



St. Peter's Caversham
The Pebble

22 December 2013

Advent 4, Year A

The Confirmation

Yes, yours my love, is the right human face.
I in my mind had waited for this long,
Seeing the false and searching for the true,
Then found you as a traveller finds a place
Of welcome suddenly amid the wrong
Valleys and rocks and twisting roads. But you,
What shall I call you? A fountain in a waste,
A well of water in a country dry,
Or anything that's honest and good, an eye
That makes the whole world seem bright. Your
open heart,
Simple with giving, gives the primal deed,
The first good world, the blossom, the blowing
seed,
The hearth, the steadfast land, the wandering sea.
Not beautiful or rare in every part.
But like yourself, as they were meant to be

Edwin Muir

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Lady Chapel during Communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Sung Eucharist this morning

The Liturgy for Today:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

(1662 Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

HYMNS:

33 Of the Father's heart begotten (omit verses 2 and 3)

187 Virgin born, we bow before thee

357 Father, hear the prayer we offer

161 For Mary, Mother of the Lord.

249 Round me falls the night

READINGS FOR TODAY:

[Isaiah 7: 10-14](#)

[Romans 1: 1-7](#)

[Matthew 1: 18-24](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

[Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14](#)

[Colossians 3: 12-21](#)

[Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23](#)

Parish News

Today's sermon is entitled "Tenderness and Trust." It begins with a reflection on the very different marriage customs at the time when Mary and Joseph came together, and their very young age by our standards of marital beginnings. It then considers the enduring qualities of relationship this remarkable couple have to teach us in every age.

Advent A reminder that we do not say or sing the Gloria in Advent as it is a penitential season. This means of course

that it is a very appropriate time to make your confession, which can be arranged by making a time with the Vicar. Our Services begin this morning with the lighting of a candle in the Advent wreath.

Rock The December edition of the Rock is available for collection at the back of the Church.

Christian World Service You will find the CWS Christmas Appeal envelope at the end of each pew. St Peter's has always supported this appeal generously.

Nine Lessons and Carols St Peter's Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is this evening at 7 pm.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve:

(St Barnabas Home chapel)

6pm Holy Eucharist and Carols

(St Peter's Church)

11pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib by
Candlelight.

Christmas Day:

8am Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am Sung Eucharist and Carols

Thursday Eucharists continue as usual at 10 am in the Lady Chapel throughout the festive season. On Boxing day we celebrate the feast of Stephen, the first martyr, and on Thursday 2 January we will celebrate Basil the Great and Gregoroy Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church, the so called Cappadocian Fathers who did so much to define the faith of the creeds which is a cornerstone of orthodox Christian belief.

Watchnight Service We will see the New Year in with a Vigil of readings appropriate to the turn of the year within the context of the celebration of the liturgy of St Basil, which we use with Episcopal permission on very special liturgical occasions. The Service begins at 10 pm, and will be followed by a social gathering at the Vicarage as we

await Midnight. There are still reading slots available in the Vigil part of the Service. Please let the Vicar know if you can help in this way.

Archbishops Advent Statement Archbishop Phillip Richardson writes: The 2013 census on religious affiliation contains few surprises. Not even the decline in Anglican affiliation should catch us unawares. These trends liberate us from notions of self-importance and turn us back to our fundamental calling. They also situate us on the margins of our society, where we really belong. My immediate response, then, is thankfulness to God that we are being refined, called to repentance and to a refocusing of our mission. It's an exciting and challenging time to be in Christian leadership. Following Jesus has always been fundamentally counter-cultural. And the Church has always been most authentically the body of Christ when it is salt and leaven rather than the "religious" dimension of society. An Advent challenge for all who profess Christian faith is to critique our ministry and to try harder to live out our discipleship of Christ. Our Church may be smaller numerically, but we may also be more authentically Christ's Church as we recover our saltiness and become real leaven.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm especially Claire Johnson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, Juen Miyagi, Coral Paris, Shirley Buxton, Joyce McQuarrie and Denise Walker.

Pray for the Departed, those who have died recently, and those whose memorial occurs at this time: Noel McQuarrie, Francis Hore, William Littler, Doreen Fraser, and Lena Holmes

Parish Priest: Fr. Hugh Bowron 455-3961

Vicar's Warden: Tubby Hopkins 454-2399

People's Warden: Kate Paterson 455 5384

Website: www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz