



5 January 2020
Christmas 2
Celebrating Epiphany

Thinking Allowed – Thinking Aloud Allowed

Worship Leader: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail

Musician: Marie Cannon - KK Clyde Foster - Kaeo

Readers: Marie Cannon - 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 and into our homes.

Being family, we watch out for, and care for, one another.



Tātou tātou e

Settling in

Gathering with the Saints – Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God
Source of all life
Source of all love
creation with us
our past and our future
mother and father of all that's to be

We believe in God
Christ of our history
link with eternity
one with our humanness
revealing our hopefulness
traveller before us, the sign of the way.

We believe in God
Spirit of newness
Spirit of power
Wisdom and wonder,
mystery and miracle
She moves in her freedom, transforming the earth.

We believe in the church
born of our struggles
open to changes
centred on loving
and moving and growing
heart of the community turned to the world.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Hymn *In the bulb there is a flower*

Prayer Sacred Silence by Joy Cowley in *Come and See 22*

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *Where the road runs out* WOV672 AA156 [Marie's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Story [Three Wise Camels](http://www.lostsheep.org.au) www.lostsheep.org.au

Reflection

Epiphany is the church season that is heralded by the Wise Ones.

This is Matthew's moment when it is recognised who Jesus is. Immanuel, God with us.

As an aside, Luke's gospel uses angels to announce the link between God and the newborn Jesus and John's gospel speak of God connecting to humanity by pitching his tent and moving into the neighbourhood. *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.... And the Word became flesh and lived among us.* The Greek word that's usually translated "lived among us" can mean pitch a tent and Eugene Peterson's paraphrase captures it nicely, speaking of moving into the neighbourhood.

In Matthew, the key image is light, resplendent light. An epiphany is a moment of sudden and striking realisation. The light bulb effect: aha! So *this* is who has been born.

And, as Matthew tells the tale, this moment happens courtesy of astronomers/philosophers from the East.

They are *foreigners* – this is God for the whole world.

They are *inquirers* – that's how you find what you're looking for; that's what's needed when you don't know the answer to something, or when things are getting stuck.

They are *people who question* and search for answers – that's the path to understanding and discovering what is really important.

In this case, it means discovering that the source and Spirit of life lives among us. Not distant and separate from us, not a puppeteer pulling our puppet strings, and definitely not a king who holds power by fear and punishment. A child.

God among us, living the life we live, living our joys and our pains, right here, right alongside.

The same "being" so to speak, this source and Spirit of life, that is as awesome and beyond us as the stars. Transcendent *and* immanent, to use the theologians' words. Utter holiness *and* God with skin on.

For us, I see the story of the wise ones as a call to reclaim those gifts in ourselves that we were born with, the gifts these philosophers have retained.

The gift of asking questions – just hang around children and you'll remember how big a part of life questions are.

The gift of inquiring – again observe the ways of children. Also those who are achievers, whether the kind of achievement that makes money, or the kind that quietly makes lives better for others.

And the gift of stepping outside our own territory to where we feel foreigners, otherwise known as stepping outside our comfort zone.

We all started with these gifts. Getting to adulthood can have had too much of it knocked out of us, sadly. The more authoritarian, directive approach to parenting and teaching of years past has a lot to answer for. It still happens now particularly in what I'd call a "short fuse" approach: just do as I tell you!

Be told and be obedient. The instructional method, seats lined up in rows, the one at front speaking at the listeners, and them listening (or not), like blank slates being written on by the speaker's words.

It doesn't work. Our brains are not blank slates and we don't learn that way. Worse still, it quashes our own innate ability to inquire and explore and learn.

Be told and be obedient.

Don't question.

Don't wonder what if or perhaps or couldn't it be different.

Don't rock the boat.

The discovery by the wise men is our permission to put all of this behind us and recover the inquiring and searching we once knew. God is in our midst, and God's presence is to be found by us looking, asking, and noticing for ourselves.

That's epiphany. Aha! I see in this moment, at this thin place, a presence that has no better name than God.

Carol *And by the light* vv.3-6 of *The First Noel* WOY221

Conversations around the Table

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Iran, Iraq, Syria

We are **thankful** for:

the resilience of the people who remain in Syria, Iraq and Iran, despite constant threats and ongoing violence
the relief and assistance that has been provided to so many
those who have made a new home for refugees fleeing from these countries
those who have worked continually for peace, justice and reconciliation.

We **pray** for:

an end to the violence of global powers using these countries as battlefields
political leaders emerging in these countries who will pursue peace, the common good, and human rights of all groups
the international community to pursue policies that will result in acceptable, just peace for all involved
greater openness to welcoming those displaced or fleeing from these lands, desperately seeking safety and wellbeing.

prayer book prayers...

Offering Hymn *Come as you are*

Invitation

At the Last Supper Jesus, sharing bread and wine,
invited the disciples to share his journey.
Like many grains of wheat becoming one loaf of bread,
the disciples were invited to become one body with him.

Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.
We renew our unity with one another,
and with all those who have gone before us in this place.

Through bread and wine,
we renew our communion with the earth
and our interwovenness with the broken ones of the world.

So come, taste of this bread and wine,
gifts of the earth, work of human hands,
food both of earth and of heaven.

Ko Ihowa ki a koutou *The Lord be with you*
KEI A KOE ANŌ HOKI. *And also with you*

Narrative

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread
and, having blessed it,
he broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'This is my body, which is given for you.'
And later he took the cup of wine and said,
'This cup is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of my death.
Take this and share it.
I will drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God.'

So now, following Jesus' example,
we take this bread and this grape juice,
the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us.
And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,

let us also celebrate God's goodness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BLESSED ARE YOU, O GOD,
FOR YOU HAVE BROUGHT FORTH BREAD FROM THE EARTH.
BLESSED ARE YOU, O GOD,
FOR YOU HAVE CREATED THE FRUIT OF THE VINE.

In the beginning you watered the earth
that man and woman might have food and drink.

YOU GAVE TO YOUR SERVANT SARAH
BREAD TO STRENGTHEN HER FAMILY ON THEIR JOURNEY,
AND WINE TO MAKE THEM GLAD.

You called Moses and his people out of bondage
and refreshed them with food in the wilderness.

YOU GAVE MARY AND JESUS THEIR DAILY BREAD TO SHARE.

And here at your table
you offer us bread and wine for the journey
to nourish us as sons and daughters.

AND SO WITH ALL OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS,
BEFORE US AND BESIDE US,
WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS FOR LIFE,

as we pray together as Jesus taught,

E tō mātou Matua/Our Father

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

Lord Jesus Christ,
present with us now,
as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,
breathe your Spirit upon us,
and upon this bread and this grape juice,
that they may be heaven's food and drink for us,
renewing, sustaining and making us whole,
and that we may be your body on earth,
loving and caring in the world.

The Iona Community

Breaking and Sharing Communion

Loving the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

Hymn *You are called to tell the story* tune: Regent Square WOV84

Blessing

Go in joy,
to sing with the whole creation
of the glory of God.
And God the Creator be the source of our life,
God in Christ rise in our midst
and the Spirit we wise in our ways.

Kia tau...

Robyn McPhail, 05.01.2020

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 5 January 2020

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 for Bulletin and Newsletter: news@kkup.org.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 12 JANUARY 2020

10.30am Celebration of Community

(Robyn's last service)

Musician: Dave Hallam (KK) **Reader:** Kay Blunkell - KK

Combined Parish Service 10.30am

Shared Lunch 11.30am

Formalities 12.45pm

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

PŌWHIRI/POROPOROAKE –

Celebration of Farewell and Welcome

Saturday 11 January Te Patunga Marae

[585 Pupuke Mangapa Road, Kaeo](#)

Gather 9.30am at marae entrance for the Wero, Karanga, then Karakia and Mihi in the Wharehui.

Service of Communion, Baptism and Confirmation in the Whare Karakia.

Spit-roast dinner (Hākari) to conclude.

Contributions of kai or towards the koha welcomed.

Car-pooling: Cornerstone 8.30am Kaeo Church 9am

“HAPPY TO CHAT” BENCH: The Garden Group plan to put a seat in place at the road front on Kerikeri Road for passers-by to rest on. The idea of a ‘Happy to Chat’ bench is that it offers an opportunity for contact, particular if people are on their own and lonely.

The idea started in England and has taken off all over the world. If you would like to make a donation for a ‘Happy to Chat’ seat, and for its sign and installation, please put your donation in an envelope marked ‘SEAT’ in the offering bag. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL: GIVE WATER GIVE LIFE

Contributions can still be made to this year's Christian World Service Christmas appeal. Place your donation with the offering the appeal envelope, or a clearly marked envelope, or go online to christmasappeal.org.nz

WATER

CAR BOOT SALES: next sale on 11 January at 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone.

Contact: Mary 021 722 938 or carboot@kkup.org.nz

NOTICE FROM PARISH COUNCIL: Anybody who would like to give a farewell cash donation towards Robyn and Neil's new home, please either drop into the Office at Cornerstone or pay on-line with reference "minister gift" to 01-0382-0012129-000 account name "Kaeo-Kerikeri Union Parish".