

KNOX PARISH

Newsletter June 2024

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE 2024

PENTECOST

Tēnā koutou katoa

Over the years I have used a number of objects in church in an effort to try and give a sense of the celebration of Pentecost. Orange, red, and yellow balloons. A birthday cake for the church. An oscillating fan. These crepe paper strands on the end of pews signifying flames (pictured in the banner above). A ping pong ball suspended in the air through the blast of a hair dryer! Trying, inadequately, to point towards something beyond words.

In the *Acts of the Apostles*, we hear how the disciples have gathered – they have been told to wait and they do. And they have this experience that has been described as, **like the sound of a rush of wind**, and, **like tongues of fire amongst them**. They have the experience of the power of the Holy Spirit flooding their beings. Those disheartened are renewed - prodded into life and enabled by the Holy Spirit which transforms them again and makes them bold. Jesus' promise to them has been dramatically fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is the presence of God for all of us, not just for those early disciples. The Holy Spirit is our help, our guidance, our counsel, and our comfort. The way of the Spirit is mysterious and blows where it wills. It is experienced in a variety of ways.

In the scriptures the description of the Holy Spirit is diverse. Sometimes the Spirit is a mighty force that overwhelms the person/s. Sometimes the Spirit appears as an ecstatic kind of speech. And at other times the Spirit is described as the breath of God that gently works in the world. Sometimes it is the still small voice.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his prison meditations* spoke of a certain experience that he had of the Holy Spirit:

"I vividly recall that night (of torture) ...and how I prayed to God that he might send death to deliver me because of the helplessness and the pain I felt I could no longer endure, and the violence and hatred to which I was no longer equal. How I wrestled with God that night and finally in my great need crept to him, weeping. Not until morning did a great peace come to me, a blissful awareness of light, strength, and warmth, bringing with it the conviction that I must see this thing through and at the same time the blessed assurance that I should see it through. Solace in Woe. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. This is the kind of creative dialogue (the Spirit) conducts with (humankind). These are the secret blessings (the Spirit) dispenses which enable a person to live and endure..."

The resurrection brought hope and new life to the disciples. They were lifted out of the experience and grief of Good Friday and given a sense of a new and profound understanding and experience of the divine. Yet it was Pentecost that energised them, set them on fire. They were empowered and amazing things were made possible.

At times, life in the church can be challenging and we have our disappointments. We seek to live in the ways of Jesus but sometimes we stumble. Our celebration of Pentecost holds out to us the promise of new possibilities. Of being energised and empowered as the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit stimulates and enables us. Let us hold on to that promise, be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, and seek to serve our God in this time and place.

Rose
Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*. New York: Macmillan

Session's prayer

Psalm 127: 1

Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labor in vain who build it.

Unless the Lord guards the city, the
watchman keeps awake in vain.

Pray for the Ministry Settlement
Board, as they seek to find a
Pastor, that the Lord might be with
them every step of the way. That
they will recognize and accept the
Pastor the Lord has chosen for us,
and that all those in leadership will
grow stronger through this time of
waiting.



Matariki will be celebrated on the 28th June.

June Services

02 Rev. Clive Thomson

09 Rev. Joe Beattie - Communion

16 Joseph Bateson

23 Nick Oosthuizen – WEC

'Soup and bun' lunch after the service

30 Rev Clive Thomson

June Duties

Morning Tea Roster

02 Jackie Cantley & Vicki smith

09 Rena Bill & Bev Reid

16 Bev & Rae Seales

23 Sharon Alexander & Rhonda
Grey

30 Glenys Middlemiss & Margaret
Sherwood

Door Duty Roster

02 John & Bev Reid

09 & 16 David & Dyan Robins

23 & 30 Joe & Frances Beattie

NOTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Session meets on the 18th of June @ 3pm at
Jennifer's home.

Session News

Session encourages members of our congregation to
give a short testimony during a service if God has
inspired you to do so.

Please see one of the elders to arrange a suitable
date and help is offered if required.

We are very pleased that 4 people have expressed a
desire to become members of Knox. If anyone else
would like to become a member, please speak to one
of the Elders.

Board of Managers meets on the 10th of June @7pm.
Check with Tom for the location.

Board of Managers News

Repairs are being carried out on the church complex
in readiness for painting. The carpark lines will be
painted in the near future.

A replacement oven has been installed in the Manse

Mission Group News

The Mission team are looking for someone to
compile the Monthly Mission Prayers. These are sent
out along with the newsletters. Please speak to a
member of the Mission Group if you are interested.

Church Cleaning

09 Clare & David Walters

23 ?


Flower Roster

02 & 09 Glenys Middlemiss


16 & 23 Elizabeth French

30 Clare Walters

CONTACTS

 Church office 889 7997

Please leave a message.

 admin@knoxmorrinsville.org.nz

Parish Clerk

Glenys Middlemiss

 mob 027 453 3956

Duty Elder

Jennifer Bills

Finances

If you would like to go on the envelope system for offerings, please contact Glenys. She will give you a number and you can use that for online giving, or envelopes for this purpose.

You are welcome to make online payments.

General Account

01-0367-0007970-00 (use this for normal church offerings)

Mission Account

01-0367-0007970-01 (use this for mission giving)

Sound Desk

We require more sound desk operators on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please speak to Tom Bougher.

Knox Kafe

This is held each fourth Thursday of the month at 10am in the church foyer. Please think about who of your friends, family or neighbours you would like to invite for a cuppa.

Everybody Shop

If you would like to be added to this roster, please phone Frances 07 888 7177

Work wanted.

Sharon Alexander is looking for cleaning jobs, including windows.

Please phone 027 725 0593

Prayer Chain

We have an e-mail prayer chain outreach for intercessory prayer. If you would like to have a prayer included, please contact Jackie Cantley, via email jacall@xtra.co.nz, or 07 889 7501 (voice message available). Please include "prayer request" in the subject line. If the prayer is urgent, please indicate "Urgent prayer request".

You may also like to become an e-mail intercessor, if so, please contact our Minister, Jackie.

PARISH FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxMorrinsville/>

Website:

<http://www.knoxmorrinsville.org.nz/index.htm?d=50217>

