



18 November 2018

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Minister: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Diane Paterson (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)
Readers: Lloyd Purdie (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

Kia hora te marino
 Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
 Kia tere te kārohirohi i mua i a mātou huarahi

May peace be widespread
 may the seas glisten like greenstone
 may the shimmering light guide us on our way

Hymn *When morning guilds the skies* WOVI51

Prayer

Life is short, Lord.
 LIKE A BREATH IN THE NIGHT, IT SINKS INTO SILENCE.
 Human relationships all pass away;
 WE CANNOT COUNT ON THEM FOR COMFORT IN OLD AGE.
 Only you, God, are forever.
 WHY SHOULD I PUT ANYTHING ELSE FIRST IN MY LIFE?
 Some people hold you as their closest companion.
 THEY ARE THE SAINTS. I WOULD LIKE TO BE LIKE THEM.
 Many people claim to put you first,
 BUT THEY CHASE RICHES AND POPULARITY, PRIVILEGE AND POWER.
 I say that there is nothing in life but God.
 YOU ARE ALL ANYONE NEEDS.
 In the silence of the night, I listen for the breath of God;
 IN THE BEDLAM OF A BUSY DAY, I WAIT FOR WHISPERS OF WISDOM.
 I keep my mind on God.
 YOU SURROUND ME LIKE THE AIR I BREATHE;
 you buoy me up like water.
 EVEN IN A TIME OF LOSS, I RAISE MY ARMS TO YOUR EMBRACE;
 MY HEART RESTS EASY.
 For you are a loving God.
 THOUGH OUR LIVES END, WE DO NOT VANISH INTO A LIFELESS VOID.
 You gather us into your eternal warmth,

WHERE WE WILL ENJOY THE ENDLESS SUNSHINE OF YOUR SMILE.

James Taylor, *Everyday Psalms*, Psalm 16 The brevity of life. "Our family lost four close relatives and an old friend during a single six-week period. It made us acutely aware of human morality."

Hymn *Dear Father, Lord of humankind* KK tune: Rest MHB

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *O God our help in ages past* WOV46 [Lloyd's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Mark 13:1-8

Legend has it that St. Lawrence, a third-century deacon in Rome, was martyred when, commanded by Roman authorities to hand over the church's riches, he responded by gathering the city's lame, sick, poor, and excluded, presenting them as the church's real treasure. Jesus makes a similar point to the disciples. Dismissing their awe at the sight of the stunning new temple, he assures them that "all will be thrown down" (Mark 13:2). God abides in the temple of humanity, not in buildings—especially those built through the exploitation of the weak and poor, as this temple was. Jesus' description of the temple's destruction also implies that his way, the way of the cross, is so contrary to existing power structures that the two can't coexist. When God's reign takes hold, the result will be cataclysmic: "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines" (Mark 13:8).

Jesus also takes aim at false prophets who will try to exploit his name: "Beware! ... Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray" (Mark 13:6). Both warnings convey the same message: The reign of God is diametrically opposed to structures of exploitation and injustice, especially those done in the name of God. Any religion that does not put God's treasure—the least of these—first will only lead many astray. Beware!

Michelle Bruzzese, *Sojourners*

What's impressive? Think about what you consider impressive, stand out wow, or a real point of pride. As in: "you must be proud of what you've achieved."

What's frightening? Think about what you fear, what we fear regarding the future. For yourself, your family, for us as a church.

I'm asking what's really impressive?

What's really frightening?

....

Yes, the things we're likely to think of are amazing and great or of serious concern on the frightening side. But, ultimately, where do we put our trust and what is the worst possible to be feared?

Let's take a look for a moment at the story from 1 Samuel. Get together and have someone (or a couple of people) read it out. Then, drawing on the considerable experience in this room of relationships, consider these questions:

1. What was Elkanah thinking? Or, in fact, was he thinking? Because what would Hannah have felt at the end of v.8?
2. What happens when Hannah then turns to the church of her time for support?
3. What's missing from both of these men?

...group discussion...

What's impressive, ultimately, was expressed in good ordinary language at a funeral in Cornerstone this week.

Funerals can very often be wonderful occasions to reaffirm the core values that we see as Christian values. Even if Jesus isn't mentioned, I things that chime with his teaching, because that's exactly what matters when it comes to the crunch. On Wednesday they summed it up as *kindness* and *inclusion*.

That, to me, is what is really impressive: kindness, inclusion, listening, being true to one another, respect, affirmation, openness, justice – all the kingdom values. All the qualities that are upside down to dominant thinking that surrounds us. God's kingdom – God's way – is the beatitude kingdom, where the qualities and

focus are as expressed in those truly magic words of Jesus in Matthew 5 and Luke 4. Or in this paraphrase from South America:

Blessed are the poor ...
not the penniless
but those whose heart is free.

Blessed are those who mourn ...
not those who whimper
but those who raise their voices.

Blessed are the meek ...
not the soft
but those who are patient and tolerant.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice ...
not those who whine
but those who struggle.

Blessed are the merciful ...
not those who forget
but those who forgive.

Blessed are the pure in heart ...
not those who act like angels
but those whose life is transparent.

Blessed are the peacemakers ...
not those who shun conflict
but those who face it squarely.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for justice ...
not because they suffer
but because they love.

P. Jacob. Taken from *Compartir*, Santiago, Chile
Based on Matthew 5:1-10

Being lead astray from this is a big problem, a big problem for us. The pull of the values that are so often expressed as common sense, the values of the world around us that are so useful. Achievement and effectiveness, how can you go contrary to that?

But remember the saying that asks, which is worse: to be considered a fool or to be considered unkind.

We're not to throw out completely the benefit of being effective, of achieving good results, of developing our skills and our wisdom. With Jesus, we're just not making dominant values the absolute, the ultimate. They must always penultimate, serving the purpose of the main thing – kindness, inclusion, well-being and just life for all.

To get to that end – that purpose – there's a lot of turmoil that we're not to take fright from. We're to remember that the real thing to be feared is an existence not driven by love.

During these turbulent times we must remind ourselves repeatedly that life goes on. This we are apt to forget. But the wisdom of life transcends our wisdoms; the purpose of life outlasts our purposes; the process of life cushions our processes...

It is just as important as ever to attend to the little graces by which the dignity of our lives is maintained and sustained.

Birds still sing.

The stars continue to cast their gentle gleam over the desolation
of battlefields.

And the heart is still inspired by the kind word and the gracious
deed.

Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*

Conversations around the Table

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Timor Leste, Indonesia, Philippines

We are **thankful** for:

- the vital witness of churches in this region
- the diversity of ethnicities, cultures and religious beliefs, and especially those in Indonesia who have built bridges between them
- those who have resisted bravely and worked for human rights, justice, peace and reconciliation, especially the National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- those who protest exploitative mining, deforestation and other environmental damage.

We **pray** for:

- governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste, that they will eradicate corruption, establish justice and peace, and work effectively for the wellbeing of all their people
- victims of violence, torture, drug and human trafficking, and human rights violations, that those responsible might be held accountable
- all those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters, and for the rebuilding of communities afterwards
- ecumenical and interfaith cooperation to bring justice, peace and sustainability to these lands.

...prayer book prayers...

Lord's Prayer

Loving the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead - Offering

Blessing

Dear God, take us now and put our feet on the road that leads to your unfolding future, the future to which the Spirit draws us and from which the crucified and risen one comes to meet us.

Kia tau...

... *Go gently, go lightly*

Robyn McPhail, 18.11.2018

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 18 NOVEMBER 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 25 NOVEMBER 2018

Musicians: Kato Akau'ola (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)

Readers: Bob Tayler (KK) **Door and Tea:** Ngaire and Trevor (KK)

Next Sunday's Services will be led by Alan Robinson

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12,(13-18) or Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

BIBLE STUDY: Monday 19 November at 1.15pm at Cornerstone.

PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 20 November at 7pm at Kaeo

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

THE FINAL NIGHT FOR GIRLS' BRIGADE – YOU ARE INVITED

This Thursday **22 November** we are asking the girls and supporters to come along in **fancy dress—CHRISTMAS STYLE**.

The girls will come to GB as normal where we will run a very relaxed programme and we invite the families and extended families **and church members** to come and join us from **5.15pm for a Christmas pot luck shared dinner**. Bring plenty.

Christmas themed food would be great.

During this evening we will be presenting the girls with the badges that they have earned during the year. This is a relaxed night with fun for all of us to enjoy and even a little something for the girls at the end.

KK WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND OTHERS: On Thursday 6 December at 10.30am at Rainbow Falls Tea House - Devonshire Teas at \$12 a head. Please let Jan 407 6444 or Jenny 407 8883 know if you would like to join us for fellowship, food and fun. All welcome!

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale **this** Saturday 24 November 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117.

KK WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP will hold another stall at this car boot sale. Please all feel free to bring or buy to help fund our Christian World Service Child programme.

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.

KERIKERI HOMEGROUP INVITES YOU TO:

"A Joyous Feast"

Friday 30 November at 6.30pm

In the Hall at Cornerstone-Whare Karakia o Manako

All welcome to join with the KK Home Group at Cornerstone for their end of year meeting. Please bring something for a shared meal,

AND

A Combined Service

(including Kaeo, Kerikeri, and Okaihau Tongan Church)

led by the KK Home Group

Sunday 2 December at 9.30am

at Cornerstone-Whare Karakia o Manako

Visiting guest speaker **Robert Siakimotu** www.siakimotu.co.nz

Please bring a plate for a *Slap-up Brunch* following the Service