

3 March 2019

Minister: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Marie Cannon (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)
Readers: Mary Fenton (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 all the Saints

Blessed are those who trust - in God!
 WE COME IN TRUST, TO BE GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE.
 Blessed are those who hope - in God!
 WE COME IN HOPE, TRUSTING IN THE ONE WHO GIVES US LIFE.
 Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!
 WE COME TO HEAR GOD SPEAK, HOPING FOR HEALING AND JOY.

Hymn *If I take the wings of the morning* AA68

Prayer

God of our wonder,
 Heart of creation:
 we are blessed when
 we feast on your Word:
 that Word which embraces us;
 that Word which teaches us;
 that Word which transfigures us;
 that Word which grounds us.
 Give us your Word this,
 and every, day.

Jesus Christ,
 Heart of God's children:
 we are blessed when

we have your compassion:
 that heart for the poor;
 for the hungry;
 for those who weep;
 for those left out.
 Give us your heart this, and every, day.

Holy Delight,
 Grace's Heartbeat:
 we bear fruit when
 we overflow with your spirit:
 that spirit of generosity;
 that spirit of pouring ourselves out in service;
 that spirit of bearing another's burden.
 Give us your spirit this, and every, day.

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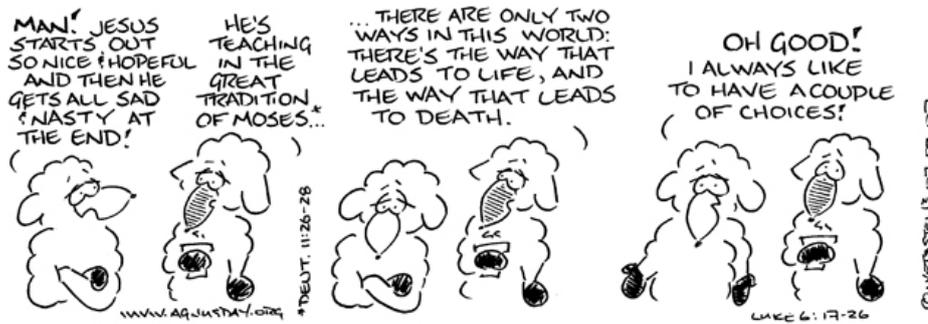
Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *Jesus shall reign* [Mary's choice] tune: Warrington 4 verses

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Reading Luke 6:17-19



Reflection

Take a look at this image.



Jesus in the centre and the goodness spreading out.

For Luke, Jesus regularly takes crucial time out with God, symbolised by being up on a hill (aka a mountain). That's what has been happening. Up the hill he has prayed and chosen the core group of his disciples, ones Luke calls apostles. These will be sent out as his frontline team. Then he moves down the hill and next minute people are swarming from near and far. Note well that he is on the plain – not over or above them. And note well that clearly these people who have gathered are very troubled. Needing contact, connection and, through that, healing.

Turning from the crowd now healed, he proceeds to teach his disciples. Healing and teaching, two key tasks. The disciples named here are the whole group of those who are wanting to learn from him, to learn his Way. The Apostles plus. Learning from Jesus – that's our task as we gather and read these stories. They learn – we learn – in order to prepare for mission, for our engagement with the wider world.

How will we act?

How will be in our relating to others?

What is it that we aim for?

That is, what is it that Jesus could see and was aiming for? What is this “God’s way”, or “kingdom ways” that everyone is to take on board and turn into the way of the whole world. To transform the current way of things so that life and the world can reach fruition and fulfil the promise of what the creator of life dreams it can be.

What would it be like when we’ve got there? To God’s way, “as earth as it is in heaven”, as we say.

Luke 6:20-26

Blessed: another way of saying this to express Jesus' meaning is "congratulations". Surprising, but that's what he is saying.

Congratulations, you who are poor, for you are at an advantage in terms of the coming reign of God. You'll easily fit in when and where God's way holds sway. God's on your side, first and foremost.

And woe to... means: how unfortunate you are. You're at a disadvantage you who have the advantage now. Because you'll have to change, you'll have to lose out in some way, if you're going to relate to God's ways, *if you are going to be able to stand among those in the expanding circle of giving and receiving.*

Vulnerability – that's what is so often missing. Or awareness of one's vulnerability, and acceptance of it. Acceptance of one's interdependence on others.

Being who we are and feeling self-worth, not through our qualities or our resources, but through our needing another, in fact needing many and various others. Being who we are and knowing our worth through our relationships.

What follows the part we read are some techniques for stir us out of the usual way of thinking to this kind of understanding. Verses 27-36 shows us techniques to surprise, to shock, and provoke into seeing things differently. Into realising there is a different way, different from the mainstream way of acquire and keep, gain merits and build protection, and find satisfaction in distractions and consumption.

Jesus wants people to wake up to the dangers and the folly of this approach to living that is really all about power and control. No congratulations for going this way. "Woe to you" are his words.

Then in verses 37-42 there are techniques to sort ourselves. Self-scrutiny, that's what is needed.

For it is who we are – verses 43-45 – that makes the difference, who we are flows out into what we produce, what we do, who we are for others. Be the person Jesus is inviting you to be, that's the essence of it. Be that potentiality that is in our very being, our very creation. Let it become actual.

The teaching then concludes with a very clear example of what it looks like when people hear Jesus and act accordingly. Not a case of in one ear and out the other, not lip service to following Jesus' way. But living it, from inside of us into all that we do.

Call to Reconciliation

Now, if what we hear from the world is true, we would have no need to come before God. But in fact, the witness of scripture, and of the faithful, is true. God is to be trusted with every secret of our hearts, as well as offered our brokenness. Join me as we pray to the One who waits to forgive us.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

WE CONFESS WHAT WE ARE AFRAID TO FACE, BLESSING GOD:

THE SEDUCTIONS OF THIS WORLD GNAW AWAY AT OUR HEARTS.

WE HAVE MORE AND MORE TO CHOOSE FROM THE MARKET, AND SO WE FORGET THOSE WHOSE ONLY CHOICE IS HUNGER.

OUR SENSE THAT WE ARE YOUR FAVORITES CAUSES US TO THINK LESS OF THOSE WE ARE CONVINCED ARE NOT.

WE ARE SO CONSUMED WITH SAVING ENOUGH FOR THE FUTURE, WE OVERLOOK THOSE WHO HAVE SO LITTLE THIS DAY.

FORGIVE US, HEARTBROKEN GOD, FOR THINKING WE ARE THE CENTRE OF YOUR WORLD. POUR YOUR LIVING WATER INTO US, SO WE MIGHT SEND DOWN ROOTS DEEP INTO YOUR HEART, AND SO BECOME THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE BLESSINGS TO OTHERS, AS WE HAVE RECEIVED THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE FROM JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.

Silence

Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

THANKS BE TO GOD! OUR FAITH IS TRUE, AND OUR HOPE IS GROUNDED IN THE PROMISES OF THE ONE WE CAN TRUST NOT ONLY ON THIS DAY, BUT IN EVERY DAY TO COME. AMEN.

Prayers printed in the service are ©Thom M. Shuman adapted

Hymn *Will you offer me compassion* AA160

Conversations around the Table

Continuing the Conversation

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Ireland; UK: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

... prayer book prayers...

Lord's Prayer

Loving the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

Offering Hymn *Tell my people I love them* AA132

Dedication and Blessing

You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, as we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Kia tau...

Go gently, go lightly...

Robyn McPhail, .03.03.2019

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 3 MARCH 2019

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 10 MARCH 2019

Musicians: Kato Akau'ola KK Clyde Foster Kaeo

Readers: Bob Tayler KK tba Kaeo

Door and Tea: Michelle and Akisi **Flowers:** Mary

Communion Prep: Helen and Beryl

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Tomorrow at 10.00am

BIBLE STUDY: Tomorrow, 4 March at 1.15-2.45pm at Cornerstone

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Thursday 7 March at 10.30am at Cornerstone. Theme: Harvest time – bring readings, poems, songs, and ideas about harvest.

TIPS FOR KEEPING UP WITH EVENTS: It can be hard to know or remember what is happening week by week.

1. pin the back page of the bi-monthly newsletter near your calendar. This has all the special events, and changes to the regular schedule, that are planned ahead.
2. check or for things that hadn't made it into the newsletter, go to the Schedule page under the Church tab on the website www.kkup.org.nz.
3. if you are a Facebook user, "like" both the Kaeo-Kerikeri Union Parish and the Cornerstone – Whare Karakia o Manako pages and you'll see updates there.

CAR BOOT SALES: this Saturday 9 March 2019 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117 or carboot@kkup.org.nz

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