



**St Andrew's Trust
for the study of
Religion and Society**

Human Flourishing



**St Andrew's on The Terrace
Wellington, New Zealand**

Thursday March 9, 12:30 - 2pm

Introduction to Human Flourishing - Rev Dr Susan Jones

Precis: GDP is high and some say we have a rock-star economy but does that translate into human well-being? For many of the things that are truly valuable to our humanity there is a paradox. Often the most valuable elements can be hard to justify with a purely economic viewpoint such as studying the humanities or investment in museums, arts and culture. In contrast those things like love and connection can be generally not subject to the transactional or the money economy no matter how plentiful the money is.



Bio: Rev Dr Susan Jones is the Senior Minister at St Andrew's on The Terrace. She frequently engages with aspects of how we as humans flourish in the world.

Her work in LGBT community support, pastoral care, teaching and creative writing of poetry and liturgy are contexts in which this arises in her life.

What we need as humans to flourish in the world can become most obvious when flourishing is threatened by personal or societal events. Susan finds it ironic that traditional Christian emphasis on sin and redemption can be read as a shadow observance of the importance of human well-being. In her lecture 'Introduction to Human Flourishing' she will weave these themes together.

Susan has worked as a secondary teacher, spiritual director, minister, hymn writer, parish and ministerial reviewer, adjunct lecturer with the Otago University Department of Religion and is a published textbook author and poet. She has ministered in Balclutha, Christchurch, Dunedin and Timaru and has been the Senior Minister at St Andrew's on the Terrace from Palm Sunday 2015. She recently spoke on religious freedoms at the Love Trumps Hate rally in January and the panel on the implications of the Trump administration for Global Politics recently arranged by the OU Centre for Theology and Public Issues.

March to June – On the theme of *Human flourishing*

As part of a review of the Trust during 2016, it was decided that we focus our study activities based on the idea that the trust will “be a catalyst for transforming religion and society to be more compassionate and accepting”.

The plans for the coming year are focussed around 2 weekend conferences and a series of associated lunchtime meetings. In the first half of the year the theme is on *Human Flourishing* and from July on the *Courage to Act* (more information later when details are firm). There will be a number of invited speakers and an opportunity for participants to develop and discuss the topics they introduce in greater detail. People who take part will be encouraged to identify and act to develop the elements of flourishing and courage in our lives and communities.

Human Flourishing: March to June 2017

Thursday 6 April 12.30 – 2.00 - A group of younger people answering the question ‘what needs to happen to create a flourishing NZ?’

Friday evening and Saturday May 5/6 - Human flourishing Seminar

Thursday June 8 12.30- 2.00 - Seminar follow up.

The Courage to Act: July to November 2017

This theme was inspired by the 50 anniversary of Lloyd Geering’s Heresy Trial in 1967 and his courage and the consequences for him in speaking about faith in a new and different way. We seem to be moving rapidly into a world that is darker and more threatening than any time since the Second World War and believe the time is ripe for a new discussion about the meaning of the courage to act in 2017. (Incidentally October 31 is the 500 anniversary of the day on which Martin Luther posted 95 “theses” on Wittenberg church which precipitated the Protestant Reformation another time of courage and change.)

NOTICES

Fire Drill: In the event of fire please exit by the doors marked and gather in the car-park on the south side of the Church.

Earthquake: In the event of an earthquake please follow the advertised procedure “Drop, Cover and hold.”

Once the Earthquake is over exit by the marked doors and gather in the car-park on the south side of the Church.

Toilets: These can be found on the ground floor of the adjacent Conference Centre. The entrance is up the ramp on the north side of the church. An accessible toilet is available.

Hearing Loop

The Church **is fitted** with a hearing loop.

Donations

There is no charge for the lecture but we would greatly appreciate a donation to assist us with costs.

Thank you and enjoy the lecture.

Visit our **website** at satrs.org.nz
for **enquiries** or to be added to the email list admin@satrs.org.nz

