

# Reformed Congregations of New Zealand in Carterton



Pastor: A.T. Vergunst  
[atvergunst@outlook.com](mailto:atvergunst@outlook.com)  
027 920 1327

Clerk: A. Watson  
[clerk@rcnz.org](mailto:clerk@rcnz.org)

Website:  
[www.rcnz.org](http://www.rcnz.org)

## Bulletin Sunday 14 June 2026

A warm welcome to our time of worship!

### Refining Gold

My father once told the story of how a goldsmith would purify gold. The goldsmith begins by placing the gold in the crucible and turning up the fire. As the gold melts, different impurities, being lighter than the heavy gold, float to the surface. The goldsmith carefully skims off the impurities as they come to the surface.

So it is with us. God is about doing something in our lives. He is making us like Christ. But we have many impurities that He is removing from us. Trials and difficulties are the fire that brings these things to the surface.

But what does the goldsmith do after removing the first impurities that appear? Does he stop? No, he makes the fire even hotter, bringing up the next level of impurities. The process continues on, each time requiring more and more heat. And so it is with us. The purer we wish to be in His sight, the hotter the fire must be. Do we pray, "God, turn up the heat"? or do we pray only for a break, a season of ease? If our hearts truly desire to be like Christ, we pray that He will continue His work of conforming us to His image.

Finally, do you know how the goldsmith knows when he has a pure product? How does he know he has finished his task? Quite simply, he knows he has accomplished his goal *when he sees his own reflection in the gold*. The impurities are gone, and nothing stands in the way of the gold reflecting his face.

Do you see what God is up to in your life? Can God see His reflection in your life, my friend? I know I want Him to be able to do that in my life, but I also know He has a lot of purifying yet to do. The trials and difficulties I face - even the process of grief that we must endure when we lose a loved one - is part of how God makes us like Christ. When you see your grief as a means by which God is

making you like Christ, you can begin to thank Him for His mercy and grace towards you. In hope you can say, "Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me." Micah 7:7.

James White

### Prayer / Thanksgiving / Requests

- for safe return of our pastor from his overseas ministry
- for the needs of our elderly
- for those continuing to be burdened with health issues such as Judi Bosch, Jessica Schot, Piet Lanser, Jos Slabbekoorn.

### Notices

- Psalter for the children: 121:1
- This Sunday:
  - Extra collection for Trinity Theological Institute
  - Confession of Faith class
  - Prayer Fellowship before the evening service
  - Youth Singing after the evening service
- Monday 15 June: Consistory meeting
- Tuesday 16 June:
  - Ladies Bible study at Josje's place
  - Catechism class Year 11-13
- Wednesday 17 June:
  - Ladies Bible study at church, 930am
  - Ladies Bible study at Ruth's place, dinner at 6pm and Bible study at 7.30pm
  - Evening Bible study at church, 7.30pm
  - Leadership Course discussion at the manse

### Engagement

We are excited to let you know that we got engaged recently, and are going to Canada tomorrow for a few weeks.

Pieter and Eleanor

### Church parking light

Please be reminded that the parking light at the back of the church hall does not automatically turn off but must be switched off manually. It happens regularly that the light is being left on after evening activities.

### Thanksgiving/Prayer service

On Thursday 9 July we are planning to have a Thanksgiving/Prayer service. This service will be preceded by a congregational potluck dinner in the church hall beginning at 530pm.

### Ladies Bible study social evening

We love to welcome all ladies' Bible study groups for a social evening. The purpose of this evening is to encourage conversation about the Bible study outside our own study groups. Of course, there will be plenty of time to catch up on other parts of life, but the focus will be on the Bible study and what we have learned so far.

We invite you to a potluck dessert night at Karin Bosch on the **15<sup>th</sup> of July**, around 730pm. Please bring your favourite dessert to share.

Are you not part of a (ladies) Bible study group, but would you like to socialise? Or do you want to join a ladies' Bible study group? Please join us this evening, too!

We hope to meet you there!

### Women's night away

We are organising a women's night away on 14-15 August. Please get in touch with Niki (022-0919328) or Janette (027-3163739) with expressions of interest or any questions. A formal invitation to follow.

### Future Dates, Lord willing

Wednesday 1 July	Leadership Course
Thursday 9 July	Congregational Potluck dinner followed by Thanksgiving/Prayer service
Friday 3 July	Youth Progressive Dinner
Saturday 4 July	Annual Choir Performance
Wednesday 15 July	Ladies Bible study social evening
Wednesday 22 July	Topic on Covenant Theology (new date!)
14-15 August	Women's Weekend