

Welcome

To the Anglican Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst

**The Year of
Integration, Restoration and Education**

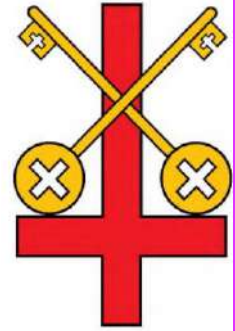
St Peter's

&

St Luke's

29 March 2020

Lent 5



He Will Not Let Your Feet Stumble

What a change in our world since the last bulletin! Everything seems to have happened so quickly. I want to assure you firstly of our prayers and love. Rosemary (my bubble buddy) and I pray for you all each and every day. Praying that God will calm any anxieties you may have and that you will be taken care of. The care bears have been ringing around everyone on the roll. (The roll is not totally accurate so you may get missed; you can ring me though.) They have reported how grateful people have been to get a call and that so far everyone is safe. I'm writing a little commentary on the bible reading each day which is getting e-mailed out and should be on Facebook. There will be a service on Facebook on Sunday at 10am.

We are trying to get the rest-homes linked into this too. We won't of course have our wonderful choir or orchestra but you can sing along at home. I encourage us all to pray each morning, using family prayer page 188, knowing that you are joining with each other. This Sunday the whole Anglican Communion is praying for the pandemic, that's about 100 million people! So, as we come into this period of social isolation, what's a helpful image to sustain us? I'm at an advantage when it comes to self-isolation because being born in Ranfurly, social isolation was a given. Our closest neighbours was a family of Rabbits!

When the really hard-out climbers take on a mountain, they tethered themselves together. Their climbing partner is tied to them, so if they should stumble or fall, then the other climber is there to support them. I think this is a great image for us. We can tether ourselves to Jesus. In the Psalms we are promised that God will not let us stumble or fall. (Psalm 121:3) Why not imagine over this time that you are tethered to Jesus. He is your trusted companion, He has been on many adventures with you before and has never let you down - nor will he. Tether to Jesus, you have a friend, a brother, a companion, who is always there for you. This is His promise to you.

~Nick

St Peter's & St Luke's Churches

10:00am

Readings: Ezekiel 37.1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8.6-11
John 11.1-45



Sentence

Jesus told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going to awaken him. The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.'. (John 11.11)

Collect

Let us pray to keep hope alive...
God of hope,
in Jesus we see a life that never dies:
surrounded by death and violence,
may we never give in to despair
but rest in You, our resurrection and our life;
now and forever. Amen.

Versicle and Response for Intercessions

Lord of compassion
in your mercy hear us.

Next Sunday's Readings

Matthew 21.1-11
Zechariah 9.9-12
Psalm 118.1-2, 19-20
Philippians 2.5-11
John 12.12-16

Pastoral Care / Funeral / Weddings

Unfortunately the Health Department has told clergy that we are not able to visit or take funerals or weddings at this time. We could very easily become carriers of the Virus. We can of course pray for you over the phone, have a memorial service at later date, and you can ask your sweetheart to hold off a bit longer!



A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Pray for the sick, especially Elizabeth, Fiona, Helen, Leni, Wendy, and others on our minds.

*Pray for our Vicar and Vestry as they discern processes and make decisions so that we can continue to God's work and serve His people.

*Man says... Show me
and I'll trust you.*

*God says... Trust me
and I'll show you.*

Psalm 126:6

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