

Editorial: Love is all we need



"Love is all we need"

Yes! It is "the one thing that matters" (Luke 10: 38-41), because true happiness and joy flow from love by the gift of the Holy Spirit. No love is sent into the world as a result of acquiring money, possessions, control and power over people and all we share the planet with.

The consequences of loveless, selfish living are experienced globally. Human caused climate change is causing massive damage to our interdependent economies and societies. It is intensifying the concentration of wealth in the hands of few and poverty among many and we are in the midst of an extinction crisis, caused by humanity. In New Zealand, more native plants and animals are in danger than anywhere else in the world. God, who is Love and Spirit, is the creative, hidden and silent force in the universe and is our ground of being. Divine love is pouring out and healing the destruction selfishness causes in the world.

In the words of Paul:

"Meanwhile, these three remain:

Faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love"

(1 Corinthians, 13:13).

One of the greatest mystics of the 20th Century, Thomas Merton, wrote:

"The mystery of the Spirit is the mystery of selfless love. We receive Him in the inspiration of secret love, and we give Him to others in the outgoing of our own charity. Our life in Christ is then a life of both receiving and giving. We receive God, in the Spirit, and in the same Spirit we return our love to God through our brothers and sisters." (New Seeds of Contemplation, p159).

Robin Versteeg: *Editor*



Our Fruit and Vege ministry has finished for 2021 and will recommence on the 10th February, 2022.

This ministry provides low-cost packs of fresh fruit and vege to anyone in the community who wants it.

There are three different size packs;

Single bag - \$4,

Couple bag \$7,

Family bag \$14.00

When we recommence in 2022 the opening hours for distribution are each Thursday as follows;

Green Island at St Mark's, 10.30am – 11.30am

St Kilda at Holy Cross, 4pm-5.30pm





After nearly two years impacted by Covid 19 when we have had to, at times, stay apart to keep one another safe the story below seems particularly poignant. I invite you to think about ways of staying connected with friends and family even as we follow protection frameworks for covid 19.

Brene Brown told a story about a village where all the women washed clothes together down by the river. When they all got washing machines, there was a sudden outbreak of depression, and no one could figure out why. It wasn't the washing machines in and of themselves. It was the absence of time spent doing things together. It was the absence of community.

Friends, we've gotten so independent.

We're "fine" we tell ourselves even when in reality we're depressed, we're overwhelmed, we're lonely, and we're hurting. "We're fine, we're just too busy right now" we say when days, weeks, months, and years go by without connecting with friends. I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm fine. It's so easy to say even when it's not true.

We've become so isolated and it's hard to know how to get back. It's so hard to know how to even begin to build the kind of relationships our hearts need. And I think in our current culture, it's just not as organic as it once was. It's more work now.

Because you know, we have our own washing machines. We don't depend on each other to do laundry, or cook dinner, or raise babies anymore. We don't really depend on each other for much of anything if we're being honest.

There is true magic when women (people) come together and hold hands and share ideas and share stories and struggles and endless bowls of salsa. You use your gifts, and I'll use mine, and then we'll invite that girl over there who brings a completely different set of skills to the table we are building, and we'll watch together as something miraculous unfold.

Author: Amy Weatherly



CWS is the international aid and development agency of Protestant Churches of New Zealand. Established in 1945 to help in war-torn Europe, CWS has been doing a world of good ever since. With 75 years' experience of helping communities survive disaster, challenge injustices and overcome poverty. The Christmas Appeal funds this vital work. The appeal is an opportunity to put into practice our concern for others and support people determined to make peace.

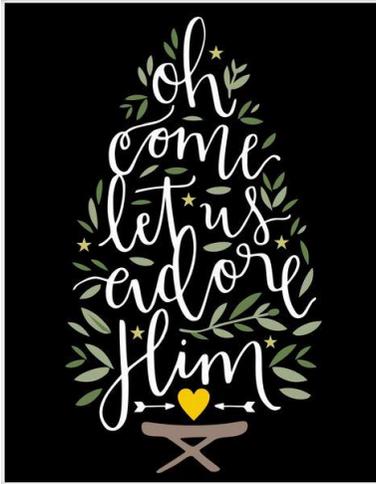
Lighten her Load with Joy and Justice is the theme this year.

"Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17

The 2021 Christmas Appeal is for people living on the frontline of climate change, struggling to survive through disaster and the pandemic. The last year has been tough for many people.

Christian World Service's local partners have worked hard to meet their needs. They have delivered food rations, sanitation supplies and taught isolated communities how to be safe or grow gardens. It is work that is needed more than ever.

You can donate to the Appeal online or by placing money in an envelope marked Christmas Appeal in the collection.



The NZ Government has introduced the COVID-19 Protection Framework (“Traffic Lights”) as part of its management of the Covid-19 Delta outbreak in October. We are, as I write, in Level Orange. In this Protection Framework, the Government invites churches to choose between two options when they hold services (ordinary worship, weddings, funerals) and other gatherings:

Option 1 – Vaccine Pass Only: with an unlimited number of attendees, providing every attendee presents a vaccine pass, or;

Option 2 – Mixed Services: with a limited number of attendees (100, Green; 50, Orange) without requiring attendees to have a vaccination pass. *(For clarity: all references to requirements for or expectations about people being vaccinated, are references to people aged 12 and over. Children aged under 12 are unable to be vaccinated at the present time but may be eligible in the future.)*

The Southern Coastal Deanery Vestry decided at its December meeting to offer our regular services as **Vaccine Pass only** and to schedule additional services (on demand) for those who need Mixed services where no vaccine pass is required. If you are unable to attend a Vaccine Pass only service please contact Jan Clark (0273515171) so other arrangements for worship or pastoral care can be put in place.

If you are attending our services advertised on the previous page please bring your vaccine pass, scan in using the QR code or record your visit on the sheets provided. Remember to sanitise your hands and if unwell stay home.

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December:

Eucharist & Carols are being held at **9pm** at Holy Cross, St Kilda, St Mark’s Green Island, St Mary’s Mornington.

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December:

9am Eucharist & Carols at St Margaret’s Brighton,
4 Seaview Road, Brighton.

Sunday 26th December: 10.30am Combined Deanery Service at Holy Cross, St Kilda. Potluck lunch follows our worship.

January no services at Green Island or Brighton.

No midweek communion services at St Kilda, they recommence on the 3rd February.

Mornington Churches Worship together: 9.30am

2nd January at the Methodist Church,
9th January at Anglican Church,
16th January at the Presbyterian Church,
23rd January at our own churches.

St. Kilda: 11am each Sunday in January except for the 30th.

Sunday 30th January Combined Deanery Picnic at Sandy & Dave’s home. Details to follow.