



8 January 2017  
Epiphany 1

## Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

*“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”*

**Minister:** Rev Dr Robyn McPhail  
**Musicians:** Marie Cannon KK                      Clyde Foster Kaeo  
**Reader:** Ros Simpson KK                      tba                      Kaeo

Do you have the patience to wait till your mud settles and water is clear?

Lao Tzu. 6th century BCE

Bidden or unbidden, God is present.                      Karl Jung, 20th century

### EXTRA NOTICES

**CAR BOOT SALE:** This Saturday **14 January**, 7am to midday, home again at last, on site at our place. Contact Mary 407 1117 re arrangements for the day; also offers to help. All welcome.

**VOLUNTEER HOSTS AT CORNERSTONE:** There are still plenty of vacancies for the team of volunteer hosts and for other tasks in relation to the building in Kerikeri. Forms are available at Kerikeri church today. Extra help will be needed 23 January to 3 February during the minister's holiday leave, and also (hopefully) a couple of days this week or next.

### Activity Space at Cornerstone

Children and young people, and those who like to do something while they listen, are invited to move around the Activity Space.

### Plugging in

#### Gathering with all the Saints

Haere mai ki ahau, e koutou katoa e māuiui ana,  
 e taimaha ana, ā māku koutou e whakaokioki.  
 Come to me all who labour

and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
AND ALSO WITH YOU  
Kia tau te rangimāire a te Karaiti ki runga ki a koutou  
KEI A KOE ANŌ HOKI

**Hymn** *Koutou katoa rā/Come to the saviour* WOV659

### **Prayer**

God of the land,  
God of the thunder and waves  
God of the fire and the friend,  
God of the table and the welcome  
We come to you, with glad hearts  
knowing that you take delight in humility  
you take delight in seeking out and saving the bereft and bruised  
you take delight in your beloved children.  
Help us to live into this beloved delight  
so that we may see delight in life and in one another.

*pause*

God of the Universe,  
God of the Earth,  
God of this House of Prayer  
We come before you today knowing  
that we can sometimes admire loud power  
and ignore humble power.  
We say and do not follow through.  
We offer and do not hand over.  
Give us the wisdom to live in ways that create life not demean it.  
And help us to live powerfully with and for  
the outsider, the ignored, the demeaned, the forgotten.  
For you see all, and you take delight in the lives of welcome.

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

### **Symbol of God's Presence**

**Song** *Breathe on me breath of God* tune: Carlisle WOV383 [Ros' choice]

**Clarifying our Purpose**

### **Conversation with the Word**

Matthew 3:13-17

The Church recruited people who had been starched and ironed before they were washed

John Wesley

John preached a baptism (a washing) for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus comes to John to be washed; yet he had no sin. So, why? Perhaps it was a statement of solidarity. Although Jesus had no sin, humanity is so plagued. Jesus is in solidarity with humanity, at one with our downfall, at one with us wherever we may be, or not be. The challenge for us is to accept a two way street. If Jesus is one with us, are we bold enough to be one with him? Can we like Jesus go into the darkness of other people to open their eyes and release them from dungeons (Isaiah 42:7)? Often we can't because, although we are starched and ironed, looking real good in church, we are not yet washed of our cowardice. But when washed in the daring of Jesus we will hear the same heavenly voice that spoke of Jesus (Matthew 3:17) say the same words to us: "This is my son, my daughter, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Jesus' solidarity calls for our solidarity.

Bob Eldan, <https://preachingtip.com/preaching-tip-of-the-week/>

Baptism had been practised at the time as a ritual cleansing for converts to Judaism. John the Baptist picked up the ritual and turned it on its head. It was for everyone, Jews included, to repent – to be transformed in mind and heart or, in Old Testament terms, to turn back to God. Its focus was turning around and facing God's direction.

Ritual cleansing to fit into a new religion is like John Wesley's comment about being starched and ironed. Made to fit, to conform to requirements. The new baptism in contrast is about clearing away what gets in the way of being in tune with God's resolve for justice and well-being.

It's about turning around.

Another interesting thing to consider is the conversation between the cousins. You could imagine the relationship, with a certain closeness, but also tensions. Older/younger; tuakana/teina. Which is which? How do they get on? Can they relax together? John no doubt stammering "but, but, you should be baptising me..." he seems definitely to be deferring to his younger relation. So notice how Jesus responds.

Not statement followed by counter-statement, like the usual polite banter to settle the pecking order. “You're important too.” “Not compared to you.” “Without you...” and so on. Not voice and counter-voice, “I/you”, “you/I”, but voice joining voice: “us”.

*It is proper for us in this way...* This is how we – we together – will work for righteousness, which is also translated justice (God's justice), that is right relationships among all that is.

You might think of righteousness as something that is gained one by one. Each person to be transformed, to change, to be saved in Christian terms, in Buddhist terms (I think) to reach nirvana. Yes it does relate to each individual person. It makes a difference how each of us thinks and acts and responds. But there's a sense in which it isn't until all have made it, that it is for real. Righteousness, right relationship, justice, salvation, etc. is still in progress until not one person and not one thing is on the outer to it.

Jesus' so called sinlessness is a case in point. In a sense it is incomplete until all are the same.

Righteousness, right relationship, justice is a matter of “we” not just “I”. An all inclusive “we”.

All turned around. All God-connected.

Bob Eldan speaks of an act of solidarity. I think it goes even deeper than that – solidarity based on the reality of being connected.

At the table – here in our midst – we enact this turning around, this turning back. We take our place at Jesus' open table of right relationships, God's table of justice.

## Conversations around the Table

### Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Iran, Iraq, Syria

*...prayer book prayers...*

Prayer of Mothers by Yael Deckelbaum

Isaiah 42:5-7,9 - patchwork

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I give you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness. ...  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

### **Communion Prayer - da Vinci**

Your voice thunders in the night,  
and sings love songs  
in the morning.

Your voice tumbles raging rapids,  
and ripples pools of peace.

Your voice snaps trees in two,  
and can mend broken hearts  
with a sigh.

**WE GIVE GLORY TO YOUR  
NAME, GOD OF OUR LIVES.**

Guided by grace,  
you became the champion  
of justice.

Beloved of the sightless,  
you release those  
we would shackle.

Broken for our sake,

you shape our souls  
into silhouettes hanging  
in the Hall of Servants.

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR  
GRACE, CHILD OF THE  
WATERS.**

You cup your hands  
around our flickering faith,  
breathing us to new life.

You call us to work for justice,  
teaching us intentional  
acts of service.

You immerse us in courage,  
daring us to speak  
words of hope.

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR  
LOVE, SPIRIT OF WONDER.**

Adapted from ©2016 Thom M. Shuman

### **Invitation to Communion *Simple Gifts***

A Shaker song written in 1848:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,

And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

## **Narrative**

What we do here, we do because it's what Jesus chose to do with his friends the night before he died.

During their meal together, he took bread.  
And when he had bless it,  
he broke it,  
and said to his disciples,  
“This is my body. It is given for you.  
Do this to remember me.”

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine  
and said,  
“In this cup is the new relationship with God  
made possible because of my death.  
Drink it, all of you... to remember me.”

So we do has he did.

We take this bread and this grape juice  
the produce of the earth  
and the work of human hands  
through which Jesus has promised  
to make himself known.

And we pray together, as Jesus taught...

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Breaking and Sharing – Jesus and women**

Ko tēnei taro i whatia nei ko te whakakotahitanga o te tinana o te Karaiti.

*The bread we break is the communion of the Body of Christ.*

Ko tēnei kapu o te manaakitanga e whakawhetai nei tātou ko te whakakotahitanga o ngā toto o te Karaiti.

*The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is the communion of the blood of Christ.*

Ngā taonga o te Atua mō ōna pononga

*The gifts of God for the people of God*

## **Sent to Carry Healing and Hope**

### **Serving in the Week Ahead**

In the community

... being Christ shaped

You have been fed.

You have been grafted to the vine.

You have tasked heaven's new wine.

You have been blessed in receiving the shape of Christ within you

to love yourself – you are God's treasure,

to love the world – it is God's pleasure.

To love the Lord in greatest measure.

*Adapted from A Wee Worship Book Fifth Incarnation, WGRG*

**Song** *One more step along the world I go*

### **Blessing**

Kia tau/The grace...

...[singing] *Now unto him who is able to keep*

**Screen Sheet** available for the service at Kerikeri

**Sermon Sheets** available to take home.

**Morning Tea** following the service at Kerikeri.



# A CATHEDRAL WELCOME



**We extend a special welcome** to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor.

**We extend a special welcome** to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

**We welcome you** whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.'  
*(We're not that keen on it either!)*

**We offer a welcome** to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

**We welcome those** who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and YOU!

*With kind permission of Coventry Cathedral*

St George's Cathedral Cape Town at the door... Amen!!

## NOTICES FOR TODAY – 8 JANUARY 2017

Parish email: [admin@kkup.org.nz](mailto:admin@kkup.org.nz)

Church Office at Cornerstone: 09 407 8250

Minister: Robyn McPhail (DD) 09 **283 4802**, 021 0247 6280

[minister@kkup.org.nz](mailto:minister@kkup.org.nz)

Find us at [www.kkup.org.nz](http://www.kkup.org.nz) and on [Facebook](#)

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)

## ROSTERED FOR NEXT SUNDAY 15 JANUARY 2017

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

**Readers:** Ngaire Allwood KK tba Kaeo

**Door and Tea:** Michelle and Kato

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Isaiah 49: 1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

**CORNERSTONE Kerikeri** will be open each day this week from at least mid morning to mid afternoon. Pass the word around. Invite people to call by to visit, and do so yourself if you wish.

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** to Cornerstone's facilities and quirks: two options this week on Monday (tomorrow) at 1pm or Tuesday at 10am.

**BIBLE STUDY:** special summer edition to look at next Sunday's lectionary readings. 1.30pm to 3pm at Cornerstone tomorrow Monday 9 January, and the following Monday 16 January.

## SEWING/UPHOLSTERY/UP-CYCLING FURNITURE VOLUNTEERS:

for work at Northland Regional Correctional Facility, Ngawha. Are you creative and have sewing experience, upholstery skills or up-cycling of used furniture and be willing to support young men at our Youth Unit NRCF in valuable work skills or opportunities to generate money on their release from prison? Can you offer 2-3 hours weekly on a Monday/Wednesday or Thursday afternoon to assist the Sewing Tutor, Joanne, in our Sewing Industry? Full vetting required including MOJ and reference check, own transported needed, full prison Induction/training and ongoing support and supervision provided. Contact Ruth Patterson, Regional Volunteer Coordinator, [ruth.patterson@corrections.gov](mailto:ruth.patterson@corrections.gov) or phone 09 306 8383 Mobile: 027 8866881 to discuss further.

**KERIKERI RETIREMENT VILLAGE CHAPEL SERVICES:** Every Sunday at 4.00pm at the Ted Robinson Chapel. Our parish leads the service on 22 January