



11 June 2017

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Minister: Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Marie Cannon KK Clyde Foster Kaeo
Readers: Jessica Scott KK tba Kaeo

Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

Howard Thurman

Plugging in

Gathering with all the Saints

Hymn *O threefold God of tender unity*

Prayer

Give us just a spark
on this day, Creator God,
to kindle our smoldering apathy
until we burst into bonfires
to melt all the injustice
which threatens to consume the world.

Give us just a word
this day, Poet of Pentecost,
that we might be the voice
of those dispersed by fears,

O Lord, hear my prayer....

Symbol of God's Presence [KK] Singers

Hymn *Be thou my vision* WOV455 [Jessica's choice]

that we might proclaim the good news
to all we would meet.

Give us a cool breeze
this day, Shattering Spirit,
stirring and shaking us
until we become a storm
of hopes to clear the despair
from all our neighborhoods and lands.

Give us yourself this day,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Genesis 1:1-2,4a

Matthew 28:16-20

Some of this is getting to be repetition for you. But we'll hear it again because, in some respects, it's new thinking. Not standard church thinking. But not new because it's the old, original language of the Bible, without the coating of Greek and European culture. Back here at the beginning of the Bible, we see a fundamental understanding of reality is based on connection. Everything that is spoken into being (chapter 1), or formed into being (chapter 2), is connected, first with the Creator, who speaks, who forms, and, in all the rest, interconnected within a whole in which relationships between are as important as the separateness of individual creatures. More important even. What we hear in the first verses is that what is “between” at the level most essential for life is breath. Wind, breath, spirit. One Hebrew word *ruah* meaning all of these; *pneuma* in Greek (*hā* in Māori). The wind of God, the spirit of God, the life-spirit breathing over the waters.

Today in this new season of Pentecost we note that what is between is the spiritual. As relational beings we are spiritual beings.

Yahweh God forms a shape, called *adam* because it's made from the soil – the *adamah* – and breathes life

so that it becomes a living human being. I understand that this Jewish name for God – Yahweh – is a name not spoken, but breathed. Its correct pronunciation is an attempt to imitate the sound of inhalation and exhalation.

The breath of life. Here's something that speaks of the spiritual connection with breath.

Breathing...It's the first thing we do when we're born and the last thing we do when we die. Jesus last words on the cross were, "[Father, into your hands I give my spirit.](#)" (Luke 23:46) and he breathed his last.

The resurrected Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "[Receive the Holy Spirit.](#)" (John 20:22)

Our spirit is the essence of who we really are, and our spirit and our breath intermingled as one. It's electric, living, pulsating with life.

As [God is spirit](#) (John 4:24) and as [God breathed into us the breath of life](#), (Genesis 2:7) so our breath is our closest point to God. What is lacking is awareness, and here is where Breath Prayer comes in...We make the unconscious, conscious.

An intentional breath prayer is a simple way to drop our linear mind, to consciously enter into our spirit through our breath. It helps us to park our mind while we engage our spirit.

[The word is with you, even in your mouth and in your heart...](#) (Deuteronomy 30:14)

A breath prayer begins in our heart and not our head, or as the Desert Fathers and Mothers might say, "put your mind into your heart."

Our heart is that part of our soul that interfaces with our body and with our spirit, hence with the eternal and with God.

As spiritual practices go, using our breath as a prayer is probably the simplest and the most complex spiritual practice at the same time.

<http://contemplativemonk.com/breath-prayer/>

When Jesus was executed on the Roman instrument of torture and control, a cross, the disciples effectively had the breath of life kicked out of them.

Remember how they locked themselves in a room for fear of the powers-that-be? Jesus then comes and breathes peace on them. Twice he says: "Peace be with you". And then he says: "Receive the Holy Spirit".

And recall that Jesus was executed because of who he was. His way of living and relating challenged the dominant culture of power and control, winners and losers, buy and sell, consume and consume more. His shape, formed on the basic principle of love, is about giving and receiving – not selling – connecting and sharing – not controlling. Kingdom values which in effect breathe life one to another. The Holy Spirit at work.

Our breathing prayer, which re-connects ourselves with the spirit, the source of life, becomes prayer for and with others. Prayer and life for and with others. Prayer and life for a transformation of culture.

"Receive the Holy Spirit."

The handover is complete. What you have received is for sharing.

You have the authority to change the culture, to speak peace, to breathe peace, to put kingdom values in the face of fear-provoking, life-sapping dominant values. Matthew 28. Here's Eugene Peterson's version:

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally.

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

We probably don't think of this as anything scandalous. A problem maybe when people are really pushy. But teaching people the Jesus way is scandalous. That someone could so freely, without recourse to proper criteria or authorities, affirm the value of another. That someone could offer a way to be freed of fault or hurt or burden, to find themselves in some way healed and restored.

Think of the disciples being commissioned here by Jesus as first and foremost agents of healing. To make disciples is to grow the ability among us to heal one another. A word, a touch, an encouragement, along with all practical and proven things that heal. To bring salve.

And just think of that word – and its relation “salvation”. Surely it too is basically about healing, re-breathing life, restoring connection.

Do what Jesus did: you have the power now. Speak, do something, to bring people out of their isolation. To be reconnected, to be restored, forgiven.

Conversations around the Table

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Botswana, Zimbabwe

Prayer from Botswana

Dear God, our builder,
you have all the building materials needed to construct our societies.
You have all the strength to put wisdom on all that has fallen apart in our lives.
You have the wisdom to reshape our world.
Inspire us with all your wisdom, strength and love,
to rebuild the broken walls in our community.

By Rev. Cheryl Dibeela, Gaborone, Botswana.

Let us join in prayer, in thankfulness and for the work of the Spirit around the world.

...

Spirit of justice,
Spirit of peace,
Spirit of Christ,
our comforter, advocate, and guide,
we pray for your church,
here in this place, in the communities nearby,
throughout New Zealand, and around the world.

May we ever reflect your life and your love.
May we ever give power to your light
and the passionate energy of your renewing spirit.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *Liturgies of the Journey of Life*, adapted.

Offering

Coming to the Table [KK] Learning from the Children

Communion Prayer

Wow! What you do,
God of wonder!
You breathe your Spirit into chaos,
shattering the emptiness and
shaping all that is beautiful;
you speak your Word into silence, and
rivers flow down mountainsides,
creepy crawlies inhabit the grasslands,
monarch butterflies dance with flowers,
blue whales leap out of the oceans.
LIKE THEM, YOU WOULD FEED THOSE
CREATED
IN YOUR IMAGE WITH GOODNESS AND GRACE,
BUT WE RUN OFF WITH TEMPTATION,
LOCKING OURSELVES IN DEATH'S UPPER
ROOM.
Because your glory is eternal,
you continued to send women and men

to tell your words of forgiveness and welcome,
yet we continued to huddle in fear
with sin and its disciples.
SO YOU SENT JESUS TO US,
TO BREATHE YOUR PEACE UPON US
AND TO BRING US BACK TO YOU.
With those who continue to live in fear
with those who share the Spirit with others,
we will sing your praise forever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ARE YOU, LIFE-GIVING
SPIRIT.
ALL CREATION WILL SING UNTIL IT HAS NO
MORE BREATH.
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!
Blessed is the One who stands in our midst
speaking peace.
Hosanna in the highest!

Here in this place, with people gathered in this space,
 may you pour the Spirit of Pentecost upon the simple gifts of the bread and the cup.
 with the brokenness of the bread,
 we pray hope might dance upon our souls
 so we will rush out like a mighty wind
 to bring healing to our shattered world.
 DRINKING FROM THE CUP OF GRACE,
 WE PRAY IT FLOW THROUGH US
 TO BECOME A FOUNTAIN
 OF UNENDING GENEROSITY

TO PARCHED PEOPLE
 THIRSTING FOR LIFE.

And when that day comes
 when we no longer need
 to huddle under the covers of fear,
 you will gather us around the Table
 with our sisters and brothers
 of every time, of every place,
 breathing the Spirit upon us,
 telling us the Word of grace and hope,
 as we sing our thanks forever and ever.

©2017 Thom M. Shuman

Lord's Prayer

Breaking and Sharing

Communion

Sent to Love the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead



Hymn *We are many, we are one*

Blessing

The shutters of our hearts have been flung open
 by the fresh breath of God!
 WE WILL GO TO OFFER GOD'S LOVE TO EVERYONE AROUND US.
 Our souls have been set on fire
 by the justice of the Brother of the poor.
 WE WILL GO TO SHARE VISIONS OF HOPE,
 TO LISTEN TO THE DREAMS OF THE OPPRESSED.
 Our loneliness and fears have been set aside
 by the Spirit of inclusion creating community.
 WE WILL SPEAK WORDS OF PEACE TO ALL WE MEET,
 WE WILL OPEN OURSELVES TO THE GIFTS OF OTHERS.

© 2017 Thom M. Shuman

... *Mā te mārie a te Atua* WOV679

Robyn McPhail, 11.096.2017

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 11 JUNE 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 18 JUNE 2017

Organists: Dave Hallam KK, Clyde Foster Kao
Readers: Helen Norman KK tba Kao
Door and tea: Michelle and Akisi **Flowers:** Margot and Ros

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

KERIKERI SINGERS: Practice following service today at 11am

BIBLE STUDY: tomorrow Monday 12 June **1.15-2.45pm** in the Cornerstone Meeting Room. All welcome to come and check it out.

KAEO HOME GROUP: Monday 12 June in the evening. Contact Alan 405 0688

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale is Saturday 24 June 7am - 12noon at Cornerstone. Contact Mary 407 1117 re assisting etc.

SOUND SYSTEM AT CORNERSTONE: a few people know already that the system is very easy to use. A briefing (or re-briefing) takes only a few moments. Check with Robyn to arrange a time.

IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK: Today: Grace Baptist Bible Crusade; Ensemble pm. Monday: Bible Study pm. Tuesday: Yoga am; Tai Chi pm Learning Hub pm Wednesday: Tai Chi pm; Learning Hub pm. Thursday: Toddlers' Gym am; Girls' Brigade pm; A Choired Taste pm. Friday: Hangi Bro am.

Hosts: Monday – Lorraine, Michelle, Sue; Tuesday: Jessica, Mary; Wednesday – Bev, Michael; Thursday – Jenny, Clyde, Sue; Friday – Margot, Michelle, Akisi. *Paparangi and Robyn also present at various times.*

AT KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK: Monday: Yoga pm; Thursday: Puna Awhina am

GOD'S KIDS AT CORNERSTONE: Dedicated session for younger ones during church today and 25 June. Pass the word around any families you know. Adults welcome (helpers always good value!)

“A CHOIRED TASTE CHOIRS” Now in Kerikeri. No music theory needed, learn by ear. Yes you CAN sing. So come all ye Shower Warblers and Closet Crooners... There is no other community like one that sings together. We have SOOO much fun. Come and try it. Our director Brigid Sinclair is outstanding and teaches world, gospel, trad, pop, taize in three, four, five part harmony. Thursdays 7-8.30pm at Cornerstone – Whare Karakia o Manako. \$12 casual. \$10 regular.