



2 MARCH, 2025

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 2 March, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Next week 9 March, 2025

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will meet this Tuesday at 3pm in the chapel. They will be looking at Study 3 Covenant Made: Abraham, Genesis 12,21, John 8. All ladies are welcome, see Gwen or Heather for more details.

World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer Service will be at our church next Friday 7th March at 10.00am. Morning tea will follow the service which this year is written by Christian women in the Cook Islands. All are invited to attend.

If you are planning to attend and can bring a plate of food to share for morning tea, that would be appreciated.





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The Old and New Covenants Part Three

If it is true that Jesus changes everything, should we disregard the Old Testament as outdated and superseded? If you have ever wondered about this you are not alone; even the first disciples must have wondered if Jesus' teachings made the old traditions, law and scriptures irrelevant.

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, Jesus invites his disciples to the top of a hill, they all sit down and he begins to teach them. The lesson he gives them is known as the Sermon on Mount, and in it the disciples learn that God's heart is for the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who seek righteousness, the pure in heart, the merciful and those who act for peace. All these qualities are ways of being, they address what is going on inside of a person and they describe people who truly seek God.

In Jesus' day, the Pharisees considered themselves close to God, and if they had given a sermon on a mount it would have gone like this this, "blessed are those who meticulously follow every word of the law. The End." Jesus often points out that the Pharisees' pride in following the law and their knowledge of the Torah, masks their true being. Behind their song and dance of religiosity they play the system, abusing, excluding and judging the very people God has called them to care for.

Was the old covenant, the law and the prophets all wrong then? In the second part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus goes on to define the purpose of the old traditions, saying, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them (Matt 5:17).

What does Jesus mean? We will look at this in next week's Grapevine but here is a clue found in Matthew 22:36-40:

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

As we heard last week in worship, Love God, Love People.

Rev Gail