



10 March 2019  
Lent 1

**Minister:** Rev Dr Robyn McPhail  
**Musicians:** Kato Akau'ola KK Clyde Foster Kaeo  
**Readers:** Bob Tayler 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

**Reflection:** by Kate Matthews

Lent begins on a sombre note, in the deserted wilderness, with a story that reminds us of traditional Lenten practices like fasting, giving things up, and spending time deep in prayer.

This is one more opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of who Jesus is, although we were told quite clearly on the first Sunday in Epiphany, by the voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism, that he is the Son of God. Today's lesson is more about the *way*, and the *why*, Jesus is going to go about his ministry: we might say that *God is setting the ground rules*. The Son of God is not here to grab power for himself, or to show off how much he matters to God, or to work magic for the masses. That's not how it's going to work. Jesus will leave the wilderness, filled as always with the Holy Spirit, sure that he is God's beloved, and ready for what lies ahead. As our own Lenten journey begins, we too are sure of our companion in whatever wilderness we face, and we place our trust in him.

[http://www.ucc.org/weekly\\_seeds\\_wilderness\\_companions\\_2019](http://www.ucc.org/weekly_seeds_wilderness_companions_2019) , italics added

### Gathering with all the Saints

All gracious God, we come to worship you.  
 If the doors of our hearts are shut by fear or fault,  
 may Christ enter our inner room and greet us with peace.  
 May we see the marks of love that declare new life among us,  
 and catch again the Spring breeze of your Spirit.  
 MAY THE WELCOME OF JESUS IGNITE OUR HOPE,  
 SHED OUR FEAR, AND SHAME OUR PRIDE,  
 SO THAT OUR LIVES ARE OPEN TO YOUR CALL  
 AND RE-CENTRED IN YOUR LOVE. AMEN.

**Hymn** *Tama ngākau mārie* WOV633

### Prayer

We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

SO NOW WE BRING OUR HEARTS TO YOU, GENEROUS GOD,  
 SETTING THEM DOWN BEFORE YOU  
 IN HOPES THAT YOU WILL MEND THEM.  
 AS YOU HEAR OUR FALTERING WORDS,

WE PRAY YOU WOULD ANSWER US  
WITH YOUR FORGIVING LOVE.

AND, AS YOU FORGIVE US, MAY WE FROM HERE ON  
BE GENEROUS WITH OUR LIVES TOWARDS OTHERS,  
EVEN AS THE ONE WHO IS LORD OF ALL,  
JESUS CHRIST, HAS BEEN SO GENEROUS TO US.

©Thom M. Shuman adapted

## Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *What a friend we have in Jesus* [Bob's choice]

### Clarifying our Purpose

#### Conversation with the Word

Luke 4:1-13

The last temptation is the greatest treason: to do the right deed for the wrong reason.  
T.S. Eliot

There's a real sense of struggle out there in the wilderness. What seems to make it even more difficult is that the adversary comes across as a friend offering perfectly reasonable suggestions.

Surely it would be a good thing if Jesus could solve problems like his own hunger and then the so many hungry in the world. Wouldn't it be better if he were the ruler and not the Romans? And how out of this world it would be if he could do amazing stuff and not get hurt. He could achieve anything!

If early on in his ministry Jesus had done even one amazing thing, perhaps he wouldn't need to do anymore? No hard slog through the villages, no arguments with the leaders, no suffering with torture and execution. Everyone (or at least a large enough majority) convinced from the start that he's the one to be in charge.

Maybe not. That fact is that PR stunts are a contradiction of the gospel that Jesus was there to bring.

When Jesus saw crowds gathering around him, likely he often wondered what they were there for. A spectacular entertainment by way of wonders and unbelievable things, or the real good news? (Might it be the same question for us?)

Jesus' struggle is against this kind of short-cut route to power and influence. A short-cut that is not a short-cut at all, because it goes in the completely opposite direction to God's call on him. Which was to be God's beloved, never forget he is God's beloved, and therefore live God's way of compassion and justice.

Kate Matthews, whose words are on the front page of the bulletin also writes:

His disciples, including us today, will have much to learn from that struggle, about priorities and power. We don't often draw apart from the cacophony around us, or the incessant electronics of our lives, or the overload of messages and material objects, all of which seem to set up a smokescreen between us and God. Sometimes they're a smokescreen, and sometimes they're a thick, thick wall reinforced by our possessions, our place, our prestige – our security.

In a way (perhaps small, compared to forty days alone in the wilderness and a test by the devil himself), our ongoing economic troubles, especially income inequality, have provided an opportunity to re-examine our priorities and reflect on where we place our trust, as well as what holds power in our lives.

1. What are "tests" that you have faced in your journey of faith?
2. What are the ways modern Christians "blend in"?
3. What really "proves" our value, our effectiveness, our belovedness?
4. Is there any contradiction between being a Christian and being comfortable?
5. What path will you take in the Lenten season ahead?

### Conversations around the Table

#### The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

... *prayer book prayers*...

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.

So, come, the table has been made ready. The gifts of God for the people of God await you.

**Offering Hymn** *He came singing love* WOV636

### **The Peace**

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Karaiti ki runga ki a koutou

KEI A KOE ANŌ HOKI

The peace of Christ be with you

AND ALSO WITH YOU

### **Communion**

Gracious God, starburst of life,  
space and time swirl out in your love.  
WE GIVE THANKS TO DISCOVER YOUR GRACE  
IN THIS EVER CHANGING WORLD.

You whisper your love-song into human hearts.

You know each of us by our own name  
and take delight in who we are.

YOU GIVE US FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SHARE OUR JOURNEY,  
AND THE GREAT STORY OF YOUR PEOPLE  
LEARNING THE LIFE OF FAITH,  
SO WE TURN TO YOU WITH THANKFUL HEARTS.

In delight or distress we thank you  
that Jesus leads the way to real life.  
He knew a family home and a joiner's bench.  
He gathered friends to share his vision,  
and stirred all Galilee with your realm of grace.  
His story shows a loving touch that brings hope and healing,  
a look that sees deep into the troubled heart,  
and a welcome to embrace the lonely and rejected.  
Here we find a courage to defy the ruthless,  
and a readiness to forgive  
which sets us free to start again.

With friends gathered for a meal  
on the last night they shared together,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke it, and gave it to them, saying,  
"This is my body, broken for you."  
After supper he took the cup,  
recalled your grace, and shared it with them, saying,  
"Drink from it, all of you."  
Here is my life poured out  
for all to share God's covenant of love.

WE REMEMBER CHRIST'S STORY  
WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE AMONG US,  
WE WORK FOR THE FULFILMENT HE WILL BRING.

Therefore, Deep Spirit, we recall these things,  
wanting to share Christ's grace and truth,  
seeking that transfusion of hope which you instil,  
and inviting your healing and reforming touch,  
which we welcome now into our lives.

MAY THE WARMTH OF CHRIST DRAW OUR MINDS AND WILLS  
SO THAT YOUR RADIANCE MAY FILL AND SHAPE ALL WE DO.

By the impulse of your love  
may we walk with compassion and grace  
until all things move to the beat of your heart  
and all creation rings  
with the celebration of your justice and your love.

### Lord's Prayer

### Breaking of Bread

The bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ.  
WE WHO ARE MANY ARE ONE BODY  
BECAUSE WE ALL SHARE THE ONE BREAD.  
The cup of blessing for which we give thanks  
Is a sharing in the spirit of Christ.  
WE WELCOME HIS TRANSFORMING GRACE AND TRUTH.

### Communion

## Loving the World as God Loves

### Serving in the Week Ahead

Go!  
Never stop walking out of the church room,  
out from peace and tranquility, into the noise and discomfort,  
out, to laughter and tears.  
Carry with you the living bread,  
as a treasure in your hands and your heart.  
Share it over and over again.  
It will always be enough, as long as you continue to break it.

Come!  
Never stop coming back to this place!  
Never arrive empty-handed.  
Bring with you the cry that is pressing just behind your lips.  
Let it be heard in this room.  
Bring with you the hunger that is never stilled,  
the fight that is not yet won.  
Bring someone who has always been at your side without you knowing it. Here is the meeting place - in the light of God's face.

Hans Olav Moerk, Norway; English translation Kari Veiteberg, from the worship at the Church City Mission in Oslo

### Blessing

*Mā te mārīe a te Atua...*

Robyn McPhail, 10.03.2019

### NOTICES FOR TODAY – 10 MARCH 2019

**Parish email:** 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

**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 17 MARCH 2019 AUTUMN HARVEST SERVICE

**Musicians:** Dave Hallam KK Clyde Foster Kaeo

**Readers:** Michelle Tupou KK tba Kaeo

**Door and Tea:** Gage and John **Flowers:** Joan

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

**PASTORAL WORKSHOP:** Presented by The Rev Dr Mary Caygill

**Date:** 16 March 2019 at 9.30am for a cup of tea - course starts at 10am.

**Place:** Kaurihohore/Kamo Co-operating Parish, Gold coin koha

Bring your own lunch - morning and afternoon tea provided.

We will be car-pooling from Cornerstone at 8.15am. Everyone is invited to come along to a very worthwhile and rewarding workshop.

Contact: Jessica Phone 407 5555. Numbers due in by today.

### **HARVEST SERVICE**

Next Sunday 17 March at Kerikeri and Kaeo

Please bring something symbolic to place on the table on Sunday. Non-perishables for the Food Bank are always appreciated.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Tomorrow, 11 March at 1.15-2.45pm at Cornerstone

**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. to check 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](http://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 SALE:** Saturday 23 March 2019 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117 or [carboot@kkup.org.nz](mailto:carboot@kkup.org.nz)

**KK HOME GROUP:** Friday 15 March – Lunch at Margot's at Tapuaetahi Contact Michelle, Phone 020 4168 6931

**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.