



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Pastoral Newsletter (not during lockdown)

19 October, 2020

Kia Ora Knox community

As mentioned before, there was some desire expressed following lockdown for a monthly pastoral email to be sent out during months when there was no Knox Life magazine circulated. Behold the October version!

Now that we're into Level One of Covid-19 containment, we're operating at Knox pretty much as normal - but we're aware that some people continue to stay away - because they're feeling nervous about social gathering. While we're aware of absences, we respect everyone's decision to do what is right for them.

TWO RECENT SERMONS

http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/data/sermons/202010040000_Sermon Archive 312.pdf

http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/data/sermons/202010180000_Sermon Archive 314.pdf

Number One. The sermon preached on Sunday 4 October - presented some thoughts about how people might grow over a period of 30 years. I shared some thoughts about what I was doing 30 years ago, and how I had been "grown in God" since then. That seemed to trigger in many people thoughts about who they were back then, who we are now, and how they'd been companioned over that transitional time. We're growing, evolving beings. Who do you think we might be being nurtured to be? What old attitudes do you think we're called to leave behind?

Number Two. On Sunday 18 October, I made quick reference in my sermon to the generally African American movement of kneeling during the singing of the USA anthem at the beginning of sports games. A more thorough exploration of the theology and sociology of that phenomenon is presented by Nancy Rockwell at:



<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/biteintheapple/wily-tricks-tricky-questions/>

REFLECTIONS ON A HOLIDAY

Being a resident of the suburbs, who comes into Victoria Street for work and church, I don't go all the often into the hard centre of the city. When my mother came to visit Christchurch recently, I took her on the inner-city tram. The tram took us down streets where there were lots of people, many new businesses, great vibrancy. I found myself quite surprised at how much inner-city resurgence there was. I had kind of fallen victim to thinking that the city centre was still waiting. Some certainly is, but some isn't. If you've not been into town recently, go on in there. You might be surprised. The tram costs money, but walking around the city centre is free!



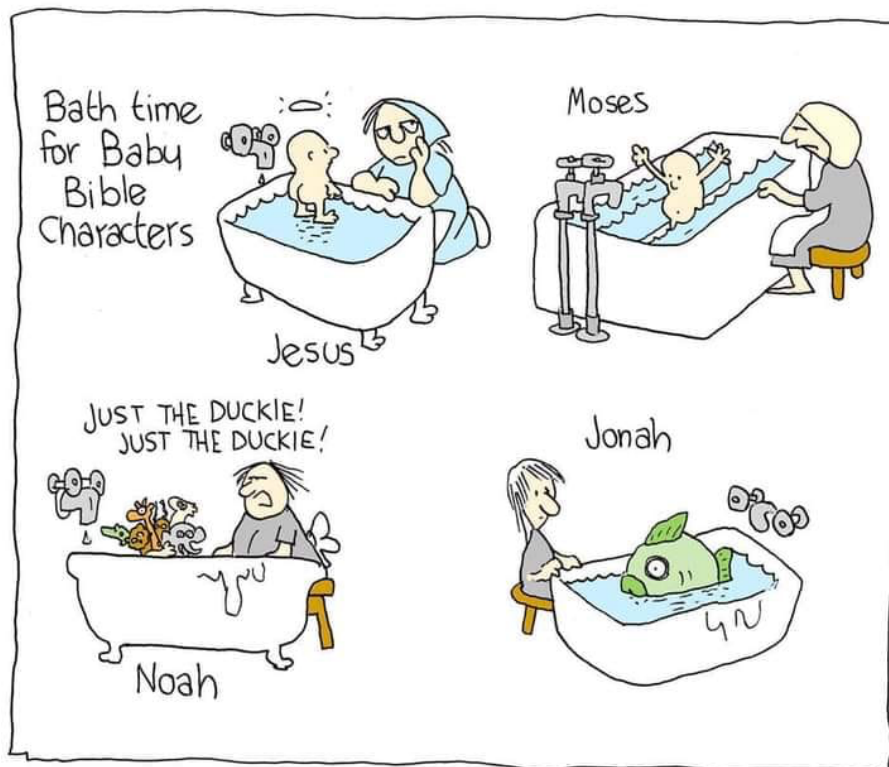
Also on the itinerary for Mum's Christchurch visit was McHugh's Forest in Darfield, where some fairies have made houses in some trees. Neither my mother nor I saw any fairies, so can't testify to their existence - but it was wonderful seeing little children so excited as they spotted fairy doors at the base of trees in the forest. There is no charge to look around McHugh's forest.



Also on the holiday itinerary was a visit to the giant's house in Akaroa - where I posed for a photo with Adam and Eve. The dark patch on the top left part of the picture is my mother's thumb. I enjoy being found positioned between Adam and Eve.



A SILLY CARTOON





We invite you to attend the Christian World Service Supporters' Council
7:30 - 9:30pm, Friday 30 October 2020
Wananga Room, Aldersgate at 309 Durham St, Christchurch

'Who are we? Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future'

Speaker: Professor David Tombs, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Otago.

People are welcome after 6pm for refreshments from 6.30 – 7.30 pm

RSVP and Register by Friday 23 October
to cws@cws.org.nz or phone 03 366 9274.



About the Speaker: Professor Tombs will reflect on CWS's theological rationale: What might liberation theologies from the Global South offer to current reflection at CWS on 'Who are we?' Do these theologies belong only to the past? Or do liberation theologies offer insights for the present and the future?

Professor Tombs is a lay Anglican theologian and the Howard Paterson Chair of Theology and Public Issues at the University of Otago, Aotearoa New Zealand. His work addresses religion, society, and ethics, and he has a longstanding interest in contextual and liberation theologies. You may wish to watch his inaugural Professorial Lecture on the 'Latin American Liberation Theology and its Ongoing Legacy' (8 September 2015). Available at: http://www.otago.ac.nz/cs/groups/public/@otagopodcast/documents/audio_video/otago552201.mp4

IMAGERY, APPROPRIATION AND AWARENESS

Here's a question: This church decorated its sanctuary with rainbow colours and shapes. Good on them! It also refuses to allow its sanctuary to be a space for rainbow people to make marriage commitments. Their argument, for decorating their sanctuary, is that the Biblical rainbow is a motif for more than gay imagery. Perhaps they're technically right. But is there a failure to see how various images

have been appropriated - and are used today? If you put rainbows out there, aren't you, in code, saying something about inclusiveness? Who owns the rainbow?



UPDATE ON THE VERTICAL PLANTERS

Last month



This month



Arohanui,

Matthew.