



Kaero - Kerikeri Union Parish Newsletter

December 2020 / January 2021 / February 2021



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – 24 Dec
9.30pm at Cornerstone, Kerikeri

Christmas Services – 25 Dec
9.00am at Cornerstone, Kerikeri
10.15am at Wesleydale, Kaero

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year.
Have a safe
holiday season
with family
and friends.**

ADVENT REFLECTION

By Rev Sikolone Taufa

We have just finished travelling this strange journey called Advent, again, with a particular emphasis on the themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. It made it stranger this year because it was started with Mark gospel's emphasis on the end-time before we were reintroduced to this idea of a new heaven and a new earth.

This year, this advent journey was a timely reminder (for me), that I was travelling a familiar pathway to Bethlehem, to be with Jesus in his arrival. A pathway that had been travelled by so many people before me and a pathway that I have travelled so many times before.

So, what difference that this year's journey made?

For me personally, I was fascinated by the possibilities that this new world and new earth's experiences can be a reality and could be experienced

by many more people here and now. I remembered the promises and the hope that was expected of his arrival.

I was taken by the smallness of idea, (that there will be a new kingdom), that was introduced to David and ultimately led to the founding of the world's largest religion.

I was taken by the beauty of the vision that was unfold to Mary, (that kingdom will last forever), a vision that became one of the most re tell story in the whole world.

I was reminded also that advent is about hope that things can be different because the reality of our world now is far from the one that was expected.

Our advent journey toward Bethlehem is a smaller version of our journey toward that particular time,

somewhere, where ultimately God will come (when, where, how - I don't know) to re-establish that kingdom.

This year I have found myself waiting for Advent to begin with a need and a longing I cannot remember ever feeling in quite this way before. I still want to sing "Love came down on Christmas" - but the reality of our world is different - it seems at time that Love never came down on Christmas. Because of the longing of my heart, I found myself praying a lot and I recalled - praying to God to come now...

Come, Lord Jesus. Come, God-with-us. Come and usher in your kingdom. Put the wrong things right. Turn the power structures upside down, including mine, so that the churches too can be remade in holiness and faithfulness and joy and love.

Bring that justice to this sorry world of ours, live out that integrity among us. I open my hearts to receive you. I open my life to be yours. And if your remaking of the world upsets this comfortable life of mind, so be it. Just come!

I still want to believe that we are not deceived to think that the biblical promises are nothing more than beautiful, empty dreams, by our experience of watching Christianity been awfully tired and pathetic, as it was portrayed by the media

I listened to the news, especially how Christian people treating other people, and I found myself wondering - what have I done, to stop people treating others as less worth than they are.

What have we (Christian) been doing while the world has changed around us?

I want to propose that we embrace this beautiful advent vision with all its richness and with all its un-comfortabilities. So that we can look at those evil power in the face without shying away - and do what God would do - and say that uncompromising NO that love sometimes has to say.

No to greed.

No to racism

No to oppression.

No to violence.

No to exploitation.

No to selfishness.

No to contamination of the earth and destruction of the forests.

Get in touch with your deepest love for the world and its people and start saying no to everything that works against them.

Gardening is my newfound hobbies. Getting out the spade and turning over all the soil and planting small seeds in it and then stand back and watching the soil giving birth to something new and beautiful. It is an experienced that had reminded me of what advent called me to do. The clearing away, the waiting, the hoping, and the believing - that change is a possibility.

I am ready and I am sure we are all ready to welcome the Christ child again with joy as the first fruits of all the promises come true. All the promises finally, gloriously, come true. Amen.



Newsletters:

We would like to keep these newsletters interesting so if you come across any items that may be good for newsletters, at any stage,

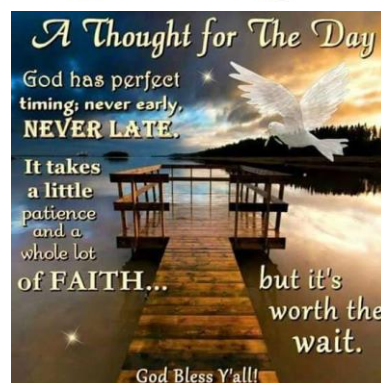
Inspirational Sayings

Meaningful Stories

Church News

Up and Coming Events

Please send it to news@kkup.org.nz



December Parish Council Report

It's just as well, perhaps, that we have a committee like Parish Council to make decisions for the church! The Council decided to get another quote to put some Solar Power panels on the Funeral Home to provide power for the Home and for the church itself. Before another quote was obtained Mercury Energy cancelled the first quote! So we are starting again.

The change made in our foyer at Cornerstone seems to be working well. i.e. putting a window in the wall on the right so that hosts/hostesses can be in what was the office, and observe people coming and going through the front door. That used to be the Administrator's office so now the Administrator is working in the next office down the hall, the minister's office. Saikolone prefers to work from an office in the church house, so that has worked out well.


A new cleaner has started working for us in Cornerstone, Lorna. It will be interesting to see how she goes, it is early days yet. But she is a Christian and therefore more likely to be aligned with the aims and goals of the church.

The Ministry team of Saikolone Taufu, Bev Tayler and Alan Robinson were asked to work out a contract for a new position: the Assistant Administrator; and to review the contracts of our current Administrator (Suzanne Campbell) and Cornerstone Manager (Michelle Tupou).

The Assistant Administrator contract has been signed, with Jodie Cotton taking up the part time position after a trial period. So, if you need to get any publicity or message out to the parish get in touch with Jodie. She has orchestrated a revamping of our church website and that is nearly completed.

Now the other two contracts can be looked at/reviewed. There has been a delay in this work as a template from the Methodist Church took a while to get to us.

Best Wishes to all for the Christmas period, and on into the new year - 2021!!



Take time to walk around the garden, smell the flowers, and feel free to pull any weeds you may see or give that thirsty plant a drink. I know they will appreciate it.



Do you have any neighbours or friends that are on their own at this time? Why not go and share some Christmas cheer!!

Kaeo Kerikeri Union Parish Contact List

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Ministry Team

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Calendar

Weekly / Regular Church Events

Sunday Services	9.30am	Kerikeri Worship – Cornerstone, 144 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri
	11.15am	Kaeo Worship – Wesleydale Memorial Church, Leigh Street, Kaeo
Bible Study	1.15pm	Monday at Cornerstone, Kerikeri. Please Note: There is no Bible Study over the Christmas and New Year period. Start up for 2021 TBA.
Car Boot Sale	7.30am	2 nd and 4 th Saturday of the month. Please Note: No Car Boot Sale 26 December

Other Events

December

Thurs 24	9.30pm	Christmas Eve Service at Cornerstone
Fri 25	9.00am	Christmas Service at Cornerstone, Kerikeri
	10.15am	Christmas Service at Wesleydale, Kaeo

January 2021

Sun 10	9.30am	Communion Service
Tues 19	7.00pm	Parish Council at Wesleydale, Kaeo

February 2021

Wed 3	12.30pm	Cornerstone Management Meeting
Sun 14	9.30am	Communion Service
Tues 16	7.00pm	Parish Council at Wesleydale, Kaeo
Thurs 18	3.30pm	Girls Brigade Starting
Fri 19		Material for March / April Newsletter Due

Kerikeri Sunday Rosters

	Door and Tea Duty	Communion Prep	Readers	Flowers
27 Dec	Arlene & Trevor		Akisi	Jenny
3 Jan 2021	Elaine & Ian		Jean	Jenny
10 Jan	Michelle & Akisi	Helen & Ros	David	Jenny
17 Jan	Bev & Bob		Bob	Mary
24 Jan	Arlene & Mary		Christina	Mary
31 Jan	Gage & John		Joy	Joan
7 Feb	Tervor & Neville		Michelle	Joan
14 Feb	Michelle & Akisi	Stella & Arlene	Ngaire	Jenny / Karen
21 Feb	Elaine & Ian		Stella	Jenny / Karen
28 Feb	Christina & Rilla		Helen	Mary

Lectionary Readings

27 Dec	Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
3 Jan 2021	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1: (1-9), 10-18
10 Jan	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
17 Jan	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
24 Jan	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
31 Jan	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
7 Feb	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
14 Feb	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalms 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
21 Feb	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
28 Feb	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8:31-38 (9:2-9)