



27 August 2017

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Minister: Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Marie Cannon KK Clyde Foster Kaeo
Readers: Jean Andrewes KK tba Kaeo

The challenge is not to walk on water, but to walk on the earth.

Chinese Proverb

Plugging in

Gathering with all the Saints

E te Ariki, kei a koe te kaha me te mana,
ko koe te Kai-hōmai o ngā mea pai katoa.
Whakanohoia ki ō mātou ngākau te aroha ki tōu ingoa;
whakanuia ki roto i a mātou te whakaponu tika,
whāngainga mātou ki te pai.
Whakapūmautia mai hoki ēna mea ki a mātou,
he nui nei hoki tōu aroha.

Lord, yours is the power and authority,
you are the giver of all good things.
Help us keep in our hearts love for your name.
Build up in us true honesty,
Sustain us with goodness,
Make these things part of our everyday life,
for your love is great.

Hymn *In the bulb there is a flower*

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn [KK] *The mystery* [Jean's choice]

[KAEO] *It passeth knowledge* [Clyde's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Matthew 14:22-33

Here Comes Trouble

In today's gospel reading, the disciples are in a boat, and, like other sea rescue narratives (Matthew 8:23-27, John 6:16-21), the passage refers to the liberation story of Exodus and a God whose power is likened to sea and storm.

Striking in this passage is the disciples' fear and Jesus' response. Although the boat is battered by waves and wind, the disciples are not "troubled" (*tarasso* in Greek) until they see Jesus (Matthew 14:26). Certainly they are afraid to see someone walking on water, but the only other place in Matthew this word appears is when Herod learns that Jesus is born (Matthew 2:3). For those of us who would follow him and for those who oppose him, Jesus comes to us powerfully in dangerous times, and we are troubled.

Jesus responds to the disciples not by stilling the water, but by saying, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27), echoing passages from the Exodus story where the Israelites are told, "Be strong and bold ... because it is the Lord your God who goes with you" (Exodus 14:13-14, Deuteronomy 31:6). In effect, Jesus says, "Do not be afraid that I am 'I AM.'"

Part of me wants to answer, "I know—that's what I'm afraid of!" For Herod, for me, and perhaps for the disciples, Jesus' powerful claim is not reassuring. We fear the life-changing power of God-with-us.

Laurel Dykstra, *Sojourners*

Jesus takes the quickest route to catch up with his crew and get across to the other side.

He needed time alone, prayer time, so he took it. No fretting about getting behind with things.

How Jesus does this, how he comes directly to us across the impossible, can be rattling, upsetting the balance that's in place to keep a handle on our lives. Fear when something unnerves or confounds us.

I think we felt a bit of that last week, with ideas somewhat out of order, out of good order and reasonableness.

It wasn't fear, we say in response. We're not afraid, just uneasy, annoyed maybe, resentful perhaps, with how this treaty claims thing is wasting time while it could all be sorted and life made better for Northland.

Afraid? Definitely not!

But my experience is that when I'm uneasy or annoyed, or angry, then there is fear lurking in the background for me.

And beneath fear is always hurt.

The Jesus way is to go directly to the hurt.

Jesus stands, not on moral high ground, nor on a solid base of achievements in solving social, economic, and personal problems.

He walks on water. He walks on apparently insubstantial-ness. Because that's the direct route to where there's hurt that needs healing (check the verses that follow today's passage).

Faith in this respect is keeping the eye on the goal of well-being, of living love to the level that takes us beyond what we think we can manage or is reasonable as human beings. God's kind of love.

And it just so happens that this, this attitude of love first then the details and substance follow, is what puts fear on the back burner. "perfect love drives out fear." (1 John 4:18)

Walk on water, or rather, walk standing simply on who we are in essence. Not on moral high ground, not on achievements in doing good. But on who we are as earth creature, filled with the breath of God.

Walking on true substance, walking on the earth.

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

– Matthew 14.31

Eight months have passed since Gary's death: a moment, an aching eternity. I can tell you that I know what it means to be borne up when the waters overwhelm. I know the grace of hands that reach out to carry and console and give courage. I am learning—again, anew—what faith is, how this word that we sometimes toss around so casually holds depths within depths that will draw us beyond nearly everything we once believed.

This is some of what I know right now about faith:

That faith is not something I can summon by a sheer act of will.

That it lives and breathes in the community that encompasses us.

That I cannot force faith but can ask for it, can pray that it will make its way to me and bear me up over the next wave, and the next.

That it comes.

That I can lean into it.

That it will propel me not only toward the Christ who calls me, but also back toward the boat that holds my life, incomprehensible in both its pain and its grace.

What are you knowing about faith right now? Where is it bearing you?

Blessing that Bears the Wind, the Wave

That we will risk
the drenching
by which we
are drawn
toward the voice
that calls us,
the love
that catches us,
the faith
that carries us
beyond the wind,
the wave.

Blessing of Song: At the time of his death, Gary had nearly finished recording a wondrous new Song Chapel CD. One song, titled "[Let Me Out of This Boat](#)," was inspired by this passage.

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Conversations Around the Table

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

God, our Father, we bless you
for the gift of life that you grant us,
that strength of faith,
so fragile and so powerful,
which is nourished by the assurance of your love.
We pray to you, Lord,
for the sustenance of life for the people of these five countries,
Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.
Stir up the strength and courage of all those who are engaged
in lifting these countries out of poverty.

Prières pour le monde 2004 © Fédération protestante de France, Paris, France. English transl. Terry MacArthur, ©
2005 WCC

Offering (call God's Kids back)

Invitation

This table is a place of sanctuary, an oasis of hope in a world too often overshadowed by despair. Here we share in a foretaste of the realm of God, a kingdom of peace and wholeness. The invitation to the table comes from God, who brings comfort to those who mourn and new life to tired old bones. All those who seek to follow in the way of Jesus will find a place here.

[KK] Singers *This is my body*

Communion

You come as a great wind,
splitting our fears into fragments,
breaking our prejudices into
tiny pebbles that hurt no one.

You are a summer's breeze
that stirs the growing grass;
you are the soft breath
which makes us more caring.

You come as an earthquake,
knocking all our doctrines
off their neat shelves,
smashing them beyond recognition.

You are the gentle touch
that wakens us from

our nightmares, whispering,
'it's just me; don't be scared.'

You are the fire that rages
against the injustices visited
upon the poor, the broken, the vulnerable
(often in your name).

You are the spark that lights
the passions for your people
so we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, free the
oppressed, visit the sick.

As you pass by us in so many ways, may we take
notice of you.

And here at the corner of Fear Road and Doubt
Road,

we come to your Table and do not pass by.
We pause at this place
where the Spirit blessed the bread and cup,
and all those who are in this place.
The bread is the gift of life, sending us
to plant gardens in
craters made by bombs;
to offer a bouquet of
faithfulness to the ostracized.

The cup is the promise of hope,
which we would share with all
who wander in despair.

And when we gather in that place
where you pass by us on the way
to prepare the great feast of the Lamb, we will sing
our songs of joy to you,
God in Community, Holy in One.

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Lord's Prayer

Breaking and Sharing

On that night, when later he was betrayed,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'This is my body, which is for you.

Do this to remember me.'

In the same way he also picked up a cup
after the meal and said:

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

Ko tēnei taro i whatia nei ko te whakakotahitanga o te tinana o te Karaiti.

The bread we break is the communion of the Body of Christ.

Ko tēnei kapu o te manaakitanga e whakawhetai nei tātou ko te whakakotahitanga o ngā toto o te Karaiti.

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God,
brood over these bodily things
and make us one body with Christ,
so that we may labour with creation
towards liberty of life.

Communion

Sent to Love the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

We will go into the world as God's people,
TELLING OF GOD'S HOPES FOR ALL.

We will go to serve the world as followers of Jesus,
SHOWING WITH OUR LIVES THAT ALL ARE PART OF THE KINGDOM.

We will go to share the Spirit,
TO BRING PEACE WHERE THERE IS WAR, TO SHARE LOVE WHERE THERE IS HATE.

Blessing

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa
Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki a Ihu Karaiti
Me te aroha o te Atua
Me te whiwhi-nga-tahi-tanga ki te Wairua Tapu
Āke āke, āke, Āmine.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
The love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all. Evermore, Amen.

Now unto him who is able to keep...

Robyn McPhail 13.08.2017

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 13 AUGUST 2017

Parish email: admin@kkup.org.nz

Church Office at Cornerstone: 09 407 8250

Minister: Robyn McPhail (DD) 09 283 4802, 021 0247 6280

minister@kkup.org.nz

Find us at www.kkup.org.nz and on [Facebook](#)

Notices: Jenny Phillips 09 407 8883 jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz

KK Pastoral: Jessica Scott 09 407 5555 jomscott2@gmail.com

ROSTERED FOR NEXT SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 2017

Musicians: Dave Hallam KK Clyde Foster Kaeo

Readers: Neville Frear KK tba Kaeo

Door and tea: Jessica and Neill KK **Flowers:** Ros and Margot

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133

Romans 11:1-2a,29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

GOD'S KIDS AT CORNERSTONE: Special session for Children today in the Tamariki – Children's Room. Next dedicated session **Sunday 10 September**.

KERIKERI SINGERS: Practice today at 11.00am after morning tea following the Service

CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Monday 14 August at 10.00am meeting in Meeting Room at Cornerstone.

BIBLE STUDY: tomorrow Monday 14 August 1.15-2.45pm in the Cornerstone Meeting Room, looking at the readings for **27 August**. Anyone who wishes to join can come! (Robyn will be there.)

KAEO HOME GROUP: Monday 14 August. Contact Alan 405 0688

PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 15 August, 7pm in the Supper Room, Kaeo Union Church

CORNERSTONE GARDEN GROUP: The Garden Group are requesting donations (\$20 or other of their choice) for shrubs to plant up the garden leading up to the Peace Garden. This is the next stage on the landscaping plan and we will continue planting along the bank between Cornerstone and the Funeral Parlour as finance permits. There is a box for donations in the Cornerstone foyer.

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale is Saturday 9 September 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact Mary 407 1117.

IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK: Today: Ensemble pm. Monday: Bible Study pm; Lions meeting evening. Tuesday: Yoga am; Tai Chi pm, Learning Hub pm, Yoga evening. Wednesday: Learning Hub pm; Caravan Assoc evening. Thursday: Auction pm; Girls' Brigade pm, Conversations at Cornerstone pm, Northland Revival evening, A Choired Taste evening.

AT KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK: Monday: Yoga pm. Tuesday: Parish Council pm. Wednesday: WASC meeting pm. Thursday: Puna Awhina am.