

Calling for willing participants

Please let Rev Shelley know if you are willing to be part of a team for a family-friendly Christmas play in our service December 20th.

Help please!

Shelley is looking for some scraps of blue fabric for an Advent worship activity. The pieces will be torn into strips, so don't need to be large or evenly shaped! If you have anything you would like to contribute, please bring it along to church, or call Shelley to collect.

Saturday 19 December – early evening

Please mark this date on your diary. We are planning an end of year gathering....meal and social time
More information nearer the time!

In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

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Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website

http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/waikato_wairiki/te_awamutu

or just search 'Te Awamutu Methodist Church'

Notices for next Sunday's bulletin to Lynn please. Phone 07 871 3554 or email lyncol.pinkerton@gmail.com

Weekly Newsletter – 29th November 2020

METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



First Sunday in Advent

"We have a season in which to give our faith a workout, in which to exercise our hope muscles. Some years make that exercise more difficult than others. But it's Advent now, and, as people of faith, we are called upon to exercise our hope" ignatianspirituality.com

With family members who are experiencing repeated heartbreaks in their desire to start their family I am feeling a renewed sense of hope for them as Advent begins and we look ahead to the birth of God's gift of love. Maybe it will happen this month!

I find myself thinking back to the editorial I shared recently - "Hope is the twin of faith and the mother of patience. Sure-footed and never afraid, hope goes before and behind with faith. Hope moves slowly with wisdom and courage, for it is not in a hurry. Hope shines a light - sometimes a penlight - into the darkness." Whatever our hope is may we have patience, wisdom and courage as we travel the Advent journey to Christmas.

Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world. *Lynn (with some borrowed words from Shelley - over)*

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Isaiah 64.1-9](#) The prophet cries out for God's intervention, "Rip the heavens apart! Come down, Lord."

[Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19](#) The psalmist prays for God's help and salvation. "Help us... how much longer?"

[Mark 13.24-37](#) The Son of Man will appear in the clouds and his angels will gather his chosen ones. No one knows when this will happen. We are to be alert, on watch and ready.

[1 Corinthians 1.3-9](#) God chose us to be partners with his Son and keeps us innocent until the day of his return.

Services coming up:

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| Nov | 29 | Rev Shelley - Advent 1 |
| Dec | 6 | Rev Shelley - Communion - Advent 2
7pm - Reflective service |
| | 13 | Choir - Peter and Robin - Advent 3 |
| | 20 | Rev Shelley - Advent 4
7pm - Rev Shelley - Blue Christmas service |
| | 25 | Christmas Day - Rev Shelley |
| | 27 | Cafe Church - Rev Shelley |
| Jan | 3 | Rev Shelley |
| | 10 | Cafe Church - led by Jill and a team |
| | 17 | Lynn Pinkerton |
| | 24 | Cafe church - led by Bev and a team |
| | 31 | Rev Shelley |



Please pray for -

- students seeking holiday employment
- families who are unable to gather in person for Christmas because of border closures
- Rev Shelley, Peter, Robin, June and the choir as they plan advent services



From Rev Shelley to introduce our Advent theme -

One of the Psalms for worship during Advent this year is Psalm 126, which opens with the words: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream."

What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

This year we will be using some resources from A Sanctified Art, a collective of artists and writers from the USA, which I hope will offer some new perspectives as we journey through this time of waiting and preparing. The theme is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.

Advent blessings to you all,

Shelley