

**Lectionary**  
**Readings for every day**  
**You Select!**



in the HCUC

**No. 19**

**For 15 Nov 2015**

**Dear Friends**

It happened during the visit of Prince Charles to NZ. It was a simple little incident. It only lasted a few seconds. Charles was holding one of our rare tuataras, seated next to the keeper. Suddenly a bee stole the show. It shifted attention from the tuatara as it flew in and settled on his lap. The keeper wasn't sure whether to ignore it or intervene. In this issue I'm moving from trees to bees. Very recently I came across a record of incidents. All dealt with interactions between bees and people.

We all know about (and may be experienced) the way people and their pets seem able to communicate with each other. It's as if they have the ability to understand each other. To talk without words. To read each other's mind. I hadn't realised that there is a whole history of people and bees "talking" to each other. It's often referred to as telepathy. Here are a few snippets.

- \* Many Eastern cultures consider the bee a sacred insect, seen as a bridge between the world of nature and the unseen realms beyond physical death.
- \* There is a custom that seems to be centuries old, namely "telling the bees". It refers to letting the bees know when their beekeeper had died. And here we touch again on bees and royalty. It is recorded that when King George VI died his beekeepers went (with scarf on head) to inform the bees of his death. So here is his grandson (Charles) linked to a small encounter with a bee.
- \* In 1961 when Sam Rogers died his children walked around each of his 14 hives to tell them of his death. A press report said that while the relatives were at the graveside, a mile away, thousands of bees from his hives came and settled on the coffin, ignoring the flowers. Half an hour later they flew back to the hives.
- \* As recently as 2005 a beekeeper posted a story on the internet. It is too long to tell it all here. Briefly his story was that 3 times he failed to tell his bees of the death of a person who worked closely with his bees. On 3 occasions his bees deserted his hives. The last occasion "convinced me as nothing else could" he said.

***Sincerely*** - ***Lester***

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 16 November:	79:1-5	Rev 1:1-4;2:1-5	Luke 18:35-end
Tuesday 17 November:	11	Rev 3:1-6,14-31	Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday 18 November:	150	Rev 4	Luke 19:11-28
Thursday 19 November:	129	Rev 5:1-10	Luke 19:41-44
Friday 20 November:	122	Rev 10:8-11	Luke 19:45-48
Saturday 21 November:	124	Rev 11:4-12	Luke 20:27-40
<b>Sunday 22 November <u>Reign of Christ</u></b>			
Ps 132:1-12,(13-18); 2 Sam 23:1-7; Rev 1:4b-8; Mark 12:38-44			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 23 November:	(92),96	Isa 14:3-20	Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday 24 November:	97	Isa 17	Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday 25 November:	112	Isa 19	Luke 21:12-19
Thursday 26 November:	125	Isa 21:1-12	Luke 21:20-28
Friday 27 November:	139	Isa 22:1-14	Luke 21:29-33
Saturday 28 November:	145	Isa 24	Luke 21:34-36
<b>Sunday 29 November <u>Advent 1</u></b>			
Ps 25:1-10; Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 30 November:	19:1-6	Rom 10:12-18	Matt 4:18-22
Tuesday 1 December:	72:1-4, 18-19	Isa 11:1-10	Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday 2 December:	23	Isa 25:6-10a	Matt 15:29-37
Thursday 3 December:	118:18-27a	Isa 26:1-6	Matt 7:21,24-27
Friday 4 December:	27:1-4,16,17	Isa 29:17-end	Matt 9:27-31
Saturday 5 December:	146:4-9	Isa 30:19-21,23-26	Matt 9:35-10:1, 6-8
<b>Sunday 6 December <u>Advent 2</u></b>			
Mal 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phil 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6			

## THE URGE TO BE IN TOUCH

A few little stories about bees (insects) interacting deliberately with humans may seem no more than an interesting event—if it really did happen. When stories have been told about animals coming to the rescue of people, other animals, or knowing when an owner is coming home, or travelling thousands of miles to link up with a family from which they got separated, there are always plenty of skeptics to poo-poo the truth of the event. In a way this is understandable. For more than 300 years we have been educated to believe that the only true reality is material or physical, namely stuff we can cut, measure, see with our eyes or a telescope or microscope. Along with that we have been taught to understand that the world and all the bits within it are like a machine made up of inanimate (non-alive) matter.

Now however we are ever so slowly realizing that the world is a living pulsing organism. It is not an unconscious machine with moving parts. There is a flow of aliveness and awareness that interacts and is present through every nook and cranny of the universe.

Another way of referring to this awareness is to call it “consciousness”. There are still some schools of thought which say that our brains produce consciousness. This view is proving to be far from the reality. Consciousness is the very Source of our world and it animates or enlivens life at every level. There is only one consciousness and we all (plants, animals, insects, microbes, cells, proteins, protons and atoms) live and interact because of this infinite essential reality. Words are inadequate to define it.

However, we don’t all live at the same level of consciousness. Dolphins and whales communicate without i-phones. Awareness between people—especially of need, or danger, or death is usually between those who have a caring attitude, love, understanding and compassion. These same qualities are usually at work in the relationships between owners and their pets. This is why they feel close to one another. We in our personal relationships often refer to this feeling of oneness with another as being on the “same wavelength”, or “in tune with”, or simply “I love you”.

The one universal stream of consciousness runs deep in all of us—it’s already present—and that is why we are touched by seeing a drowned 5 year old boy completely unknown to us who belonged to an unknown refugee family. Unknown? Not really because he and his parents share in the One consciousness. Because of this reality we are already “in touch”. We can feel their pain.

As the Hebrew poet says of this infinite divine awareness— “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me: it is high, I cannot attain it.”

## AS WE ARE—SO WE SEE

The common path that brings us to some moment of awareness of the Oneness and Aliveness that is always present everywhere usually brings with it a heightened consciousness of connection, intimacy, and communion with a greater whole, whether we term it the Absolute, God, Allah, the Universe, the Source.

- based on Larry Dossey’s comment in his book “One-Mind”

“Such experiences of this enlarged awareness usually means that we cease to be a thing or a process but become an opening or a tiny gap through which the Absolute can appear and can be experienced.”

- Martin Heidegger

The corner stone of Judaism is found in the Shema (see Deut 6:4) - the insistence that God is One. Jesus, building on that, said “I and the Father are One”.

Could it be that this is true for each of us? — only difference is Jesus knew it, and we have not yet awoken to this truth.

The tree which moves  
some to tears of joy  
is in the eyes of others  
only a green thing  
which stands in the way.

As a man is, so he sees.

When the sun rises,  
do you not see  
a round disk of fire,  
something like a  
gold piece?

O no, no,  
I see an  
innumerable company  
of the heavenly host  
crying—  
“Holy, Holy, Holy  
is the Lord  
God Almighty”

I do not question my bodily  
eye any more than I would  
question a window concerning  
sight. I look through it and  
not with it.

- William Blake

## Sleepers Awake!

- Ancient Christian hymn—see Eph 5:14