Trust in the Slow Work of God

Above all, trust in the slow work of God
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to
something unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.
your ideas mature gradually – let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Church Office
267 Malvern St, Leith Valley

Phone: 467-9208
Website: www.leithvalley.org.nz

Pastors
Kristin Jack 022 075 3286
Nancy Parker 021 457 360

Studentsoul
Tom Mepham 027 337 1763
Lynne Taylor 027 304 6228

Children and Youth
Miranda Fairmaid 027 518 7360 Children
Donna Gibbons 027 4184 405 Junior Youth

Office Staff
Bronwyn Miller, admin admin@leithvalley.org.nz
Hannah Thompson-Holloway, worship 027 9199310

Parish Clerk
Ged Forbes 021 852 291

Church Account Number
030883 0620501-00

Next Week's Team

Service Leader	Olivia Dawson
Preacher	Olivia Dawson
Worship team	Richard's team
Duty Elder	n/a
Set up	n/a
Welcome	tbc
Door & Offering	Bronwyn Miller
Sound	Fiona Cooper
Data	Mark Lokman
Prayers for Others	Olivia Dawson
Bible Reading	Olivia Dawson
Supper	tbc
	Brian & Bronwyn M
Prayer Ministry	tbc
Offering Counter	tbc
Lock up	Richard & Fran D

LEITH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday 17th December 2017

Welcome! It's great to have you worshiping with us today.

So far on our Advent Wreath we have lit the Candle of Hope and the Candle of Peace - Today we light the Candle of Joy … the angels brought a message of great joy at Christmas

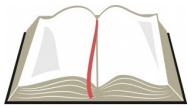
Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (Luke 2:10)

And today we also have the excitement & joy of our Christmas play!

If you are visiting please help yourself to a WELCOME PACK from the back table. We'd love you to leave us a contact form so we can get back in touch. Hand this to our ministers: Kristin Jack/Nancy Parker. Please stay and have morning tea with us too.

Seeking God's Kingdom Growing Great Community

Service Leader
Miranda Fairmaid
Preacher
All Age Team
Worship
Hannah T-H



Duty Elder
Pauline Lovelock

Today's Team

Set up Team:	Nick's team	**Morning tea:**	Youth Group Rachel & Russell E
Door Greeting:	Kristin Jack		
Welcome:	Nancy Parker	**Prayer Ministry:**	Mal & Helen C
Sound:	Ged Forbes	**Offering Counter:**	Prue Paterson
Data:	Fiona Cooper	**Carpark Supervision:**	Campbell, Phipps & Henderson parents
Prayers for Others:	All Age Team		
Bible Readings:	All Age Team	**Lock up:**	Kristin Jack

Message from the Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

CHRISTMAS FOR THE LONELY

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a struggle for the lonely. Nothing compounds feelings of loneliness quite like seeing others celebrate a festival for families, and being asked common pleasantries such as if family are coming to visit. It's not the fault of Christmas but it's what happens. Christmas is hard on the lost. Who can begin to be found when everyone's so busy with each other that no one's even looking for the lost?

Christmas is tough for the unlovely. Those who feel rejected because of something they can't help, struggle to feel valued at a time when value becomes synonymous with price. Christmas is great but I feel for the marginalised people who are forgotten at this time of year: the lost, the lonely and the unloved.

I wonder if we could focus on making a difference this Christmas, even for just one person who lies completely outside the circle of our own family, someone who just won't get to celebrate unless we include them in some way.

Perhaps it's a person living on their own. Perhaps it's a solo parent living down the street. Perhaps it's a couple of little ones you've seen playing around your place and you're pretty sure they won't be getting much in the way of Christmas fare on the 25th. Whoever and however you choose to help, if we each make an extra effort it would make a huge difference.

I recently watched a wonderful video talk by Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of The Justice Initiative, which among other things has saved many people from death row in America. The key phrase which still rings in my soul from that talk was the first point he made about justice: true justice requires ***proximity.*** That is, it requires us to get close to those who are suffering injustice. Isn't this what Jesus did by coming to earth on this amazing day we celebrate as Christmas? Isn't this the universe changing version of getting *proximate?* I certainly think so. I want us this year simply to ask ourselves who we are going to bring into our inner sanctum, to share with and to learn from, who is in the lost, lonely and unloved category.

I hope and pray that you might be greatly blessed this Christmas. Thank you for all your work and commitment to our Church. It makes a huge difference to me and to so many who travel with us in this journey of faith.

God bless you and yours this Christmas,

Richard Dawson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Leith Notices

Exciting Opportunities !
Positions Vacant at Leith for 2018 ....

Youth Worker(s)/Youth Pastor(s). This is a 20 hour a week position, but with the possibility this could be more ....

Care & Communications Coordinator – This is a 16-20 hour a week position (so, some flexibility over hours & times), working alongside Bronwyn (our Financial Administrator).

For full Job Descriptions (etc) please talk to Kristin <kristin@leithvalley.org.nz> or Bronwyn <admin@leithvalley.org.nz>

Order of Service

- **Welcome**
- **Advent Candles**
- **Worship Carols**
- **Children's Christmas Play**
- **Thank yous**
- **Year 6 Book Presentations**
- **Worship Carol (Offering bags passed round during this carol)**
- **Blessing**
- ***Notices***
- ***Morning tea***

After the service ends, all other children will receive their books from teachers on the stage

Leith Valley Church

Services over Summer

Date	Times	Venue
24 December Christmas Eve	7-8pm	Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern St
25 December Christmas Day	9.30-10.15 am	Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern ST
31 December	10am	Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern St
7 January	9.45am to help 10.30: service	Dunedin Hospital Chapel
14 January	10am	Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern St
21 January	10am	Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern St
28 January	10am	Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern St
4 February	10am	George St Normal School

The Great New Zealand Christmas Play!

By Susan Irvine

CAST

Opening Angel: Imogen Irvine
Samuel Marsden: Phil Scadden
Captain Hansen: George Bates

Year 5/6
Harry Bates
Sophie Campbell
Sarah Daley
Emma Dawson
Maia Hamilton
Isaac Koh
Manaia Lesa
Lisa Lokman
Nathen Mutch
Alexis Phipps
Bella Potter
Maia Palmer
Felix Pettigrew
Jack Rickerby
Maya Satake
Timothy Niblock
Niamh Palmer
Jasmine Potter
William Ross

Year 1-2
Rachel Daley
Abigail Foote
Isla Henderson
Isabella Johnston
Toby Palmer
Bennet Potter
Kirsten Tallon

Year 3/4
Danielle Daley
Dannielle Hill
Salma Johannsson
Benjamin Koh
Emily Lokman

Pre-schoolers
Edmond Daley
Eamon Henderson
Lachlan Johnston
Frances Palmer
Marcus Satake
Malachi Turner
Charlotte Tallon
Micah Dawson
Lyla Dawson

Dancers:
Land of the Long White Cloud dance choreographed by Maia Palmer, Emma Dawson, Bella and Jasmine Potter.

Solos/duets:
Maya Satake – Land of the Long White Cloud
Maia Palmer, Bella Potter - Land of the Long White Cloud
Alexis Phipps, Lisa Lokman – O little town of Bethlehem
Harry Bates – Hallelujah
Maia Palmer and Nathen Mutch – Hallelujah
Haka: Ziggy Lesa, Nick Bates, George Bates, Ben Love-lock, Ollie Niblock

Adult Involvement:
Angelic Choir
Super sound and data team
Marvellous musicians
Fabulous felty flower fabricators

Written by...
The Great New Zealand Christmas Play by Susan Irvine
Land of the Long White Cloud by Natalie Yeoman
Kiwiana Christmas by Natalie Yeoman
Haka by Natalie Yeoman
Hallelujah by Cloverton and Leonard Cohen
Back Blocks Nativity by Peter Cape
The Southern Cross Looks Down (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

Thank you...
A BIG thanks to George St Normal School for the loan of their costumes and beautiful flower backdrops.
Thank you Natalie for writing the haka especially for us!