

Sunday 10am Bible Classes
11am Worship
6pm Devotional
Wed 7.00pm Bible Study - Morningside
7pm - West Auckland



Morningside Church of Christ
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30 June 2019

Serving Today

Opening Prayer

Louren Ryan

Bible Reading

Thomas Lehauli

Song Leader

Geoff Hodgman

Lord's Supper

Gerald Lange

Closing Prayer

Marlon Macatual

Sermon

John Staiger

Next Week

Opening Prayer

Francois van Niekerk

Bible Reading

Thomas Lehauli

Song Leader

Kevin Hogg

Lord's Supper

Samu Rakai

Closing Prayer

Alan Neill

Sermon

John Staiger

Communion Prep

Today

Jean Vickery

Next week

Lillian van Niekerk

Evening Clean up

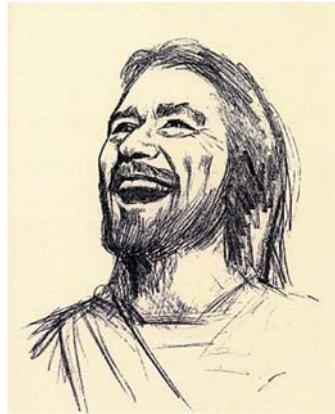
Today

Lu/Elizabeth

Next week

South Auckland

The Gift of Laughter



I hope you find this hard to believe, but some years ago a study was done to see what pictures of Jesus were most offensive to people. Now realize that this study left out the obviously offensive actions and concentrated on things that we know He actually participated in. For example, there were several images of people with various diseases and many were, as the disease really is, disgusting things to look at. But, of course, those were things that Jesus dealt with in real life. Overlooking the obvious lack of ANY real pictures of Jesus and what He looked like, in images of Jesus doing things throughout His teaching ministry, what did people find most offensive? The answer is pictures of Jesus laughing!

Somehow as human beings made in the image of God, we find it hard to believe that God actually both smiles and has a sense of humour! The old saying that "he who laughs last, laughs best" is especially true of God. And one of the best examples is found in the story of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham laughed at God telling of a promised son when he was already 100 years old (Genesis 17:17). When the Lord later confirmed the promise and Sarah overheard, she, too, laughed (Genesis 18:12). In fact, she was embarrassed at being caught laughing (Genesis 18:13-15). But the best laugh belongs to God as it all comes to pass and the son is named "God laughs" or Isaac. Of course, Sarah joins in and laughs at the fulfilment of promise by her God (Genesis 21:1-6).

God also laughs, derisively, at those who oppose Him, **He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them** (Psalm 2:4). And that is fitting for those who imagine that God is unimportant, unreal or simply powerless. But above all, God gives us laughter and joy that we might learn and appreciate all His blessings. Solomon reminds us that **there is a time to weep and a time to laugh** (Ecclesiastes 3:4a). And while many laughed at Jesus (cf. Matthew 9:24), He was the one that reminded His people that they would, like God, laugh last and best (cf. Luke 6:21-25). Jesus said that His very reason for coming to the earth, unlike the false prophets, was for His **people to have life, and have it abundantly** (John 10:10). And that abundant life is illustrated in our joy, our laughter with our Saviour. Nearly every usage of the word "joy" in the New Testament is in reference to Christians. In Acts 13:52 we learn that **the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit**. Christians always have much to smile and laugh about! Indeed, one of the fruits or evidences of God's presence in our lives is joy (Galatians 5:22).

We, of all people, have the best reason to be truly happy. And, as the children's song says, if you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it! May we see and appreciate the true joys that God has blessed us with, both in this life and the life to come. May we share the beauty of God's gift on our faces and in our lives!

(Lester P. Bagley)

Information for Bulletin

Francois van Niekerk is assisting John with the Bulletin.

Please email information to Francois on francois.vanniekerk@demix.org or message him on 02108544979.

Web Site: <http://www.morningsidechurchofchrist.org.nz/>

This Week

- Fellowship lunch after worship

Next Week

- Joint Fellowship at South Auckland



- * **6 July** – Ladies breakfast
- * **7 July** – Joint Fellowship at South Auckland
- * **13 July** – Youth event
- * **27 July** – Youth event



Sandra Setters-Tricklebank:

In February, Sandra was diagnosed with cancer in the spine, breast, stomach, and right eye. Sadly, due to the advancement of the cancer, there is very limited treatment possible. The doctors estimate that Sandra has only two years left. Some of you will remember Sandra from her days with the Hamilton church (the Setters family were a big part of the church there). Please keep Sandra and her loved ones in your prayers.

Joshua Stokes:

(Bryce Christensen's cousin) has had a recurrence of brain cancer. Please pray for his health and for strength and faith for his family.

Betty Potgieter:

"My Mom is back at Halldene Rest Home, in Whangaparoa." (Felicity). She is very frail. Please keep her in your prayers.

JUNE

- 08 Marlon Macatual
- Celine Reid
- 10 Samu Rakai
- 15 Marama Rakai
- 16 Carol Kirkham
- 21 Illya Anacan
- 25 Anita Polglase
- 27 Piper & Roxanne Jackman (vNiekerk)
- 29 Vilimaka Lehaul

JULY

- 02 Nathaniel Taufa
- 06 Allan Bell
- David Ding
- 11 Justis Sandwell
- 15 Valentine Savage
- 16 Jean Vickery
- Alex Hodgman
- 17 Jerry Papalii
- 21 Louren Ryan
- 26 Cany Bell
- 28 Gabriella Tavita



Food Pantry Needs

Food prices continue to rise, and some families have lots of mouths to feed. Please bring food, e.g. canned food, peanut butter, milk products, etc. All supplies are low. Place the items in grey cabinet in the corner of the Fellowship Hall.

Ladies Coffee/Tea Group - Wednesdays

Attention ladies -

Ladies are invited to join a coffee/tea group that meets every Wednesday at 10.30 am in the café at the Kings Plant Barn - 118 Asquith Ave, St Lukes. Contact Jean Vickery for any details.

Palmerston North Ladies Challenge

Attention ladies -

Check out the bulletin boards if you're interested in going to the Palmerston North Ladies Challenge this year.

Rani, a long-time participant, can organise your online registrations and provide information about this encouraging event.

The theme is *Decisions Determine Destiny* which is very apt when considering how such ladies retreats boost your spiritual walk.

Don't worry about cold and uncomfortable cabins ladies- we stay in a hotel for two nights and have continental breakfasts!

Email **Rani** on meraniatimoti@gmail.com or call/text **027 702 2354** for more information.

Put this on your calendar:

***31 October to 2 November - Palmerston North Ladies Challenge**

Youth Cooking Competition

The youth had a great cooking competition last night. Please join in for future events as its lots of fun. Below are some pictures of the event:

