

A message from Shelley -

There are emails circulating which look as if they come from me, asking for gift cards or money. The sender's email is pastor0863@gmail.com. This is not my email address, and should not be answered. Thanks!



Hymn Fest:

Coming up is our celebration of music, with the service based on our favourite hymns. If you have a favourite we haven't sung for a while (or a favourite we sang quite recently) one that holds a special place in your heart please let Shelley know so it can be included.



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PARISH STEWARDS

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Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website

http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/waikato/waiariki/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 – 7th March 2021

METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



Lent 3

"Why did Jesus die on a cross?"

The most common answer for many Christians, "He died on a cross to pay for our sins" is actually a relatively recent concept. In fact, it only became part of Christian teaching about 1600 years after Jesus was crucified.

"Why did Jesus die on a cross?"

- Jesus died on the cross because he offended those in power.
- Jesus died on a cross because he challenged the status quo.
- Jesus died on a cross because love would not sit silently by as those who had little were being stepped on, used and abused by those who had so much.

"Why did Jesus die on a cross?"

Jesus died on a cross to show us what love looks like in action.

- It looks like healing people who are hurt.
- It looks like feeding people who are hungry.
- It looks like loving people who are shunned.
- It looks like defending people who are overwhelmed.
- It looks like friends sharing food together.
- It looks like grieving over the loss of a friend.
- It looks like a conversation over a drink of cool water.
- It looks like helping the celebration along at a wedding.
- It looks like helping the lost find meaning in life.

continued over

- It looks like a man, hanging from a tree, because the threat of death from the most powerful government on the face of the planet was not enough to subdue his love for those who were being taken advantage of.

Did Jesus die to save us from our sins?

Yes, but it wasn't a moment that erased our sins by some mystical magic show from above.

Jesus' death showed us how far love will go, what love looks like when it is played out to its fullest.

And it showed us that, if we truly choose to follow, it can save us from our sins. *Lynn (with help from Mark Sandlin on a Progressive Christian site.)*

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

Exodus 20: 1 - 17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25

John 2: 13 - 22

Services coming up:

March 7 10am: Rev Shelley – (Communion if not on level 2)

March 7 7pm: Reflective service - Rev Shelley

March 14 10am: Rev Shelley - Harvest Service

March 21 10am: Robin, Peter and Choir (Service from last year's postponement)

March 28 10am: Rev Shelley – Palm Sunday – Choir singing

Holy Week Services: – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday –
10am – Rev Shelley

April 1 7pm: Rev Shelley Maundy Thursday Service
and shared meal

April 2 10am: Good Friday – Rev Shelley

April 4 10am: Easter Sunday – Rev Shelley

Our **www.explore** services will resume Friday **March 26**

This month's **Parish Council Meeting** will be March 16th at 2pm

Please pray for -



- our key leaders and decision makers as Covid management continues to challenge our country
- compassionate, well-informed and supportive decision making supporting all our population groups.



Next Sunday - Harvest Festival Service

Please bring garden produce and supermarket goods to add to a display at the front of our worship space, and which will then be given to the Foodbank.

Lenten Studies: A series of studies will be held for four weeks during March, beginning on March 3 at 2.30pm in the Church Lounge. These are based on 'A Methodist way of life', and will explore the ways we try to live our lives in response to God's love made known to us in Jesus.

Foodbank:

More delivery people are needed to help get food parcels to those who need them. If you would be able to help on a regular or an occasional basis, please see Shelley, or phone Ian McLauchlan on 027 3895470.