

**Saturday 11 February
9am—12noon**



Working bee

Yes, it's that time again when there are a few jobs needed doing around the church buildings and grounds.

More hands, make light work and it's a great way to meet more of St Luke's family. Plus, there's always a tasty morning tea on offer!

Things needing attention:

- gardens at rear of church
- raking up of tree debris
- cleaning below the bell tower
- Tidying of garden border
- Flower planting Memorial Garden
- Cupboard tidy in hall
- Children's play area clean up

If any of these jobs take your fancy, contact Marlene in the office for clarification.

**2017
St Luke's Anglican Church
Greytown
www.stlukesgreytown.co.nz**

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Weekly Bulletin
Items to: office@stlukesgreytown.co.nz

Bi-monthly 'Lookout'
Items to: office@stlukesgreytown.co.nz

Church Office
Hours 10am—3pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
office@stlukesgreytown.co.nz
Www.stlukesgreytown.co.nz
Like us on Facebook

Phone (06) 304 7066

**Welcome Kia Ora
St. Luke's Church Greytown
29 January 2017**

4th Sunday after the Epiphany The presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Sentence of the Day

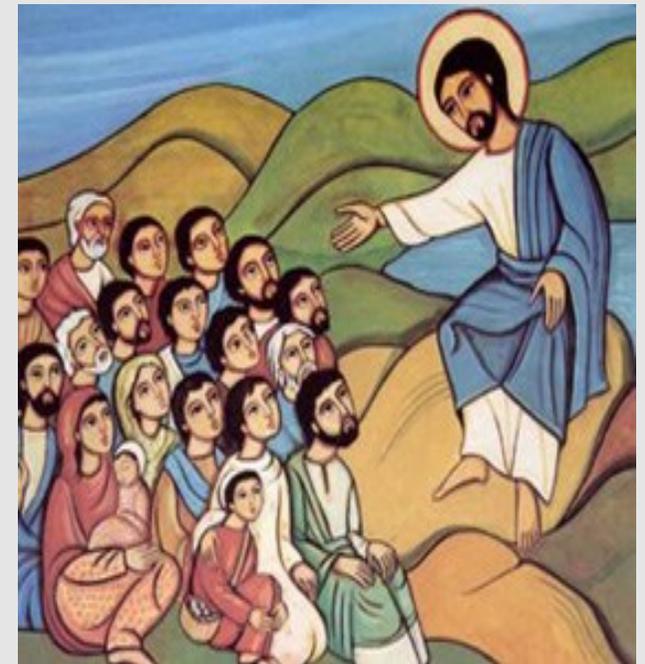
Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in righteousness and true holiness.
Ephesians 4:23-24

Collect of the Day

Ever living God,
your Son Jesus Christ was
presented as a child in the temple
to be the hope of your people;
grant us pure hearts and minds
that we may be transformed into
his likeness,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever.
Amen.

Readings

Psalms 24:(1-6) 7- 10
Malachi 3:1- 5
Hebrews 2:14 -18
Luke 2:22 - 40



Food for Thought?

This week we encounter the beginning of Jesus' "Sermon on the mount."

It begins with the Beatitudes. Many of us may have been raised to hear these verses as an outline of character traits, that we, as Christians are called to embody, like a spiritual goal to reach for, but this is not the main point.

The main point is that the Kingdom of God turns everything in this world upside down!

For example, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit*" says that those whom society has deemed unfortunate or weak, are truly blessed in God's realm. It says that those who have no reason in this world for hope or joy, those who have been deprived of their fair share of goodness and justice, these are the ones for whom God's Kingdom and God's justice and God's peace, are incredible gifts.

Part of what makes the Beatitudes so counter-intuitive is that Jesus pronounces God's blessing on those who expose our own vulnerability! From that perspective, the true secret to happiness is revealed. To open yourself and accept life as it is, and then to live out of the compassion and integrity of that wholeness. This may sound foolish because our typical approach to life is that success or wealth or power equals happiness. The problem with this view is that the more you succeed, the more wealth and power you gain, the more you have to lose, and therefore the more you relate to life through fear and competition. This way of life leads us to think we can only be happy in life by winning, by beating someone else at the game.

As those who seek to follow Jesus Christ, we are called to embody a completely different vision of life. We are called to spend our lives working to extend God's mercy to the left out and beaten down in this world, to seek to establish God's peace and God's justice for all the dispossessed and disenfranchised of this world. We are called to align our lives with those whom the world despises and rejects,, which means, that we too will be despised and rejected because of our commitment to God's mercy and peace and justice. But like those whom the world tramples, when we align our lives in that way we also can rejoice when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

As St. Paul says it, "*God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (1 Cor. 1:27).*"

Shalom, Andy



St Luke's is again going to celebrate this special day.

Children's Day is about treasuring our children by:

- **Spending time with them**
- **Praising and encouraging**
- **Listening and talking**
- **Sharing love and affection**
- **Exploring new experiences together**

And, because the St Luke's community is so good at all of these things, we want to share these values with the wider community.

We'd like to have a great event in the church grounds after our 9.30am service. The bouncy castle is already booked—if you have any ideas or would like to be involved please contact Rev Andy or Marlene in the office (06 304 7066).

Rosters February and March 2017

These have been completed and emailed out to those with email. There are paper copies on the table in the foyer. As always, we are thankful to all those who help create the St Luke's services. They would not occur without you. If you have a problem making your duty, please try and find a replacement yourself. Thank you.

Our hearts and prayers go to Des and Barbara Lovatt, loyal parishioners, who have both had unfortunate accidents in recent times. Andy has been visiting and offering any help possible. Please pray for them.