

PARISH OF MILFORD
St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford

Sunday 19th November 2023

Vicar The Rev'd Grant Robertson
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Sentence - God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other. 1 Thessalonians 5: 9,11

Collect - Everliving God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Introit 621 Come to us, creative Spirit
Gradual 661 All for Jesus, all for Jesus
Offertory 618 Awake my soul, and with the sun
Closing 678 Take my life and let it be

8am - Blue Book
9.30am - NZPB 404

Readings for today Sunday 19th November 2023

First Reading - Judges 4: 1-7
Epistle - 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Gospel - Matthew 25: 14-30
Readers 8am - To be advised
Readers 9.30am - Chris and Christine Maud

Judges 4: 1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.’ ”

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25: 14-30

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

We remember in our prayers - Lorraine, Anne, Tomas, Donna, Julie, Megan, Dianne, Noeline, Gillian, Barrie, Lesley, Lorna, Shobha, Pat, Hazel, Shelley, Cynthia, Logan, Kelvin, Margaret, Jeff, and Bryce. Residents and parishioners Alma Road, Argyle Terrace, Brian Avenue, Cecil Road, Commodore Parry Road, Craig Road.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 21st	Selwyn Centre 9.30am. Join us for friendship, fun and morning tea. Cost \$5.00.
Wednesday 22nd	10am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea.
Thursday 23rd	Mainly Music 10.00am. Cost \$5.00.
Sunday 26th	Holy Communion 8am and 9.30am.

Readings for next Sunday 26th November 2023

First Reading - Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Epistle - Ephesians 1: 15-23

Gospel - Matthew 25: 31-46

Readers 8am - To be advised

Readers 9.30am - Karen and Gaylene

Parish dinner Sunday 26th November at 7pm – Before the end of the year it would be great to have another parish dinner at a restaurant. We haven't been to the Anokha Indian Restaurant in Milford for some time, it's affordable and serves great food, even better when you don't have to cook it! It's on the corner of Dodson Avenue and Kitchener Road. Please sign the list at the back of the church if you will be attending. We pay for our own meals and drinks. It's a great time to get to know other parishioners as we sit around a table and share table fellowship together.

Crochet bedspread - We have been given a beautiful handmade crochet double bedspread. It would make a lovely Christmas gift. We are going to sell raffle tickets at \$5.00 a ticket or three tickets for \$10.00. It will be on show at our morning services and the other groups that meet at the church. See Megan for tickets it will be drawn on November 30th 2023.