



12 March 2017
Lent 2

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Minister: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Marie Cannon - KK Clyde Foster - Kaeo
Readers: Annette Black - KK tba - Kaeo

There is no excess of goodness. You cannot go too far in the right direction.

C.S. Lewis

Activity Space at Cornerstone

Young ones, and those who like to do something while they listen, are invited to go to the Children’s Table as they wish.

Plugging in

Gathering with all the Saints *Come as you are*

Prayer (with echoes of Psalm 121)

Christ of the comfortable,
you would call us
from our security and sameness,
down that unknown path
which leads to God's heart:
**WITH TRUST, WE WOULD PLACE
OUR HANDS IN YOURS, AND FOLLOW.**
Companion of our sleepless nights,
you would beckon us
out of the shadows of our fears,
calling us to bring our doubts
and questioning hearts along:
**WITH HUMILITY, WE WOULD LISTEN
TO THOSE ANSWERS WE DO NOT
EXPECT, OR EVEN UNDERSTAND.**
Word which creates out of nothingness,
you would fill us with life
where we see only emptiness,
you would keep your promises
when all ours lie littered on the ground:
**WE WOULD LET YOUR GRACE TRANSFORM
US INTO FAITHFUL DISCIPLES.**

Silence is kept

Keeper of every moment,
WALK WITH US, WE PRAY.
Watcher in the night:
STAY WITH US, WE PRAY.
Spirit of new life:
BE IN US, AS WE PRAY

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

YET YOU CONTINUE TO KEEP WATCH OF US, PROMISE GIVER, WHETHER IT IS WHEN WE SWAGGER THROUGH THE SUNSHINE OF OUR LIVES, OR IN THOSE SHADOWED MOMENTS OF

UNCERTAINTY IN THE NIGHT. YOU WILL NOT STUMBLE AS YOU CONTINUE TO COME TO US, TO LEAD US INTO YOUR KINGDOM. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE OUR HELP, WHETHER OR NOT WE RECOGNIZE IT OR ACCEPT IT, EVEN AS YOU REMAINED FAITHFUL TO JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

KEEPER OF OUR SOULS, BE WITH US;
WATCHER OF OUR DAYS, LEAD US;
SALVATION OF OUR LIVES, HAVE MERCY ON US. AMEN.

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn Morning has broken WOV91 [Annette's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Genesis 12:1-4a

The symbol of Journey

The God who loves the world is the God who gives new life to those in it, because God's spirit-wind blows freely where it will. It is the wind of love, the offer of new life that is inexplicable and quite beyond our control.

Walter Brueggemann

You may remember a story from John's gospel about a Jewish leader called Nicodemus, who called on Jesus after dark because he sensed something about Jesus. He was flumoxed when Jesus said that to see God's way for the world one needs to be "born from above". He thinks he has to be born again like he was born from his mother! But really it's the old Genesis story – formed of the earth and breathed into by the spirit-wind. You've got to let the spirit-wind blow into you and through you. So Jesus is saying in effect, Nicodemus, step into the wind; let it lift you up and lead you.

Do as Father Abraham – and Mother Sarah – did.

Where is the spirit-wind blowing you? Where is your life journey taking you? Your journey as part of God's journey. Stepping into the spirit-wind and letting the inexplicable and beyond control happen; new life, life re-newed each day.

Where has the spirit-wind blown you so far? Because I can't believe that you're not already living in the wind. I don't think you'd be here this morning. The spiritual is already core to who you are, seeking to be a whole person of body, mind, spirit, all interwoven together.

So think of what has got you to this place. Think of the journey of life you've travelled already. And think about the recent leg of the journey, perhaps a resting point where you've pulled over to check your map, to ponder where to go next.

Where do you want to go? Where do you sense a wind pulling you in a particular direction?

Or are you a bit weary of travelling and you'd like to just settle down and stay put? Shut the door on the wind.

Tempting. But awfully stuffy. As it's been lately with the door shut. And, to continue the imagery, it means shutting out the Holy Spirit; shutting out the giver of life.

BTW, age is no barrier, by the example of our Genesis 12 text. So are you ready and willing to be like Father Abraham and Mother Sarah and step out in faith to continue God's journey for you?

If it helps, do as Nicodemus did and have a conversation about it with Jesus. We can do it around the table. Come with our questions, our worries, our needs, our hunger, and be fed by him. In prayer and, if we choose, in sacrament, in the physical action of eating bread and drinking grape juice around this table.

Conversations around the Table

Prayers

Dear Heavenly Father,
we bring before you our despair about climate change.
It feels so bad, when so many forms of life are threatened,
but still the nations are not able to work together
to alleviate the problem.
O Lord, help humankind to choose a better road,
so we could find peace!
Thank you for your promise to be with us, no matter what.
Thank you for all the gifts that you give to your world
through air, wind and the Holy Spirit.
Thank you for nourishment, power and joy.
Let your Holy Spirit flow strongly in us and in your world.
In the name of Jesus.

Panu Pihkala, Finland, from Luontokirkkovoosi (LK-kirjat, 2013)

Offering Hymn *The love of God is broad like beach and mountain*

You trust us enough to place your blessings in us, so may we be as faithful in offering them back to you, so others might be kept in their loneliness, might be fed in their emptiness, might receive hope in their despair.

Invitation to Communion

This table stands among us,
Christ's table and our table.
We gather around it
in our common humanness,
one people in our frailty,
none more worthy than the other,
all made worthy in the resurrection of Christ.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon *Liturgies for the Journey of Life*

Communion Prayer

Holy God, we praise you.
Let the heavens be joyful
and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world,
for your promises to your people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ, in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life.
Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.
Guiding his children, he leads us.
Visiting the sick, he heals us.
Dying on the cross, he saves us.
Risen from the dead, he gives new life.
Living with you, he prays for us.

So we pray together as he taught...

Lord's Prayer

Narrative and Breaking the Bread

Blessing

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup
and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord.
Receive our sacrifice of praise.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
that this meal may be
a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.
Make us one with Christ
and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith,
encourage us with hope,
inspire us to love,
that we may serve as your faithful disciples
until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God,
through Christ your Word made flesh,
in the holy and life-giving Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

Communion

Sent to Carry Healing and Hope

Serving in the Week Ahead

In the community ... being Christ shaped

Go!
Go in haste!
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

Kia tau/The grace

...[singing] **Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine upon your face,
may the rain fall softly on your fields,
until we meet again
may God hold you
in the palm of his hand.

Irish and English, in the Public Domain

Robyn McPhail, 12.03.2017

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 12 MARCH 2017

Parish email: 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

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

Notices: Jenny Phillips 09 407 8883 jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz

KK Pastoral: Jessica Scott 09 407 5555 jomscott2@gmail.com

ROSTERED FOR NEXT SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2017

Musician: Dave Hallam KK

Reader: Arlene Purdie KK

KK Door and Tea: Jessica and Neil Scott

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Material for next newsletter due Friday 17 March. (April/May newsletter available on 26 March)

CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT: committee meeting Monday 13 March 11am in the Meeting Room.

BIBLE STUDY: Monday 13 March 1.15-3pm in the Cornerstone Meeting Room, focussing on some or all of the readings above. A chance to share responses, hear some of the background, and dig out, and be fed a little for the journey of life.

CORNERSTONE GARDEN: the Garden Group met this week and have some things to report. Three trees to be located on the NW side towards the Bypass will be planted in April. Kikuyu in the lawn will be kept under control by the regular mowing arranged with Armstrong Lawn care, with spraying of the edges. Some ideas were shared for planting along the Funeral Parlour side where there will be a path to a Peace Garden. Bev Barke is the go-to person for anything to do with the garden.

KERIKERI RETIREMENT VILLAGE CHAPEL SERVICES: Every Sunday at 4.00pm at the Ted Robinson Chapel. Our parish next leads the service (with Communion) on 26 March.

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale is on 25 March 7am - 12noon at Cornerstone. Contact Mary 407 1117

CORNERSTONE Kerikeri is open each week day from at least 10am to 2pm. Pass the word around. Invite people to call by to visit.

VOLUNTEER HOSTS: *Can you help increase the team?* Get in touch with Robyn if you could spare a couple of hours, late morning or early afternoon, through the week. Whatever will work for you.

APPOINTMENT OF HOST/MISSION PROJECT FACILITATOR

Parish Council is pleased to announce the appointment of a Host/Mission Project Facilitator to work in the promotion of Cornerstone - Whare Karakia o Manako, in the support of the volunteer team, and in the development of mission projects based in the building.

The position goes to a young man from Kaikohe, Paparangi Pirini. He has a part time position already in Kerikeri working with Alternative Education (for young people who have been excluded from school), which will fit well alongside his work for us on site and out and about in the community.

Paparangi's employment will begin on Tuesday 21 March. There will be a powhiri (welcome) for him and his close whanau at 5pm that day.

This will be followed by a shared finger food meal. (Parish Council follows at 7pm)

All parishioners and friends of the Union Parish are invited to attend, and bring food to share if you are able.

The Interview Panel were most impressed with Paparangi and very excited about the prospects for greater connections with the community, with all ages but most especially with youth.