



4 November 2018

## Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

*“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”*

**Minister:** Rev Dr Robyn McPhail  
**Musicians:** Kato Alau'ola (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)  
**Readers:** Diane Paterson (KK) tba (Kaeo)

*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.

## Settling in

### Gathering with the Saints

Ka haere mai ngā tangata i ngā koko katoa o te ao, ka noho i te tēpu o te Rangatiratanga o te Atua.  
*They will come from east and west, and from north and south and sit at the table in the Kingdom of God.*

The door is open.  
 Christ invites us to his table.  
 We come in faith,  
 standing in his presence.  
 He lives with us,  
 scarred by barbs  
 yet risen and alive.  
 His love draws us together.

It's time to stop, calm our hearts and minds  
 and give thanks to God  
 for our life and daily tasks.  
 Together we are refreshed  
 by the bubbling waters of  
 renewal,  
 and the bread of life.  
 We welcome each other,  
 and sing songs of celebration.

Bill Bennett, *Seasons of the Land*

**Hymn** *All over the world the Spirit is moving*

### Prayer

The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty to be as loving as God teaches us, as we pray, saying,

WE ARE HESITANT TO CONFESS, HOLY GOD, HOW HARD IT IS TO LOVE AS YOU WISH. IT IS EASY TO LOVE YOU WITH ALL THAT WE ARE, EXCEPT WHEN YOU ASK US TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE. WE FIND IT HARD TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR, WHEN IT IS LINKED TO THE WAY WE LOVE OURSELVES. AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO LOVE ANYONE - EVEN YOU - MORE THAN WE LOVE OURSELVES.

FORGIVE US, LOVE ETERNAL. AS YOU TOOK A RISK IN CREATING US, HELP US TO TAKE RISKS TO LOVE OTHERS COMPASSIONATELY, TO LOVE OURSELVES GENUINELY, AND TO LOVE YOU AS COMPLETELY AS YOU LOVE US IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.

*Silence*

In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;  
 in God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;  
 in God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.  
 FORGIVEN, LOVED, SENT FORTH -  
 WE ARE NOT FAR FROM GOD'S KINGDOM!

**Symbol of God's Presence**

**Hymn** *I was hungry and you fed me* by Jean Andrewes [Diane's choice]

*Longing for light (Christ be our light)* [Clyde's choice]

## Clarifying our Purpose

**Conversation with the Word**

Ruth 1:1-18

You can trust us to stick to you through thick and thin—to the bitter end. And you can trust us to keep any secret of yours—closer than you yourself keep it. But you cannot trust us to let you face trouble alone, and go off without a word. We are your friends, Frodo. Anyway: there it is.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Like many of the books in the Writings section of Hebrew Scripture, you need to read the whole book of Ruth to get the real picture. At least it's shorter than e.g. Job, so it is something you could easily do settled into a comfortable chair with a cuppa.

The book is very likely a critique of male-centred law and culture, a challenge to the power of patriarchy and the powerlessness of women (and children) when they have no men to attach to. It is clearly also a critique of xenophobia which patriarchy feeds into. Now that's very much a topic for contemporary consideration.

The important characters in this story turn out to be the least powerful people. The people at the margins.

Do you know what it is like to be disregarded? To feel dispensable. Not sure of being any use. To feel on the margins of a group.

The heroes in the book of Ruth – it might look like it's Boaz the man in the story who rescued them from poverty, but actually it's Naomi and Ruth – are margins people.

Bitter Naomi – that's what her name means. Her first thought in her dire situation is the welfare of others, of Orpah and Ruth. That's her response to being a nobody in the world's view.

This is a clear pointer to her faith – her God is expansive, inclusive. Even when she is suffering, even when she feels abandoned, she doesn't lose this sense of all-encompassing life-giving Spirit and so can give of herself.

Ruth's response to the dire situation is a promise to an "other", to someone who in standard terms she does not belong with and has no connection or responsibility to.

This is a clear pointer to her faith – her God doesn't take belonging as a cultural given, determined by birth and place in the world, but chooses belonging. Her God doesn't see boundaries of social or political or cultural or economic making but, like Naomi's, is expansive, inclusive.

Like Naomi, her response to being a nobody, counting for nothing in the world's view, is to think of the welfare of this other person.

Here we have an unexpected God shown to us by unexpected people. An understanding of Spirit and life that means it's possible to risk the new and different. We don't have to stay within the confines of the known which so often require us not to care beyond our own zone. For the sake of our own security and survival we shouldn't risk too much compassion.

And we see God at work in unspectacular ways. God's presence in the book of Ruth is through the characters, not grand action, but the little things of relationships. Little things that really are the big things. God is seen in what's called in Hebrew *hesed*. Faithfulness, kindness, compassion, loyalty, never faltering love. Aroha.

That's the heart of who we are.

## Conversations around the Table

**The World: Our Prayers**

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

...*prayer book prayers*...

**Offering Hymn** *O Lord, we thank you for your body broken vv.1-2*

### **Narrative**

Among friends, gathered round a table,  
Jesus took bread, broke it and said,  
'This is my body, it is broken for you.'  
And later he took the cup of wine and said,  
'This is the new relationship with God,  
made possible because of my death.  
Take this – all of you – to remember me.'

Iona Community *A Wee Worship Book*

### **Communion Prayer**

We will sing praises to you all life long,  
O Lord our God,  
maker of the earth, the heavens, the seas,  
and all that dwell in them.  
You made us in your image  
so we might be your people.  
Blinded by the seductions of the world,  
we wandered far from your Kingdom,  
putting our trust in those powers that cannot save us.

Despite this turning away,  
you have clung to us in grace and love,  
determined to be faithful to the covenant  
you established with us.

We bless you for Jesus,  
our Help, our Hope, our Lord.  
He opened the eyes of the blind,  
so we might behold your grace;  
he loosed the bonds of the captive,  
so we might follow in freedom;  
he watched over strangers,  
so we might become brothers and sisters;  
he lifted up those who had fallen,  
so we might walk the streets of the Kingdom;  
he gave his heart to those ignored by the world,  
so the widow and orphan might find  
their heart's home in you;  
he endured death's embrace,  
and showed us the path  
to life your way, life with you.

### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Breaking and Sharing**

As we break the Bread of Life  
and drink from the Cup of Salvation,  
pour out your eternal Spirit  
upon these gifts  
and those who will receive them.

Ko tēnei taro e whatiia nei ko te whakakotahitanga o te Tinana o te Karaiti

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

Ngā taonga o te Atua mō ōna pononga

The gifts of God for the people of God

## Loving the World as God Loves

### Serving in the Week Ahead

#### Blessing

As you leave this place, go with God.  
WE WILL GO WHEREVER GOD GOES.  
As you depart to serve, go with Christ.  
WE WILL NOT TURN BACK FROM FOLLOWING JESUS.  
As you live the coming days, go with the Spirit.  
GOD'S PEOPLE WILL BE OUR PEOPLE,  
AND WE WILL SHARE OUR LIVES WITH THEM.

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*Mā te mārie a te Atua*

Robyn McPhail, 04.11.2018

#### NOTICES FOR TODAY – 4 NOVEMBER 2018

**Parish email:** [admin@kkup.org.nz](mailto:admin@kkup.org.nz) **Church Office:** 09 407 8250

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

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

[minister@kkup.org.nz](mailto:minister@kkup.org.nz)

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

**Notices:** Jenny Phillips 09 407 8883 [jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz)

**KK Pastoral:** Jessica Scott 09 407 5555 [jomscott2@gmail.com](mailto:jomscott2@gmail.com)

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

#### NEXT SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018 ARMISTICE CENTENNIAL

**Kaeo:** 9.30 at the Memorial Hall, service led by New Beginnings Church; 10.30 at the RSA for dedication of Centennial Plaque; 10.45 march to Hall and karanga inside; 11am two minutes silence followed by Centennial Commemoration, with prayers from different churches and faiths; Refreshments and entertainment to follow.

**Kerikeri:** 8am at St James' Anglican Church (Stone Store Hill) short communion service; 9am communion service (both services with a peace/armistice theme) with cuppa to follow; 10.15am Family Service; 10.50 RSA arrive, 11am 2 minutes silence and RSA Commemoration; refreshments to follow at the RSA on Cobham Road.

#### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Ruth 3:1-5,4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

**VOLUNTEERS AT CORNERSTONE TOMORROW:** to pack up chairs at about 12.30pm after a funeral; to clean up Hall (after 2pm).

**ANGEL TREE:** Soon angel child cards will be available from our area co-ordinator. Angel child is a national initiative under the umbrella of Prison Fellowship. The idea is to keep the families of prisoners connected especially at Christmas time. Each prisoner is visited and asked what their child/children may like as a gift and the parent writes a Christmas Card to go with the gift. The cards are distributed to the churches for their help in keeping families united in this way. (A wonderful unconditional love initiative). If you would like to take part in this venture please take an angel child card from the Christmas tree in the foyer, buy the suggested gift, and give it to Jessica who will pass the gifts on to the area coordinator. Or alternatively if you would like to give money towards a gift, place it in an envelope marked Angel Child and place in the offering bag. This will be passed on to Jessica.

**CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** Monday 5 November at 10am

**BIBLE STUDY:** Monday 5 November at 1.15am at Cornerstone. All welcome.

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

**WANTED!** KK Women's Fellowship will have a stall at the Car Boot sale at Cornerstone on 10 November to raise funds for our World Vision child. Any unwanted or pre-loved items you may like to contribute would be

welcome including books but not clothes. These can be left at Cornerstone or at Lorraine Stewart's 7/21 Cobham Road, before 8 November. Please contact Lorraine or Brian on 407 8296 or email [lorraine.stewart.keri@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.stewart.keri@gmail.com) for anything to be collected.

**CAR BOOT SALES:** Next sale Saturday 10 November 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117.

**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.

**IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK:** Today: Hope Church; Ensemble 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: Auction H pm; GB pm; Inter-faith Working Group M pm; Martial Arts H evening. Friday: Dance H pm. Saturday: Car Boot Sale. WA Worship Area H Hall K Kitchen M Meeting Room T Tamariki

**IN KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK:** Today: Church. Monday: Accordion Revival pm; Yoga evening. Tuesday: Pamper Day. Wednesday: Plunket am.