



15 October 2017

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Musician: Marie Cannon

Reader: Helen Norman

It is impossible to enslave, mentally or socially, a bible-reading people. The principles of the bible are the groundwork of human freedom.

Horace Greeley, 19th century

Plugging in

Gathering with all the Saints

Hymn *Tama ngākau mārie* WOV633

Prayer

Let us gather now,
friends of Spirit – travellers in time –
to hear the story
of Love’s evolving narrative.

In this sacred space,
we release into the present,
laying aside all worries, plans, and complaints,
entering into the now
of Mystery’s eternal temple.

In this sacred space,
we honour our past,
retelling the great story of deep time
as Spirit’s unfolding tale,
giving thanks that a whole universe
is gathered up in the likes of us –
tradition’s promise.

In this sacred space,
we consent to the allurements
of an unrehearsed future,
from where the living Word
woos each one of us toward
our unique expression –
that is Spirit’s dream.

Bruce Sanguin, in *If Darwin Prayed*

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *Here to the house of God we come* AA61 [Helen’s choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

A break with routine to talk about one of the basics of being church – the ministry of reconciliation. Traditional words that have major contemporary significance. What the world needs most – the planet, nations, communities, families, our own selves. A longing for healing of divisions, of enmities, of hurts that drive people apart. I’d think of it even as our front-line reason for being church, for being Christian, for being followers of the Way.

Ephesians 2:8-19

What was being talked about in this early church letter is division between Jews and Gentiles. That's their definitive line of difference and after a number of decades there are many non-Jews in the church as well as Jews (like Jesus was" and they're still learning how to be culturally mixed.

The teaching of Paul, which is at the heart of this letter, is to be inclusive, to treat both groups as equal members of the family of faith. Those who started off Jewish, like Paul, have some advantage of beginning "closer" so to speak: they grew up with the same sense of God as Jesus did. One God, known for mercy and steadfast love, concerned for justice and right relationships for all. Those who are far, however, are not to be disadvantaged by that, because of Jesus. In terms of Christ, distance and starting point are irrelevant: we all have equal direct relationship available, because of Jesus who he was and what he did.

Therefore we can all have equal right relationship to one another, no need for division, distrust, holding on to hurts. The common ground of Christ gives us the good grounds to trust, to let go, forgive and be forgiven.

It is this relationship work – bringing together, building understanding between differences, helping heal hurts, etc etc, that is our purpose as church. Our reason for being.

So let's think about some practical examples.

There's an example at the world level from this week just past – Remembrance of Passchendaele. Thursday had begun in Kaeo with the raising of the flag was raised and prayers that focussed on the four Whangaroa district men who were killed that day 100 years ago: Archie Cruller, Jim Leslie, John Leslie (yes, they were brothers), and Bert Snowden. In the evening a community service of remembrance was followed by a slide show projected on the wall of our church. The display was repeated on Friday night.

To be involved in this is to participate in a continuing reconciliation process – Shirley Murray's ANZAC hymn made up most of the prayer I used (translated by a Tuhoe translator Rangī McGarvey whose death had been announced on Te Karere that very afternoon). I'll read you Shirley's original now:

Honour the dead, our country's fighting brave,
honour our children left in foreign grave,
where poppies blow and sorrow seeds her flowers,
honour the crosses marked forever ours.

Weep for the places ravaged by our blood,
weep for the young bones buried in the mud,
weep for the powers of violence and greed,
weep for the deals done in the name of need.

Honour the brave whose conscience was their call,
answered no bugle, went against the wall,
suffered in prisons of contempt and shame,
branded as cowards in our country's name.

Weep for the waste of all that might have been,
Weep for the cost that war has made obscene,
Weep for the homes that ache with human pain,
Weep that we ever sanction war again.

Honour the dream for which our nation bled,
Held now in trust to justify the dead,
Honour their vision on this solemn day,
Peace known in freedom, peace the only way.

©Shirley Erena Murray 2005 Used by permission CCLI Licence Number 78945

I'll round off with an example at the community level – leaving our thoughts at a personal level for our time around the table.

At the head of our parish [home page](#) it reads:

Kaeo Kerikeri Union Parish
Community Space with a Spiritual Health
Our vision is to be "Community Commons" – as a community of faith and through our buildings.
A people to feel at home with
spiritual space for all comers to find their oasis of peace and well-being

This is ministry of reconciliation – of healing, of bring together differences, of building understanding, whakawhanaungatanga. Making ourselves family.

Conversations around the Table

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the creator of oases
and springs of water in the midst of deserts,
who provides resting places of blessing for all God's creatures
and in whose hands we are protected from all evil.

We believe in Jesus Christ, source of life, living water,
who satisfies the thirst of those who thirst for peace,
who gives strength to the weary and purpose
to those who have lost their way in life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the balm of consolation, companion on the way, who gives strength
when we are about to faint and inspires us to continue on the way.

In consideration of what God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
has done this day and throughout our lives, we commit ourselves,
as people whom the grace of God has changed,
to accompany others who are at moments of desert in their lives,
in situations of pain and times of sadness.

Red Create Workshop, Mexico 2014

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

Offering Hymn *Lord Jesus Christ* WOV451

Communion Prayer

Holiest Mystery,
Community of Love,
Creator, Christ, Spirit,
Three in One,
you in Christ,
Christ in us,
and everywhere, Spirit,
connecting, caressing, cajoling
us into the image of wholeness
tattooed on the heart and the soul
of every living thing.

We are not alone,
never isolated

except in the imagination
of our wounded hearts.
Christ abides in us,
and we in Christ,
and the joy of this is why we sing,
and why we pray,
and why we take our place
in this happy communion.

Thank you for this banquet of love,
this feast of joy,
this miracle of common purpose
in Christ.

Bruce Sanguin, in If Darwin Prayed

Lord's Prayer/Te Inoi a te Ariki

Communion

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, broke it and said,
'This is my body, it is broken for you.'
And later he took the cup of wine and said,
'This is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of my death.
Take this – all of you – to remember me.'

Iona Community A Wee Worship Book

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.

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God,
brood over these bodily things and make us one body with Christ,
so that we may labour with creation towards liberty of life.

Love the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

Blessing

God is a God who takes infinite risks with people like us. Let us go therefore in faith and hope and be part of the reconciling and recreating of the world.

Kia tau... The grace...

Singers *Go gently, go lightly*

Morning Tea

Annual Meeting

Lunch

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 15 OCTOBER 2017

Parish email: admin@kkup.org.nz

Church Office at Cornerstone: 09 407 8250

Minister: Robyn McPhail (DD) 09 283 4802, 02102476280

minister@kkup.org.nz

Ministry Leadership Team: Bev Barke, Alan Robinson, and Robyn

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 22 OCTOBER 2017

Organists: Kato Akau'ola KK Clyde Foster Kaeo

Readers: Michelle Tupou KK tba Kaeo

Door and tea: Carol and Neville **Flowers:** Joan Jurisich

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22

BIBLE STUDY: tomorrow, Monday 16 October 1.15-2.45pm in the Cornerstone Meeting Room will look at readings for **15 October** (see newsletter).

PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 17 October at 7.00pm at Kaeo

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE: WPWP An Inter Faith Experience 5.30pm each day in Cornerstone – Whare Karakia o Manako, with a shared meal on the final evening.

Day 1 (Sun 15) World Leaders – Catholic

Day 2 (Mon 16) The Environment – Anglican

Day 3 (Tues 17) Refugees and Victims of War – open for prayer

Day 4 (Wed 18) The Animal Kingdom – open for prayer

Day 5 (Thurs 19) Child Soldiers – open for prayer

Day 6 (Fri 20) Gratitude and Generosity – Baha'i

Day 7 (Sat 21) Those we perceive as our enemies – Society of Friends

Day 8 (Sun 22) Truth – Union

IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK: Today: Ensemble pm; WPWP pm. Monday: Bible Study pm. Tuesday: Yoga Therapy am; Tai Chi pm; Learning Hub pm; WPWP pm; Yoga evening. Wednesday: WPWP pm; Thursday: Girls' Brigade pm; Counsellor pm; WPWP pm; A Choired Taste evening. Friday: WPWP pm. Saturday: WPWP pm.

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

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale is on Saturday 28 October 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone.

CORNERSTONE GARDEN GROUP: Keen gardeners may like to contribute plants propagated from their own garden. If you do, please put your name and proposed plant type on the list available from this Sunday. Drought resistant, hardy plants are preferred. The Garden Group requests you pot them and keep through to the autumn when a planting session will be arranged.