

Newsletter

16th December

2018

epsom
baptist church

Leading: **Margaret Whittaker**

Preaching: **Jeff Whittaker**

Theme: **Advent 3 Repent, therefore, so that...**

The Next Deacons' Meeting will be held on Tuesday
18th December 2018 at Epsom Baptist Church.



Repentance is a common biblical word, and means a turning from sin towards God. The meaning strengthens in the New Testament, to mean a turning from sin towards God accompanied by a change of mind. Thus, repentance consists of a radical transformation of thought, attitude, outlook, and direction.

Epsom Baptist Church, 4 Inverary Avenue, Epsom, AUCKLAND 1023

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Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning Chinese Congregations:
Pastor Daniel Choi

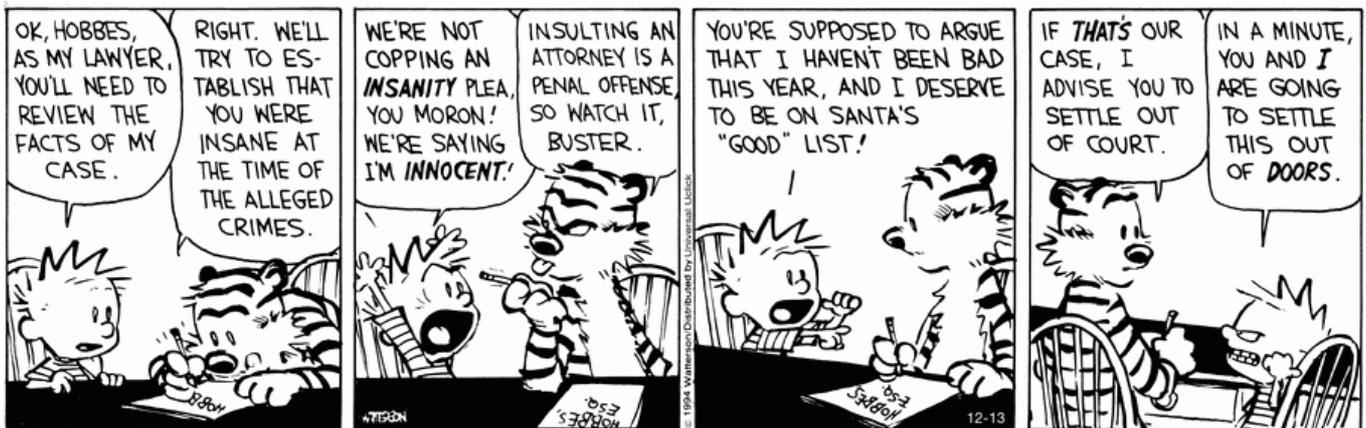
Sunday Morning English Congregation: Pastor Jeff Whittaker

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From Pastor Jeff

At Christmas, everyone is clamouring for us to buy their stuff as presents for other people. Advertising is relentless. The volume of advertising junk mail has increased dramatically over the last few weeks. Many charities that have Epsom Baptist Church on their mailing lists have sent in their recommendations of what we can give that will benefit their clients. (We have traditionally supported Tranzsend at Christmas, and gift them our Christmas offering.) Rather than splurge on unnecessary presents, many Kiwi families would do better to buy something they need, pay off debt, or finance needed works like house painting or plumbing repairs. I have been mulling over these issues since Tuesday, when one of the Epsom Chinese Association members came to inform me that a toilet was blocked and overflowing. What a mess. We cleaned up the flood, and put up a sign: Don't use this toilet. However, within a couple of days the problem had spread to all the pans (but without the flooding). Initially, I suspected something had blocked the pan in question. We got in a plumber. He informed me that it was a sewer problem rather than a toilet problem. The drain layer came. He put a camera down the sewer. "It's tree roots," he said. He told me that the old earthen-ware sewer is cracked and broken in numerous places - the work of water-seeking tree roots - and that we need to replace the line. Now, our priority is, of course, replacing the roof. But we will need to put sewer replacement on the budget sometime in the next couple of years. The cost: the drain layer gave a ball-park figure of \$5K - \$6K. It's just one of those things that has to be done, and hopefully before tree roots create increasingly regular problems. Our buildings are a blessing, and being able to re-roof is fantastic. But we need to keep on top of other things as well.

Shalom, Jeff



December 2018 Sunday morning rosters...

Flowers: 2, 9 Margaret Whittaker, 16, 23 Helen Evans, 30 Ann Guan

Morning tea: Ian & Dawn de Stigter

Communion preparation: Ian & Dawn de Stigter

Door and Offering: Olwyn Halder

Scripture reading & Communion: Linda McBurney

Offering counting: Helen Evans and Ann Guan

Lawns: Jeff Whittaker

Christmas / New Year services 2018



- Sunday December 23rd: All three congregations combined service 10am
- Monday Christmas Eve: English service 11pm.
- Tuesday Christmas Day: English only service 9:30am
- Saturday December 29th and Sunday December 30th: Normal service times.