



14 October 2018

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Minister: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail
Musician: Clyde Foster **Reader:** Neil Scott

Here each Sunday we pray God’s blessing over our buildings: thanks for the good that has happened through the week and cleansing for anything troublesome. May the Spirit touch all who come into our church home.



Being family, we watch out for, and care for, one another.

PARISH SERVICE
10.30am at Kaeo

Settling in

Gathering with the Saints

Hymn *E te Atua, kua ruia nei* WOV650 tune: Amazing Grace

Prayer

We look in the mirror and what do we see?
 WE SEE PEOPLE WHO TRY TO BE FAITHFUL,
 EVEN AS QUESTIONS AND STRUGGLES CHALLENGE OUR FAITH.
 We look in the mirror and how do we see?
 WE SEE WITH HEARTS WHICH ARE OPEN TO GOD’S LOVE,
 WITH LIVES WHICH SEEK TO TRUST WHEN ALL THE EVIDENCE
 TELLS US NOT TO BE SO FOOLISH.
 We look in the mirror and who do we see?
 WE SEE JESUS, THE ONE WHO STRUGGLES WITH
 THE QUESTIONS WE RAISE, WHO MODELS FAITHFULNESS
 FOR ALL WHO WOULD FOLLOW.

Silence

WE SIT IN YOUR PRESENCE, SAVING GOD,
 STRIPPED OF OUR PRETENSIONS AND PRIDE,
 FOR NOTHING WE DO OR SAY, OR DO NOT,
 CAN BE HIDDEN FROM YOU.
 YOU HEAR THE ANGRY WORDS WE PREACH TO OURSELVES; YOU SIFT THROUGH THE RUBBLE
 OF HURTS WE HAVE CAUSED; YOU SEE HOW WE STUMBLE, WEIGHED DOWN BY ALL THAT
 ‘STUFF’ WHICH KEEPS US FROM FOLLOWING JESUS.
 WE SIT IN YOUR PRESENCE, HOLY GRACE.
 AS YOU EMPTY OUR HANDS OF THAT WEALTH OF UNNEEDED THINGS WE CLING SO TIGHTLY TO,
 FILL THEM WITH YOUR GRACE AND HOPE.
 AS WE LET GO OF ALL WHICH MIGHT HOLD US BACK, GIVE US THE TRUST TO FOLLOW JESUS
 CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR, INTO THAT LIFE WITH WHICH HE OFFERS TO EACH OF US.

Hear the good news! Because God loves us, we lack for nothing; because God forgives us, we have everything we need; because God surrounds us with sisters and brothers, we do not journey alone.

COMMITTING EVERYTHING TO GOD, TRUSTING IN THE ONE WHO REDEEMS US, WE DECIDE TO LIVE AS GOD'S FAITHFUL AND FORGIVEN PEOPLE. AMEN.

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *Those who wait on the Lord* [Neil's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Psalm 22:1-15

Space in which change can happen.

Recall that song you've sung a couple of times very recently – *Come as you are, that's how I want you.*

We come here as we are. No leaving at the door what we think might not be good enough. No pretending we're not worried or concerned. No hiding from what I don't like about me (hiding from God), no avoiding what I think is useless or annoying about me, or even shameful.

Do you sometimes feel pressure to be different from who you are? Pressure to be already what and where you're expected to be – as in should be?

Or pressure to feel good when you don't?

Or an expectation from others that you understand what's going on when honestly you're rather confused.

And there's the weight of the impression other people have that you've got it all together, perhaps because you're Christian, or because you're a good person, or.

Going back to that opening phrase: is church, for you, space where change can happen? Church, whether Sunday services, Home Group, Girls' Brigade, Fellowship, Pastoral Gatherings, Pastoral Visiting, Bible Study, Hosting at Cornerstone.

The Psalm writer has no qualms about being him or herself and being deeply troubled. The writer feels unloved, unwanted, abandoned even, and says so.

We need to do the same – have no qualms about being ourselves, our personal individual selves; let our shadow side be present just as much as the side that we're happy to have out in the light. If we feel hurt or hard done by, we're to be "honest to God" about it. Honest to.... whoever, whatever, is right for you to express the sense of something more than meets the eye, more than just the people around.

Who is the God who is part of your life? (Or not part of your life as the case may be.) If we'd taken time with today's reading from Job we could have dug deep into this question of who God is, *who is this God people believe in?* The word God is not something you get the definition for by looking it up in the dictionary. Nor is there an official church understanding. It's a word that's an attempt to refer to experience and relationship beyond representation. Experience and relationship that is very much personal and only really discovered in the midst of living.

What is it that keeps us going when it's all too hard? What is it that sings inside us when we're full of the joys of life.

The unquenchable human spirit is unquenchable because it taps into a source of energy that is not dependent on individual energy. Life has life of its own, you could say.

So I'd recommend from today's reading that we think of this word "God" as a conversation partner for the things we want to say, the things we need to say, including things we don't have words for. The stuff that hurts, the cries from the heart. This is the route to healthy living. This is the journey that goes through the shadows, even walks with the black dog, and comes out the other end into the daylight again.

Did you notice that the Psalm writer begins with lament and ends with praise? This is no magic. Nor is it a fluke. This is what happens through the process of being open, being honest, feeling the real feelings of the time, speaking them and therefore facing them. Face the pain, sit with it, own up to it, and watch it lose its overwhelming power. It becomes no longer the whole of me but just part of me. The other part of me surfaces again, the me that remembers what's gone well, the me that takes delight in looking to the future, the me that has a strong sense of purpose and therefore has hope.

My biggest hope for our life as a church is that we are space in which change can happen. To put it simply, arrive feeling so-so, leaving feeling so much better. Whether that be on our Sundays together, our other times together as church, or for whoever meets us and comes to our two very special spiritual homes.

Conversations around the Table

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

...prayer book prayers...

Offering, Invitation, and Narrative

A story

After a snowstorm, only a few folks who lived within trudging distance made it to church, including Carol and her daughter, Melanie, who was four. The service was simple, a hymn, scripture, communion. Melanie had never received communion, but she was there, and no one was stopping her, so she held out her hand. With everybody else in the reverent circle, she ate. Then she broke the hush: "Mommy!" she cried, "This is the *most delicious* bread!"

Adults overthink everything. Especially communion. We divide into theological camps over it. We exclude people deemed morally, denominationally, doctrinally unfit. We bar little children until they're capable of abstraction. We understand everything about bread except that you're meant to eat it. But Melanie tasted what we forget—before all else, communion is food, delectable Presence, Jesus' sweet surrendered self. It is the most delicious Bread.

You don't need to be grown-up, orthodox, or confirmed to know that something tastes good; to savor a grace of exceptional flavor; to sense that this is a mercy and no ordinary thing; to be surprised at it, grateful; to cry out, delighted. You need only be there, extending your hand. You need only eat.

Mary Luti, Daily Devotional UCC USA

The table is ready...

Communion Prayer

Gracious God:
when we cannot see you,
you look in compassion upon us;
when we cannot speak a word,
you hear the sighs of our hearts;
when we are falling apart,
you hold us together with your grace.

JESUS, HEALING HAND OF GOD:
YOU REACH OUT TO TAKE AWAY ALL
WHICH DISTRACTS US FROM DISCIPLESHIP;
YOU CHALLENGE US TO GIVE AWAY
EVERYTHING
WHICH KEEPS US FROM FOLLOWING YOU;
YOU SURROUND US WITH PEOPLE, EVEN

STRANGERS,
WHO ENFOLD US WITH YOUR LOVE AND HOPE.

Loving Spirit:
when we are too weary to put
one faltering foot in front of the other,
you carry us in your strength;
as we seek to challenge
the unfairness of our world,
you stand beside us in your justice;
when we are afraid to come near,
you bear our prayers to the seat of grace.

God in Community, Holy in One,
hear us as we pray together,
using the words we have been taught by Jesus,

Lord's Prayer

Here at the Table graced with your gifts,
here, upon your family gathered in joy,
pour out your Spirit of peace and life.
As we come to taste of that Bread which,
in its brokenness, makes us whole,
we would not go backward to our old life,
but go forth to bring hope to all
who cry out for justice in the world.
As we drink deeply from that Cup which,
by its grace, fills us with compassion,
we would offer the blessings we have,
that others might know the richness of your love and hope.

And when the age to come has arrived,
when our lives are gathered up in your mercy
and we are at one with our sisters and brothers
from every time and place around your feast,
we will join our hearts and voices for you,
singing through all eternity of your love,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

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.

Nō reira ahakoa kotahi noa te taro, he maha tātou, ka kai tahi i te taro kotahi.

Since there is but one bread, we who are many form one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion

Loving the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

We continue as God's people to serve those around us.

WE WILL HONOUR EACH PERSON AS IF THEY WERE OUR FAMILY.

We live as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

WE WILL SHARE THE GIFTS OF GRACE AND HOPE WITH EVERYONE WE MEET.

We will go as those strengthened by the Spirit.

WE WILL STAND WITH OTHERS SEARCHING FOR GOD'S JUSTICE IN THEIR LIVES.

Hymn *We are many, we are one*

Robyn McPhail, 14.10.2018

Annual Meeting will follow immediately after the service (a brief break for any who need it).

Blessing ... *May the God of aroha nui*

Shared Lunch in the Hall thereafter

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 14 OCTOBER 2018

Parish email: admin@kkup.org.nz **Church Office:** 09 407 8250

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

Minister: Robyn McPhail (DD) 09 283 4802, 021 0247 6280
minister@kkup.org.nz

Ministry Leadership Team: Bev Tayler, Alan Robinson, and Robyn

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

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

Bookings for the buildings (hire or church use): phone office or cornerstone@kkup.org.nz or
wesleydale@kkup.org.nz

NEXT SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2018 led by Jan Gough

Musicians: Marie Cannon (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)

Readers: Kay Blunkell tba (Kaeo)

Door and Tea: Bev and Bob

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c

Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES 2019: Please let Diane know if you would like to order one @ approx. \$35 each
Phone 407 9442.

BIBLE STUDY: Monday 15 October at 1.15am at Cornerstone. All welcome.

COMMUNION SERVICE: Today at 4.00pm at Ted Robinson Chapel, KK

STUDY LEAVE: Robyn's study leave is interspersed with parish work, so she is available some times, others not. Contact Bev and Alan (Ministry Leadership Group 4016625, 4050688) with initial inquiries.

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale Saturday 27 October 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117.

WANTED!

We are having a stall at the Car Boot Sale at Cornerstone on 10 November to raise funds for our KK Women's Fellowship World Vision child. PLEASE have a clean out of any unwanted items you may have around your house before 8 November. Everything welcome including books but not clothes. Items can be left at Cornerstone or at Lorraine Stewart's place. If you require anything to be collected contact Lorraine or Brian on 407 8296.

IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK: Today: Hope Church, Ensemble WA pm. Monday: Bible Study pm; Counsellor M pm. Tuesday: Yoga Therapy WA am; Tai Chi pm; Dance pm; Band practice WA evening. Wednesday: Counsellor M pm. Thursday: Being Well Workshop T am; GB pm; Martial Arts H evening. Friday: Dance H pm. Saturday: Plastic Free M am. Week of Prayer for World Peace each evening in WA
WA Worship Area H Hall K Kitchen M Meeting Room T Tamariki

IN KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK: Today: Church. Monday: Yoga evening. Tuesday: Open Rhythms Dance evening. Wednesday: Plunket am.