



25 June 2017

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Minister: Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Diane Paterson KK, Clyde Foster Kaeo
Readers: Michelle Tupou KK tba Kaeo

Plugging in

Gathering with all the Saints

Let us worship God!

The winter deepens and the days are short
 BUT THE LONG SUMMER OF CHRIST'S LIGHT
 REMAINS.

A cold wind blows outside
 BUT THE WARMTH OF GOD IS AROUND US AND
 WITHIN US.

We are indeed a most privileged people.
 GOD IS OUR GOD AND WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE!

THE JOY OF CHRIST JESUS BE WITH US ALL.

[KK] Blessing for the Children

Song *Come as you are*

Prayer

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *Christians are all kinds of people* [Michelle's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Genesis 21:8-21 with reference to verses in Matthew 10

What nerves does this reading touch?

There were a number of things we found were triggered in different ones among us at Bible Study last Monday. A lot of them things we might rather not remember or think about. But we realised that they're there, they are part of us, and it pays to be honest to ourselves about feelings stirred up from past experience.

1. Don't want to look

Sometimes we are a bit precious about our own sensitivity. When awful things are said or shown, there can be a tendency to pull down the blinkers to avoid being too distressed. It's something like can happen with confrontation, and doing anything to avoid it, to keep the peace. The feeling that it's best not to stress myself. It's not good for me. And that can be true. And yet...

2. The experience of being cast out

It's hard being disowned, or being displaced, left to one's own resources. A struggle to manage alone, and real a task for a time to build up self-esteem needed. Yet maybe Hagar felt a sense of freedom, to be away from Sarah sniping. "Thank goodness." She loses her place but then she also loses the bad things about that place.

Marriage breakups are an instance of being rejected and losing your place. And churches that "excommunicate". So liberating, yet the question, am I worthy of love?

3. Favouritism and disruption in the family

It causes jealousy among children and can trigger violent behaviour. Ros has an example from a book she is reading...

In contrast to when a family member willingly offers a kidney to a sibling. Love has been allowed to hold its own in the family life.

Disruption in a family with a marriage breakup, when the relationship between estranged parents is so troubled that one is speaking badly about the other, and there is marked economic disparity between them.

Family division. The gospel reading put this issue starkly. You may recall the disturbing words of Matthew 10:34

Jesus says: *“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”*

Then he continues speaking of this “sword” dividing between father and son, daughter and mother, in-laws and in-laws, one’s own household being enemies. Hey Jesus! What are you saying?

Perhaps he speaking of realities? That we’re not to pretend it is otherwise. That if we want to have the kind of peace God gives, we need to know that we are loved and we won’t get that assurance in the midst of families pretending everything is okay, sweeping their troubles under the carpet.

Sometimes separation is the only option, or the best option. It may need time for family members to get a grasp of things they’d never imagined could happen in their family.

The upside of going through distressing experiences, or troubled times, is that when one comes through one is in a position to empathise with the many others who travel a similar journey.

Coming through means re-discovering that assurance we are speaking of being loved.

“His eye is on the sparrow” is a 19th century hymn that picks up this theme. As Jesus says in Matthew 10:29 *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing.*

Affirmation of faith

There is no death
from which you cannot rise in us,
O God.
The power to fail
can never kill the gift of life,
unless we choose
not to receive it from you.
Your Spirit is never defeated
by the woundings of life
however unjust, however painful.

Your grace in Christ
goes well beyond our understanding
and your love for us
is never measured
by our love for ourselves.
Even as we walk a hard journey
we claim together
this great hope.
Amen.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Conversations around the Table

Continuing the Conversation

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Kenya, Tanzania

[KK] Learning from the Children

Lord’s Prayer

Sent to Love the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

Offering Hymn *Deep in the human heart* tune: Diademata WOV163

Dedication

We offer our gifts to you, as well as our lives, Loving God, so they might find their way to those who need your grace, your hope, your joy, and your peace in their lives. Amen.

Blessing

... Kia tau

Go gently, go lightly, go safe in the spirit,
live simply, don't carry much more than you need:
go trusting God's goodness, go spreading God's kindness,
stay centred on Jesus and where he will lead

Go singing, go bringing the gifts of the Spirit,
go hopefully searching for things that are true:
in living and loving whatever befalls you,
God keep you, God bless you in all that you do.

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Robyn McPhail and Monday Study Group, 25.06.2017

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 25 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 2 JULY 2017

Organists: Marie Cannon KK Clyde Foster Kaeo
Readers: Kay Blunkell KK tba Kaeo
Door and tea: Rilla and Jan KK **Flowers:** Jenny and Karen KK

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13, Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

KERIKERI SINGERS: Practice at 11am following service today

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Monday 26 June at 11am at Cornerstone

BIBLE STUDY: tomorrow Monday 26 June **1.15-2.45pm** in the Cornerstone Meeting Room. All welcome to come and check it out.

COMMUNION SERVICE: today Sunday 25 June at 4pm at Ted Robinson Chapel

KAEO HOME GROUP: Monday 26 June in the evening. Contact Alan 405 0688

KK WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Thursday week, 6 July, 10am (Please Note the date is not 4 July as in newsletter – always the first Thursday in the month.)

FEAST OR FAMINE: Kerikeri Girls' Brigade invites you to a fun night on Thursday 6 July, 5-6.30pm. Buy a ticket for \$2 and you may be among the few who sit at the feast table, or with the majority getting a little bowl of rice (which Sheryl makes sure is at least tasty).

A chance to be with the girls getting a feel of our world's disparities. Funds will go to World Vision. Tickets need to be purchased by 29 June. Contact Jodie 021608375. Or purchase at church today.

ROSS VEALE: Some will remember Ross, a past member of the church, who was the life and clown of many church socials. Lorraine Stewart was contacted by his daughter Catherine to say that Ross has died following a stroke. A card will go to his family on behalf of us all.

INVITATION TO ALL IN THE KAEO-KERIKERI PARISH

Kerikeri Home Group invite you to join us Kerikeri Home Group in a Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner (Pot-Luck)

Date: Friday 7th July 2017 Time: 6.30pm

Venue: CORNERSTONE- Wharekarakia O Manako

Goal: to re-affirm our connectedness with one another through prayer, and our love for each other will never cease in time of need AND to enjoy one another's company through chatting and fellowship while sharing a meal around the table

Everyone is welcome, bring a friend if you wish. Bring a plate, and come along and join the fun!

GOD'S KIDS AT CORNERSTONE: Dedicated session for younger ones during church today. Next session will be in Term 3 on 22 July. 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. 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.

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale is Saturday 8 July 7am-12noon at Cornerstone.

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

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

Volunteers please for a time on the next three **Tuesdays**.

AT KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK: Monday: Yoga pm. Tuesday: Parish Council pm. Thursday: Puna Awhina am.