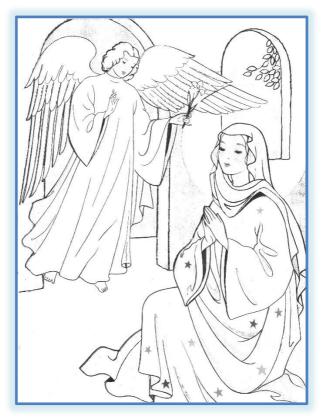
HEAL-LINK Issue 354 – Advent 2021



The Order of St Luke the Physician Aotearoa New Zealand

Committed to Jesus' healing of people, situations, nations, and creation



Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:30

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A Message from our National Chaplain – Jenny Quince

Kia ora all members and friends of the Order of St Luke, In the last Heal Link I reminded you all about the coming of the season of Advent. Whether the churches are open or not as Christians, we will carry on as we always have, preparing



to welcome our Saviour - Jesus the Christ Child. We pray that this helps us to know in truth, that if we do not remember his birth, then there is no reason to remember his death. If we do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God then we have no reason to celebrate Christmas.

The words from Matthew 3:3 of a voice of one calling in the wilderness seem appropriate"

"Prepare the way for the Lord, Make straight paths for him".



Jesus is the reason for the season so let us rejoice, worship and adore Him, no matter what else is happening around us. I urge you all to put aside your worries for a while and immerse yourself in the wonderful Word of God as He prepares us spiritually to welcome His beloved Son.

To find true joy let us continue to look to Jesus because the "Mission of the Cross is hidden in the Message of the Cradle".

I truly hope we will be able to meet before Christmas in our own areas. It brings so

much happiness to meet with old friends instead of just emailing or zooming – but if this does happen then please find delight in each other's company however you can. For those who cannot meet physically please reach out and make sure the other members in your area are coping well under such trying and uncertain times. If you can but spread a little joy to even one person in your "bubble" then you truly are a disciple of our Lord's. He never asks for more than you can give.

May our Lord and Saviour bless you and those you love this season and always,

AROHANUI

Genny

Weekly Zoom Prayer and Praise Gatherings – 4pm every Thursday we Link in Prayer Across New Zealand



For Wellness, Wholeness, Healing and to Worship!

We meet together each Thursday from the comfort of our homes to enjoy fellowship across our Islands! Please join us for our Zoom gatherings at 4pm. You can join by phone or by clicking this online Zoom "Link" below: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87537990691?pwd=eldpbkNmSDVMUHI5eGM5WHdGZ0tLQT09

To join by by phone - dial 04 886 0026

enter in the zoom meeting code - 875 3799 0691

Password: 981615

I hope to meet you there! Call me if you wish to talk at any time.

Lynne-Stella LYNNE-STELLA HASSETT — CONTACT 04 971 8709 - Email: <u>lynnejayh@gmail.com</u>

Advent - What does it mean? - by Bon Smith

When I was asked to write for a few words about Advent, I wondered if I could do the subject justice. As some of you are aware I am



not a deep theological thinker. When I introduce myself, if speaking, I will say that I am a true Kiwi girl – rugby, racing and beer -



who loves Jesus and New Zealand more than anything else.



A Kiwi girl who also loves words – the meaning, their root language. So when the word Advent was mentioned, I immediately went to Mr Google and typed in Advent, and according to that reference, advent means - the arrival of a notable person or thing, e.g. the

advent of television. Their second example - and I quote - Advent means" coming," and during the season Christians prepare for Jesus' coming.



The four Sundays preceding Christmas, which is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, are recognized for four virtues. The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize hope, love, joy and peace. The derivation of Advent comes from Middle English: from the Old French 'aventure' (noun), 'aventurer'

(verb), from 'advenire' to arrive'. So, I started wondering about advent and the word adventure, about to happen and arrive....

What adventures have you had with Jesus? Has life gone along smoothly? Have there been adventures along the way where you might have been tested in the meaning of the four candles - hope, love, joy and peace? Have you sometimes wondered if Jesus was with you?

I ask these questions of myself and the answer is I have been (and still am) on an adventure with Jesus. Yes, I sometimes wonder where He is – has He left me? Where are you, Jesus? Are you walking with me? All those



doubtful questions have arisen in my head when experiencing a new or difficult adventure. Then I remember – Of course, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:20). He doesn't leave us. Jesus is always with us. There is nothing, but nothing, that will

happen today where Jesus is not with each one of us. Oh, woe is me, to doubt my Saviour and best friend.

So, as each one of us begins our 2021 Advent adventure, let us rejoice in the meaning of the four Advent candles. Let us claim hope, love, joy and

peace over ourselves and others and particularly in this year where doubt and fear have crept into our lives. Let us pray hope, love, joy and peace over our beautiful land and those who live here. May God defend Aotearoa/New Zealand and bring



understanding, acceptance and the promise of His Son as we begin the journey (adventure) of Advent and look forward to celebrating the birth of the Christ child.



BON SMITH - Southern Area Co-Convenor - email bonsmith@xtra.co.nz



An Advent reflection – *Rev Frank Rigg writes*

As a supporter of the Christian Broadcasting Association,
I received this very helpful message from the Rev Frank Ritchie,
their media chaplain. I sense that it speaks to us all
in these covid-conscious times, and within our

Order, times of uncertainty and change.

"Advent seems particularly relevant this year. During Advent we hold a tension. We recognize the world as it is; the fact that brokenness exists, and we say with David (Psalm 13:1) 'How long O

Lord?' We look towards a time when the cry of 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done' is realized in full. It is a time where we recognize the value of waiting and preparing. "

Advent teaches us to be hopeful realists. We see the world as it is, but we remember what God has done; we celebrate His presence and look forward to the fullness of His work. Rev Frank Ritchie also quotes from Michelle Blake: 'One of the essential paradoxes of Advent is that while we wait for God, we are with God all along; that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival – we are already at home.'

An Advent Prayer Almighty God,
as we look around the world
we see goodness, truth and beauty,
but we also acknowledge the brokenness and the need.



We hold on to hope because our trust is in You. We place before You all those

Feeling the pressure of this time we are in.

We ask that they catch glimpses of Your hope, and experience Your love and comfort.

To conclude - let us remember Psalm 42:11

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed with me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, My Saviour and my God.



Frank

REV. FRANK RIGG - email fgrigg@xtra.co.nz

Remember dear members and friends in Christ – if you feel the need for prayer support - please reach out and ask.

God is waiting for your call, your text or your email and so are we. Please use the Contact details on the front page or request prayer through our website – www.oslnz.co.nz

Be not Afraid – by Lynne-Stella Hassett



As I write this morning, I can hear the birds' tuneful melodies outside my window and see the blue of a beautiful November morning shining over the sky. Last night we had a rain shower and everything seems to have

been freshly rinsed and looks ultra clean in the morning sun. Such a lovely day has dawned – lending hope for pleasant happenings. Everything seems to be bursting with promise – making me realise a new beginning in our Church year is nearly upon us.

The visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus, was

the start of the first ever Church year – over two thousand years ago – Mary was told not to be afraid as she had found favour with God (Luke 1:30) and we now stand on the brink of another beginning –



and need to remember these words are very pertinent for us too. There are so many fearful happenings around us — most prevalent at the moment is the Corona Virus Pandemic, with the political unrest that has developed around the vaccination decision that we must all make. It is regrettable to have this choice cleaving a division among us at this difficult time.



Those who choose to have the vaccination are not less faithful than those who do not – remember that Moses had to strike the rock in order for the water to flow - (Numbers 20:11) Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his

staff; water came out abundantly. Perhaps getting vaccinated will allow health to flow out over our land?

On the other side of the discussion - let us remember that God loves us



unconditionally and will prevent harm from touching us – The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night (Psalm 121:6) –

In (1Peter 2:9) we hear – "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's

own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light"

Thus some people choose to trust that they will not be harmed and choose not have the vaccination.

It is imperative that we remember that it is not for us to judge the choices others are making – Jesus said in Matthew 7:1 Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.





Let us look rather at the

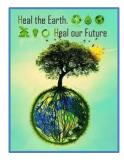
message Gabriel gave to Mary, feel the joy of knowing we too are chosen and beloved of our creator God. In Isaiah 41:10 we are told: "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

Know that we need not be

afraid. God is very present to us - so let us obey our Lord God now. Just like Mary at the first Advent, let us declare –

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)





Whatever we choose to do about vaccinations, we are all always God's faithful people. As members of the healing ministry of St Luke, we know God is always with us. Let us pray for the healing of our world, its people and its resources.

May you and those you love, be blessed with health, peace and the knowledge that you are precious to our Lord God – now and forever.

AROHANUI

Lynne-Stella

LYNNE-STELLA HASSETT - Tararua Convenor - CONTACT 04 971 8709 - Email: lynnejayh@gmail.com

***** Please read "Natural Immunity" by Phyllis Dalziell, Retired Public Health Physician, an addendum to this Heal-Link - for more information about Natural Immunity**** Here is a list of blessings received recently by members of our Order - a Table of Wonders. This list gives a few of the reasons we can be grateful for Answered Prayers and Blessings Received: -

Table of Wonders for Praise and Thanks

Jenny Quince	Irregular heartbeat	Controlled now
John Bush	Surgery to forehead	Booked Surgery not required!
Bon Smith	Gall bladder problem	Safely removed surgically!
Phillippa Reaney	Moved to new home	Safely relocated
Dianne Windsor	Moved to new home	Safely relocated
Gwen Rigg	Milestone birthday	90 years of age!
Frank Rigg	Published a new book	96 years of age!
Derek Lightbourne	Milestone Birthday!	80 years of age!
Tony Georgetti	Bladder Cancer	Treated, and in remission!
House problem	Spiritually Infested	Deliverance and comfort
Bereaved	Lost dear ones	Comforted

For future Heal-Link editions -

Please send through the details of Prayers answered for publishing so that all of us know of God's caring love for us. Through this table we can let others join in celebrating all of the Wonders our Wondrous God gives us!

May we all know the comfort and fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Lynne-Stella

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