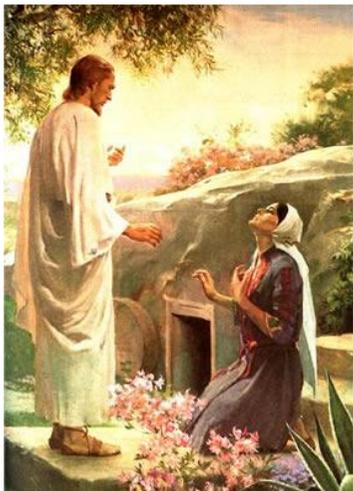


The New Christian Church

Newsletter April-May 2017



“Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you seeking?”
Thinking He was the gardener...’

We can be blind when we see things from our worldly point of view.

Mary thought He was the gardener.

When the Lord speaks to her it changes her life. If we hear His Words of love for us it can change our view of life too.

People news.

Congratulations to Marejke Longstaff on starting school. We hope you enjoy learning about this wonderful world the Lord has created.

We send our loving prayers and wishes to Beth and Bill as they face one of the challenges of old age.

Richard and Gillian have a new grandchild, Katie’s new baby Hugo. Richard will be visiting them at the end of April and beginning of May.

The New Christian Church in New Zealand

Incorporating the Auckland Society of the New Church and the General Church of the New Jerusalem Circle.

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Church News

Our thanks to John Mellor for sharing his lovely sanctuary in the bush at the start of our church New Year.

We celebrated the abundance of the Lord's creation at our harvest service. The gifts were delivered to the local Women's Refuge.

Our thanks to all who helped tidy up the grounds and building last month.

Looking forward:- Good Friday April 14th Easter Sunday 16th.

New Church Day Celebrations Sunday June 18th

On the fifth Sunday of April we are invited to a spiritual smorgasbord followed by a shared lunch at Philip and Mary Sutton's. 11am at 26 Imogene Way, Half Moon Bay on the theme of 'O give thanks to the Lord'. Please bring a spiritual contribution and a contribution to lunch. We have another 5th Sunday in JULY so we are open for offers to host another spiritual smorgasbord.

'AS A SHEEP IS DUMB BEFORE ITS SHEARERS'



I am always surprised when coincidences happen. Some call it serendipity, or synchronicity. I prefer to see it as an example of the ever present providence of the Lord. The above quote from Isaiah 53. is used to illustrate the Lord's experience of temptations while on earth. One of His teachings about its spiritual significance is in Heavenly Secrets 9937. Part of that paragraph states '*In themselves human beings are embodiments of hell but when they are being regenerated they become embodiments of heaven*'. It continues by describing how we have to undergo temptations if we are to become heavenly. And it adds that the only one who can conquer for us in our temptations is the Lord Himself. I sort of knew about the hellish state of human beings in themselves but because it is so startling I didn't know whether it would be useful to include it in this article.

However a few days later I caught the end of an interview of a 94 year old lawyer involved in the post war prosecution of Nazi war criminals. He described how out of all the people involved he had to choose who to prosecute. He chose the highly educated professionals rather than the 'foot soldiers'. The detailed Nazi records showed that these men boasted about how many people they had exterminated, yet at the end of each day they would have gone home and led normal family lives. It brought home to me the truth of the above statement that **every human being of themselves is the embodiment of hell**. It might help us understand why people continue to do terrible things to each other. However there is always the possibility of the amazing transition to become an embodiment of heaven. But this can only be done through facing temptations and by presence of the Lord's love and wisdom. Presumably sometime in the inner life of the Nazi war criminals they must have chosen to be blind and deaf to what they were doing. The irony is that the while those people had their lives apparently destroyed each of them had a living soul which lived on after death. Despite their situation many of these victims found heavenly depths of love and courage in the hell they lived in.

The Lord's purpose for coming on earth was to bring His Divine power into the depths of our lives yet at the same time leaving us free to choose between His heaven and our hell. The sheep being shorn is a picture of the Lord's experience of facing terrible temptations from the hells. They attacked His very reason for being God, i.e. His great love for saving the human race. During His temptations the hells offered persuasive short term solutions. ("Come down from the cross and convince them that you are God"). They flooded His whole being with negative feelings of doubt and despair about the success of His mission. So great was His inner struggle that it manifested itself physically with great sweating. Through Him conquering of the hells we now have access to the power of His love and wisdom.

In our temptations we may feel shorn of all confidence in the beliefs and values we have relied on. We may feel helpless in the face of inner hellish impulses. However there is always something heavenly there, like an inner core, which knows or feels that these alternative suggestions are not true or good. This inner core is like the living sheep that remains after being shorn.

Two of the most powerful things we can do when tempted are to acknowledge that only the Lord can save us, and hang on to passages

from His Word. During these times it feels as though the Lord has abandoned us. But we are taught that in reality He is powerfully present and if we see it through He will lead us to a sense of the peace and security of heaven.

We will find that He is indeed the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

With all good wishes for the Lord’s Easter blessings.

John

Calendar

April

- 2nd 10am Worship including the Holy Supper/Sunday School/ Richard Church Committee follows the service.
- 9th 10am. Shared inspiration from The Word. **Palm Sunday theme**
- 14th 10am Good Friday Service/ Richard
- 16th 10am Easter Morning Family Worship /John
- 23rd 10am. The Course on Charity/Richard
- 30th 11 am Spiritual smorgasbord at 26 Imogene Way Half Moon Bay

May

- 7th 10am Morning Worship /Sunday School/ John
- 14th 10am. Shared inspiration from The Word
- 21st 10am. Morning Worship /Sunday School /John Church Committee
- 28th 10 am The Course on Charity/Richard

June

- 4th 10am Morning Worship incl. Holy Supper/Sunday School/ Richard

Rosters

Date	Greeters	Flowers	Refreshments
April			
2nd	Lesley	Doreen	Lis
9th	John		Jenny K
14th			
16th	Jonathan	Jenny K	Jenny S
23rd	Richard		
May			
7th	Kai	Sharon	Lis
14th	John		Jenny K
21th	Ray	Lis	Jenny S
28th	Richard		
June 4th	Lesley	Jenny S	Lis