

# St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## The Joy of Love.

**Website: [stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz](http://stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz)**

Readings: Acts 10:44–48

Psalm 98

John 15:9–17

**Sentence:** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. John 15:10

**Collect:** God who does marvelous things, we praise you. We lift our voices in a joyful noise, joining our song to that of creation. We give thanks for your righteousness, your steadfast love, your faithfulness, your justice. Amen.

### PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY.

**Acts 10:44–48**

**Question:** Peter learned that God doesn't have favourites. Be honest: who are the favourites you include and the outsiders you reject?

**Prayer:** God of all, help us to see "them" as "us".

**Psalm 98**

**Question:** What has been the most significant "new thing" that you have seen God do?

**Prayer:** renewing God, may we see new things and do new things.

**John 15:9–17**

**Question:** How is it possible to command someone to love?

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to be a friend to those whom you love.

### SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- We pray for Christians and especially women in Iran, and for their leaders to allow more freedoms. If Iran perceives anybody being influenced from the west they will be punished!
- We pray for people, including children, being influenced by scammers through social media.
- We pray for those who are sick, especially Phil (David Dyers brother), Lorna, Tenesha (Shantal's sister) and others we may know.
- Pray for all families mourning the death of a loved ones.

### GIVE THANKS

- For the AGM last week and all the people involved in it.
- For the friendly get-togethers of Women's Fellowship and the others they share and learn from.
- For the people serving on vestry and those always supporting St Matthews.

- **For our teachers as they begin a new term at school**

## **FOCUS**

God’s command is clear: love one another as God in Christ has loved us. This steadfast love requires much of us, even as far as laying down our lives for another; yet this love gives much: joy, inclusion, divine and human friendship, security, deliverance, equity, justice. How can we help but make a joyful noise to God?

Peter preaches to Cornelius’s friends and family whom Cornelius has gathered. Peter, asks, “Can anyone *withhold* the water for baptizing these people...?” The boundaries continue to be pushed outwards in the movement of the Spirit of God.

Last week’s “I am the true vine” passage and continues to expand on the character of Christian love. This love is a joy (v. 11), not a burden. However, it is not “easy” or sentimental: it requires nothing less than a willingness to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. To become a friend of Jesus carries a commitment, obedience to the commandment to love one another sacrificially, as Jesus has loved us (see also John 13:34). In this friendship, we make ourselves vulnerable in making ourselves known to others, as did Jesus. This vulnerability brings risk, but it also brings the promise of abiding together, of deepening our relationships. Self-revelation, in this sense, can be a form of laying down one’s life for others.

The command to love as God loves, as Jesus Christ loves, is multi-layered in its interpretation and asks so very much of us in its application in daily life. The psalmist, however, is undaunted and sings mightily and joyfully in celebration of the enacted love of God.

**In our singing and praying, individually and communally, what are ways in which we can weave together exuberant expressions of praise with calls for justice and righteousness?**

**In our faith communities, what boundaries to inclusion have we created and perpetuated?**

**Prayer: Deeply loving God, may we walk more fully into you love, day-by-day.**

**Next Sunday: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024. 8.30am and 10am  
Wednesday 10am**

**Readings – Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9–13; John 17:6–19**

<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Sides person</b> Jo & Abigail	<b>Welcomer</b> Jacky	<b>Data</b> Shantal	<b>MOW</b> Lynne	<b>Bible Reader</b> Eve & Lynette	<b>Prayers</b> Margie	<b>Chalice</b> Roger	<b>Morning Tea</b> Margie & Sue H
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**May 8<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Women’s Fellowship**

**Every Thursday morning Selwyn Centre**

**Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> 1pm – fundraiser for Cambridge RDA – a horse carousel performance which Val is part of the riders. All welcome Adults \$10**

**Vestry met on Tuesday. Some points of interest:**

1. **Anne Murfitt was welcomed as a new member.**
2. **May is Mission Month and vestry discussed ways to raise funds for Anglican Action – suggested a soup and sausage lunch after church on May 26<sup>th</sup> as well as asking for donations.**
3. **Following on from the comments at the AGM re the three silver birch trees are coming to the end of their lives it was decided to remove them asap.**

4. On Friday Lance, Roger and Val will meet with Cathy Balvert from the i-site to see how her proposed Christmas tree can be erected – hopefully in a similar space to the present Easter crosses – without leaving too much permanent damage to the grounds.
5. The improvements to kitchenette and toilets are excellent and it was great that they were functioning when we had the big funeral for Lindsay.
6. Val is planning to attend the Messy Church Training on Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> in Putaruru and she's keen for others to go with her.

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