



24 March 2019
Lent 3
HARVEST
SERVICE

Minister: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail

Musicians: Marie Cannon KK Lorelei Hayes Kaeo

Readers: Helen Norman 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

Harvest Reflection by Jean Andrewes

I feel at the ripe old age I've reached, that right now is Harvest Time in my life. I find myself looking back, reminiscing, remembering, re-examining, rejoicing, rejecting, the different memories of my life. The journey, my own personal journey, that I walked, and always God's loving eye and guiding hand there for me.

Harvest comes all through our year, physically shown by different fruits ripening at different times. I've often been over-awed by the way God's timing is so perfect and the nourishment, the vitamins needed, all the requirements our body needs, wonderful foods spread throughout the year; not all maturing and becoming edible at once, but spread out, giving those with an abundance the opportunity to share with friends and neighbours.

Right now, I'm rejoicing in the harvest of the blue berries. How lucky we are to live in this beautiful country, this fertile Kerikeri, and enjoy the fruits and vegetables that nourish us - ours for the taking.

The Harvest begins with the planting, the sowing. How we handle those times is entirely up to us as individuals. For those of us privileged to have a close connection with God, he will love us and forgive our wrong choices. God understands our temptations, our stupidities, and patiently stays with us and nudges us along. Yes, NOW is my harvest time, and it's now I reap the benefits of all I am now blessed with - the love of family, of friends, of the God who never gives up on us.

Let's spread the love!!

Hymn *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah/Arahina* WOV661

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Luke 6:38

Prayer

Overflowing generosity,
you have blessed us by the great love
that you have given us in Jesus Christ.
We praise you for all you have given us.
These hills and valleys, these plain and rivers,
sing of your glory.
The trees and grass, the stock and crops,
the buildings, orchards, and farms,

the safety and shelter of our homes,
help us celebrate our partnership as a community with the land.
By your covenant with us
we are managers and stewards of creation.
Through good and tough times
you stand by us.
Sometimes the way ahead is
as steep as the distant hills,
sometimes easy and flat as the harbour plains.
You know our skills and capabilities.
You know our gifts and weaknesses,
We place all we have, our achievements and possessions,
beneath the widespread branches of your care.

Creator God, we live as though we alone
possess the tree of all knowledge and power.
Lord, have mercy
LORD, HAVE MERCY

Saviour Christ, we limit our generosity
and ignore the needs of our neighbours.
Christ, have mercy
CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Holy Spirit, we reject your abundant gifts
And seek security in material possessions.
Lord, have mercy
LORD, HAVE MERCY

Generous God, from whom flows forgiveness,
renew our lives,
open our hearts,
and restore us to yourself. AMEN

©Bill Bennett, *Seasons of the Land*, adapted

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *We are many, we are one* [Helen's choice]
God will take care of you [Lorelei's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, keeping in mind some thoughts from Philippians 3:17-4:1

This ancient text tells of a ceremony handed down through these people's oral history. After their ancestors settled in the new land, a ceremony was to be held year after year, lest they ever forget.

Key points:

- Be very aware of what you have been given and that you have been given it. It is gift, not possession in the sense of owned property. A better translation of "inheritance to possess" would be inheritance to make your home. Just as Māori understanding sees it, not as land we own, as but land that owns us. That's the ancient Hebrew understanding, the biblical understanding. To live with it and live from its benefits. To live for its benefit and sustain its life.
- Gift: therefore the response is thankfulness. Annual thankfulness, with the turn of each round of seasons.
- "First fruits" mean giving in response in a way that is counter to the natural instinct, particularly when fearful for survival. The natural instinct is to hold onto what we get first until we have enough. So this is giving, not the leftovers, but from the start. Even before the year's tally is in and the accounts balanced planning to give in thankfulness.
- As those words from Luke 6 at the start:

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Now looking back on this last year, what have been the particular gifts, the measure, that you have received. What has been your harvest – what do you celebrate?

There is of course the other stuff: what you might not want to think of giving to God because you'd rather not remember. What's been hard. What are our laments from this past year, that need to be spoken not hidden so they don't eat away at us into the future? We offered much lament last week. There will be other things too, that were sitting with us prior to 15 March.

Conversation...

There's an interesting idea in Philippians 3 that can help us take this a step further.

In our context, we naturally think first about our own situation when asked about the how things are going. Overall we're inclined to think as an individual. It is very entrenched in Western thinking. It has been valuable in terms of developing individuality and appreciating the unique worth of each person. But.

This ancient text is speaking of something primarily communal. It's communal gift of a place to belong and communal response to that gift. Each brings their individual contribution – our individual memories of the past year, the celebrations and the laments. In sharing them together they become a communal response to the gift of this past year.

In Philippians 3 Paul speaks of citizenship – of being a person in relation to the whole community, and not just an individual self. His particular interest is our citizenship in heaven, i.e. being part of community living God's way and living towards the future with the goal of all life lived God's way.

Have we ever experienced this in the last week and a bit! Citizenship on earth as in heaven has in fact been lived by ordinary everyday, religious or otherwise, people.

Active citizenship, in other words. Living our lives for the common good as opposed to living exclusively as a private individual. Paul's word in Greek for a private individual is, interestingly, *idiotes*. In its time it meant someone heedless of all social responsibilities and indifferent to the claims of community.

I thought of the young people in Christchurch and how they were responding, on their own initiative. Baking food for victims' families and the emergency services; Cashmere High School's head boy, Okirano Tilaia calling all schools together for a vigil. And the fact that many young people were in the centre of the city for the international climate change march at the very time the horror began to unfold.

Young life in Christchurch knows what it is to fear and to be victims. Those high school students would have been young children when the earthquakes hit. Then they learnt fear and about being powerless against natural forces. What I see now is also fear but there's a sense of purpose. There is something they can do. They're not powerless. We're not powerless: we can change attitudes and speech and behaviour. Those who are white can reflect on what "whiteness" means. Those whose voices are heard most because they fit the norm of who is worth listening to can reflect on that fact and give voice to those who have been voiceless.

Have you ever heard as many diverse voices in New Zealand as we have heard in the last ten days? The leading voices, the majority of voices, speaking as New Zealanders having accents, with faces of many shades, and just a wee few white.

People of God's way are not *idiotes*, but people of community, sharing responsibility, living within webs of relationship with others. Living in networks of action for the common good.

Today in this service we bring our personal thankfulness and lament for this past season of life. Individual plus shared thankfulness. Our own stories each important within the ongoing story of us being God's kind of community together.

Where will we be next Autumn Harvest service time?

Conversations around the Table

Offering Hymn *We plough the fields with tractors* tune: WOV59

Prayer of Re-Dedication

God, you are like the fertile land around us.

You are like the constant energy of growth.
We re-commit ourselves, our wealth, our work,
and our possessions to you.
Help us be faithful and honest.
May our gifts of time and talents, money and kind,
release the giftedness of all people,
and grow the kingdom of love like a new forest,
in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

©Bill Bennett, *Seasons of the Land*

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

... *prayer book prayers*...

Lord's Prayer

Loving the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

Hymn *I have a dream* tune: Repton WOV519ii

Blessing

Go in peace to delight in the gifts of your Creator, tread a safe and costly path with the Christ walking before you, and ride high with the wings of the Spirit as you cover and your flight.

Kia tau...

Robyn McPhail, 24.03.2019

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 24 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 31 MARCH 2019

Worship Leader: Rev Les Ferguson

Musicians: Clyde Foster KK Clyde Foster Kaeo

Readers: Ngaire Allwood KK tba Kaeo

Door and Tea: Bev and Bob (or Gage and John)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

TED ROBINSON CHAPEL: Today at 4.00pm Communion Service led by Robyn.

BIBLE STUDY: Tomorrow 25 March at 1.15-2.45pm at Cornerstone

Material for April/May newsletter being produced this week – any further items, send to Robyn asap

CAR BOOT SALE: Saturday 13 and 27 April 2019 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117 or carboot@kkup.org.nz

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.
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.

STUDY LEAVE: Robyn's study leave continues in the midst of parish work. She is still available most of the time, but you can also contact Bev and Alan (Ministry Leadership Group 4016625, 4050688) if need be.

NEW ROLE: Parish Council is pleased to announce that Michelle Tupou has been appointed to the 10 hour a week role of Management Assistant for Cornerstone. More details in the next newsletter.