November	22 November
First Testament	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Epistle	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46

Sentence and Collect for the Day

Sentence: "God has destined us not for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us." (*1 Thess 5: 9*)

Collect: God our Creator, you entrust each of us with great treasure; help us to be responsible stewards of the gifts and skills you have given us; may we honour the trust you have in us, and use our talents as generously as you have given them: we ask this through Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 8 November 2020

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time—Green

Psalm 123 The Psalmist calls upon the people to lift up their eyes to the Lord God, who will deliver them from the scorn and contempt of our enemies.

Judges 4:1-7 Deborah the prophetess was Judge over Israel when they were oppressed by King Jabin of Canaan; Deborah, led by the Holy Spirit, calls an Israelite leader Barak to gather his forces, for the Lord will provide victory over the Canaanites.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Paul reminds the Church in Thessalonica that the day of the Lord will come without warning, like a thief in the night. He urges them therefore to remain alert, relying on their faith, their love, and their hope of salvation as they support one another.

Matthew 25:14-30 Another parable of the kingdom of heaven, concerning the bountiful measure with which we are endowed with skills and resources. To whatever extent we have been entrusted with gifts and talents from God, so we are expected to put them to use and serve God in like measure.

Chris Durrant

Parish Daily Prayer Services are offered both morning and evening. You can join this prayer group by using the Zoom links below:

- **Morning Prayer:** 8am Mon to Fri

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/703543297?pwd=VIVVeEUvWHA0Qzc2KzJFaDhTYnZsdz09>

- or use meeting ID is 703 543 297. Password: 6NpsHP

Evening Prayer <https://movementonline.org.nz/evening-prayer>

Monday—Saturday at 9pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 211-936-7784 Password: *prayers*

Notices

Healing Meeting

There will be a Healing Meeting with Bishop Ellie—Come and hear her reflect on Psalm 23 and her own and other's experiences.

A time of prayer ministry will follow. Wednesday 18 November 7pm at St Paul's.

If you would like to join the prayer ministry team for this please contact Julie

Advanced Notice Twilight Christmas Fair

Mark your dairies now for our annual Twilight Christmas Fair Friday 4th December 5.30-7pm

(please note the date change)

Start collecting items to donate. There will be crafts preserves, sweets, cakes and biscuits, plants, Christmas gifts, a re-gifting table and Hot Food. As with the Food Fair earlier in the year we will put out an order form for pre-ordering meals for the freezer.

Volunteers to help on the day, and to make items and dishes for the fair are most welcome. Contact the office.

Also needed Angels for the Christmas Twilight Fair display—Contact Barbara

"0" Birthday celebrations:

On November 29th we'll be celebrating with all those parishioners who have had or are having an "0" birthday or anniversary this year during the service. Please give your name to Vickie in the Parish Office, so that we can acknowledge your special achievement.

Diocesan Ordination Service Celebration

10am 21 November at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. Adrian Tofts and Guy and Summer Benton are among those being ordained. All welcome

Supporting Families In Our Community With Christmas Food

This year we have been asked to help supplement food parcels for families in need. Suggested food items are written on tags, attached to a Christmas tree wall decoration, hung at church.

- Please remove the tag with the items you would like to donate.
- Return the tag and the items you are donating by Sunday 6th December

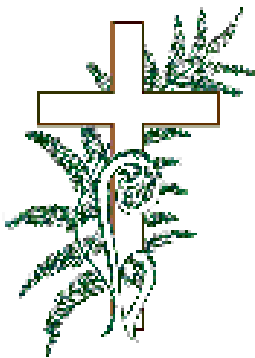
Celtic-Advent Prayer.

Christmas is coming fast isn't it! Therefore, we will suspend the Celtic Series till early next year, beginning with a "Celtic-style Creation Celebration Liturgy" for the combined service at Queen Elizabeth Park on the Sunday after Christmas – December 27th. Celtic Series will begin again in the new year. Meanwhile we invite you to a short Advent Retreat from 1-3pm Sunday 6th December at St Paul's, so we can have space sharing our journeys to the crib and contemplating the immensity of the gift of love in the incarnation. Hope you can join us – let me know if you can come. Lynda

Mini-Ultreya:

13 December: St
Paul's: 2.00-5.00 p.m.

We have all missed the hugs & singing this year, so please make an effort to join together in joy to celebrate the advent of our Lord. There will be a Witness Talk & a Gospel Response, & lots of carols. We also welcome all others who wish to join us to celebrate. There will be a cuppa & a bite beforehand to get us oiled ready to pray & sing!



Te Hahi Volunteer Training

There will be volunteer training Saturday 28 November 9.30am—1.30pm at the Waikanae Baptist Church.

Please note that you must sign up as a volunteer first through the Te Hahi website www.tehahi.org.nz

Advanced Notice

Parish **AGM** part 1 Reports and Budget Sunday 29 November 11am at St Paul's following a 9.30am combined congregations worship. Note: No other morning service on this Sunday

This Week

Monday	7 pm Prayer Ministry Training—St Paul's Church
Tuesday	9.30 am Playgroup—St Paul's Parish Hall
Wednesday	9.30 am Playgroup—St Paul's Parish Hall 3.30pm 4+ More—St Paul's Parish Hall 6 pm Healing Meeting—St Paul's Church
Thursday	9.30 am Playgroup—St Paul's Parish Hall
Friday	10.45 am Prayer group—St Paul's Lounge

PARISH PRAYER CHAIN: Contact **Marion Henderson** via email on: marionhenderson@xtra.co.nz or phone 905 1171

Parish Directory

Vicar: Ven. Julie Rokotakala	021 118 3657	vicar@kapitianglican.org.nz
St Mark's: Rev. John & Barbara Bonifant	(04) 905 3301	bjbonifant@gmail.com
St Peter's: Rev. Lynda Wards	(04) 234 1170	lyndawardsnz@gmail.com
Children and Families: Rev Fiona Thomson	021 442 676	fee@xtra.co.nz
Parish Pastoral Care /Prayer/Rosters: Rev Lynda Wards	(04) 234 1170	lyndawardsnz@gmail.com
Home Groups: Kathleen Fleck	(04) 298 5630	kathleen.fleck@xtra.co.nz
Wardens: Sheridan David & Mary Cropp	(04) 904 7300	emjaycee59@gmail.com
Treasurer: Paul Bull	(04) 904 7300	treasurer@kapitianglican.org.nz
Parish Administration: Vickie Riceman	(04) 904 7300	office@kapitianglican.org.nz

www.kapitianglican.org.nz

Library—<https://kapitianglicans.libib.com/>

Parish Office open: 9am-12pm Tues to Fri Tel: 04 904 7300