

St Andrew's Welcomes You



EARTH, HUMUS, HUMANITY, HUMILITY

Each year on Ash Wednesday we mark one another with ashes and say the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Similarly as we farewell those whom we love in a funeral service we use the words: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." These are earthy words of creation and connectedness and they represent that deep connection we share with the earth, the land on which we live out our embodied spiritual human experience.

The word human comes from the Latin humus—meaning earth or ground. We can see why in today's reading from Genesis. Whether we believe that humanity was literally crafted by God from the soil of the Garden of Eden or that this story holds a deep and timeless truth about our connectedness to our earthen home, it can help us make sense of the spiritual connection we often feel with land and soil.

Is this why our hearts stir when we survey a beautiful landscape scene? Is this why we are struck by the splendour and the majesty of open spaces? Is this why specific landscapes and places bring us such a sense of coming home? A sense of identity and belonging? Because they are indeed from whence we came?

As we remember and give thanks for God's good creation this Sunday, we remember particularly the land which brings beauty and stability, which houses ecosystems, and on and in which we raise plants and livestock to nourish our bodies. We remember too the things that we do to damage God's good creation. The impact of over farming, deforestation and mining around the world and in New Zealand. We remember that God our creator also offers us redemption and re-creation. As a new heaven and a new earth come into being. When we work for conservation and ecological restoration we join in God's great redemptive plan.

Humility too comes from the same Latin root. Humus. Eugene Peterson wrote: "If we cultivate a lively sense of our origin and nurture a sense of continuity with it, who knows we may acquire humility in the process."

The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross



13th SEPTEMBER 2020

Season of Creation - Land and Earth Sunday

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS

Monday

Psalm 40:7-11 / 1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33 / Luke 7:1-10

Loving God, you call us to trust your authority and your faithfulness to all humanity. When we are divided, neighbour against neighbour, culture against culture, speak again the eucharistic words of re-membling. May we know ourselves as your body in the world now, totally given over, as was Jesus, for the healing of our world. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Tuesday

Psalm 100 / 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-end / Luke 7:11-17

Compassionate God, through Jesus you reached out to the 'poor' and the 'widows', giving hope and new life. May we, your body now, do likewise. Strengthen our unique gifts, that we too may be apostles, prophets, and teachers, inspired by your Spirit, to fulfil your promise of hope and peace for all. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Wednesday

Psalm 33:1-12 / 1 Corinthians 12:31b – 13:13 / Luke 7:31-35

Wise and compassionate One, as in past generations, we continue to question and challenge the miracle of your presence. Make us wise to know that you come to us in tenderness to teach us how to love. Inspire us that we may become your loving body now. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Thursday

Psalm 118:1-2,17-20 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Luke 7:36-end

Compassionate One, even when we reject you and persecute each other, you see beyond our sin to the depths of our longing hearts. May we be like Paul, faithful and feisty. May we be like the unknown woman, willing to take all that we call wealth, and place it at your feet amongst our tears of hope. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Friday

Psalm 17:1-8 / 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 / Luke 8:1-3

Resurrection God, through Jesus you show us the way to new life. Give us faith to believe beyond what we understand. Give us strength to serve you beyond what we imagine. May we be like the women who resourced and followed Jesus, serving him wholeheartedly and giving beyond all expectations. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Saturday

Psalm 30:1-5 / 1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42-49 / Luke 8:4-15

Creator God, you have fashioned us in your image as seeds of your love, planted in this life to bear fruit both now and beyond any grave. Protect us when we are fragile, beset by the droughts and storms of life, so that we may indeed bear your good fruit, now and in the age to come. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Our Daily Bread Jenny Harrison and John McAlpine

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- * We will update the Parish regarding the church and office reopening after the Govt announcement on Monday 14th September.
- * Sunday School meets in person today!
- * Please sign in using the QR codes or the contact tracing forms at the church, hall and office, and vicarage each time you visit. Covid-19 Tracking booklets are on the way. If you need any help with the Covid tracing App call Brian Tracey on 021 661 573.
- * The office phone has been diverted temporarily to the vicarage.
- * **Ginger'n Bread—the meeting scheduled for 24th September will be confirmed after the next Govt announcement.**
- * Tuesday coffee is back at Hollywood Café at 11am with 4 attending last week and 5 this week (plus one dog each time!)

ZOOM MEETING IDs Phone 884 6780 from a landline or go to www.zoom.us

Sunday Service 9.30am Meeting ID # 664-003-107

Wednesday Prayer 12 noon Meeting ID # 260 154 652

DIOCESAN SYNOD 2020 REPORT

The Vicar, Rebecca Berry Eden and I attended a very truncated session of Synod on Saturday 5 September along with 240 Synod members from around the Diocese. Attendance was by zoom since an in- person meeting was prevented by Covid restrictions. Business was limited to urgent matters but it is hoped there will be a special session of Synod to conclude other business in late November.

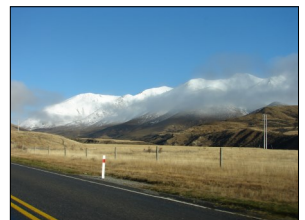
The only formal business was the election of 3 clergy and two lay representatives to the Diocesan Council and the passing of a Bill to expand the membership of the Board of the Auckland City Mission. Bishop Ross delivered his charge from Neligan House, acknowledging the efforts of ministry units during the Covid restrictions to foster a sense of community in local areas and he paid a special tribute to the work of the City Mission and ATWC in the current crisis. A written version and video of the Bishop's Charge can be found on the Diocesan website.

Reported by Tony Randerson.

Thanks to all those who sent through their favourite land photos this week.

Each week we will ask for submissions on each upcoming theme:

Wilderness, Rivers and Seas, and Creatures.



Parish Office: Karen Ross (09) 638 8264

office@standrewsepsom.org.nz

Tuesday to Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm

www.standrewsepsom.org.nz

Vicar: The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

Vicarage (09) 623 2290 Mobile 021 921 080

vicar@standrewsepsom.org.nz Please note Monday is Sarah's day off.

Deacon Assistant: The Reverend Julian Morris (09) 638 8264

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lucy Best (09) 520 0093 Mobile 021 350 480

Services: Sunday 8am and 9:30am, Wednesday 10am

If you would like to give via Automatic Payment or Direct Credit

The Parish bank account is: 06 0103 0780441 00

Liturgist: Sarah Stevens-Cross,
Reading : Dianne Kenderdine
Affirmation of Faith: Robyn Hamilton
Zoom Host: Simon Smith
Response: Sue and Neil Shroff

Song of Praise:

John Langley

Reflection:

Sarah Stevens-Cross

Intercessor:

Leslev Anderson

Music Co-Ord:

Stephen Hamilton

