



12 November 2017

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”

Musicians: Dave Hallam KK Lorelei Hayes Kaeo
Readers: Lloyd Purdie KK tba Kaeo

Plugging in

Gathering with all the Saints *Stop still and listen*

Prayer

If we will but listen,
 GOD WILL SPEAK TO US IN PARABLES, GOD WILL TELL US STORIES LIVED OUT BY OUR GRANDPARENTS.

If we will but remember,
 WE WILL DISCOVER ALL WE HAVE HEARD AND KNOWN,
 ALL THE WONDERS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US.

If we will but share,
 WE CAN TELL OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN - EVEN THOSE NOT YET BORN - THE GLORIOUS STORIES OF OUR GOD.

We stand, Holy God,
 with arms, hearts, souls
 full of the burdens
 the gods of this world
 have placed on us.
 You remove them,
 throw them to one side,
 taking us by the hand
 to lead us into your kingdom.

As we turn to you in our despair,
 Holy Friend,
 you come and fill our emptiness
 with the holy oil
 of your compassion,

so we might always
 be ready to serve
 those who come to us.

Holy Wisdom,
 you would not leave us
 unknowing of God's love for us,
 so you whisper in our ears
 of wonders beyond imagination;
 you remove the blindfolds from our eyes
 so we may see the grace
 flowing all around us;
 you open our hearts
 to the family God has given us.

Call to Reconciliation

How quickly we forget - our faith, our calling, our hope. All because we try to do everything our way, rather than God's. But God is quicker to forgive, and to restore us to new life. Let us be open about ourselves as we pray, saying,

IT IS NEVER EASY TO ADMIT HOW FOOLISH WE ARE. YOU HAVE CHOSEN US FOR YOURSELF, AND WE CONTINUE TO SHELTER FALSE GODS IN OUR HEARTS. YOU PROMISE TO BE WITH US IN EVERY MOMENT, BUT WE CAN FIND LITTLE TIME FOR YOU. YOU SEND YOUR WORD TO US, BUT WE ARE TOO BUSY LISTENING TO THE NOISE OF OUR CULTURE TO PAY ATTENTION.

HAVE MERCY, ETERNAL ONE, AND FORGIVE US. SPEAK TO US, SO WE MIGHT LISTEN, AND IN HEARING BE TRANSFORMED INTO YOUR PEOPLE. FILL US WITH HOLINESS, SO WE MIGHT GIVE OURSELVES WHOLLY TO OTHERS. ENABLE US TO SERVE YOU FAITHFULLY AND COMPLETELY, EVEN AS DID OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.

Assurance

This is our assurance: God forgives us.
 This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.
 This is our truth: God is with us always.
 WE WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH;

WE WILL LIVE THE HOPE;
WE WILL SHARE GOD'S MERCY. THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.

Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn *Amazing Grace* WOV56

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Reading Matthew 25:1-13

Reflection Surprise Party – ready or not

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this...

Having told various stories about change and watchfulness, Jesus sums it up with this story. This is what it is like living with the whole of us tuned in to the way of well-being, to what we call the kingdom, God's way.

Change is coming and watchfulness is needed: these are important parts of the message but there's another aspect which we usually miss. It's what I want to highlight today: the surprise. The surprise and how we respond to it.

The kingdom of heaven is like a banquet, a party, that begins unexpectedly and if you're to be among the attendees you need to be ready, able, poised to join in.

God is the host who surprises us.

Surprises us with a party, an occasion, a reason for celebrating, for letting go and simply enjoying being. Being alive.

Feasting, dancing, laughing, relishing, savouring, our individual selves totally part of what is happening, welcome just as we are, belonging, connected and interconnected.

So what's the problem? Why does Jesus need to put all this effort into getting people to party?

Well, let's think about it. How do you go with surprises? Honestly.

How do you go with good surprises even? What's your reaction? What do you start thinking?

....

In contrast who is really good with surprises, with happy things happening? Who can, just in a blink of an eye, change from straight face to giggling their heart out?

[youtube...](#) [ripping paper](#)

And sometimes from tears to giggles when dad does something deliberately crazy, to break the sad cycle.

Little ones can do it, but adults often struggle.

Then the kingdom will be like... Can I risk letting go and being happy in the moment?

Because I can't be sure of what will happen after. After the party – likely the mess. After the highs of celebration, the flatness. Or fear that a high means a low will follow, and the higher the high the lower the low. Who can recall a very sad or tragic happening in their lives, and remember that before it happened life felt really good? Really happy. Memory continuing to surface when happiness is on offer is particularly poignant when original sadness broke into childhood. Some of us carry that kind of burden and it's part of what makes a person cautious about enjoying things too much.

Too much?

Adulthood often chooses a level playing field of minimal feeling rather than risk the highs and lows of happiness and sadness. But these are in fact the essence of our humanness – that we can feel these things and feel them deeply at times. For they are what connects us as humans and gives connection with everything – feelings, our feelings with, our feelings for. The ability to engage with our world and go with whatever it brings.

So wisdom chooses to be ready to engage. Wisdom has oil for one's lamps.

What could be that oil?

What could give us the confidence to let go and just let be?

What would switch off our rigid security settings that say the future needs to be as close as absolutely possible to what I know it will be? And that means no surprises. No surprising opportunities taken up. No changes of plan.

What enables us to trust the future whatever it will be? The future as God's future.

Gather around the table today and receive what you need to let your future be given to you. Your life story part of God's story.

Conversations

The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

Prayer for the Side-lined, Lost and Over-looked People

Holy One, may your Realm of Love come for
the insignificant, unremarkable, over-looked people of the world;
for the un-noticed and simply ordinary people;
back-water sort of people who will never make much impact.
For them
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Holy One, may your Realm of Love come for
those who are lost; who have disappeared or are missing;
for the up-rooted, exiled and enslaved ;
lost-rights sort of people who will seldom be seen or heard.
For them
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Holy One, may your Realm of Love come for
the fearful, the terrorised and the abused people of the world;
those who are unjustly imprisoned or entrapped;
voiceless people who will hardly dare to seek help.
For them
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Holy One, may your Realm of Love come for
the subjugated, silenced and subdued people of the world;
for the lonely, the lacking, the faded, the frightened;
shadowy people unable to bring attention to their suffering.
For them
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Holy One, may Your Realm of Love come for
the handicapped and disabled people of the world;
for the redundant and poorly educated; the timid and un-appreciated;
struggling people who have to strive for support and respect.
For them,
MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME.

In the dynamic of your Love, may your Realm become a reality for them all. Amen.

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Offering

We can stand at the edge and watch while you seek to bring hope, healing, peace, and joy to everyone in the world. Or we can take that step, of committing our lives as well as our gifts, in working with you in this ministry of grace. Bless our gifts, bless our lives, bless our service, we pray. Amen.

Communion Prayer

People of God, let's give thanks...

How good and right
it is to praise you,
God who gathers us
around this Table!

You opened your mouth,
and creation's glory sprang forth.
You shaped us in your image,
to live with all in harmony and joy.

But we chose to serve sin,
hugging our false gods to our hearts.

BUT YOU WOULD NOT GIVE UP
ON YOUR HOPE FOR US,
SENDING US THE PROPHETS
SO WE MIGHT PAY ATTENTION
TO THE WORDS OF YOUR HEART.
WHEN WE NO LONGER
WERE WILLING TO LISTEN,
YOUR WORD OF HOPE
CAME AMONG US
TO LIVE YOUR LOVE IN OUR MIDST.
WHEN WE FOOLISHLY CLUNG
TO SIN'S DEADLY WAYS,
JESUS REACHED OUT TO PULL US FROM THE
GRASP OF DEATH, AND SHOWED US THE
KINGDOM.

As we come to this Table
of healing and gentleness,
we pray that you would
send your Spirit upon the gifts
of the bread and of the cup,
and on your children gathered here.
As we reach out our hands
for the bread which has been broken for us,
we seek to encourage others
to discover your love;
as we drink of the Spirit of Christ,
may we no longer plead ignorance,
but with full awareness,
and open hearts, go forth
to serve all your children.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking and Sharing

Blessed is our brother Jesus.
He knew there was suffering to come
and chose to gather with his friends
so that they could eat the Passover of liberation together.
On that night, when later he was betrayed,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
'This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me.'
In the same way he also picked up a cup
after the meal and said:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

Ko tēnei taro e whatiia nei ko te whakakotahitanga o te Tinana o te Karaiti

Ko tēnei kapu, ko te whakakotahitanga o ngā toto o te Karaiti.

Ngā taonga o te Atua mō ōna pononga

The gifts of God for the people of God

Communion

Hymn [KK] *Jesus touch us, Jesus hold us* [Jenny's choice]

Love the World as God Loves

Serving in the Week Ahead

Go now to tell the stories of our God.
WE WILL LISTEN TO THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND US AS WE DO.
Go now to discover the gifts of everyone you meet.
WE WILL REMEMBER JESUS, WHO BLESSED US WITH HOPE AND LIFE.
Go now to share all that is within you.
WE WILL SHARE WITH EVERYONE THE SPIRIT WHO LONGS TO SHAPE US INTO ONE COMMUNITY.
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Blessing

Kia tau... The grace...

Robyn McPhail, 12.11.2017

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 12 NOVEMBER 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 19 NOVEMBER 2017 10.30am

Organist: Dave Hallam KK Clyde Foster Kaeo

Readers: Lloyd Purdie KK tba Kaeo

Door and tea: Trevor & Neville **Flowers:** Elaine

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

KERIKERI SINGERS: practice today at 11am

BIBLE STUDY: tomorrow, Monday 13 November, 1.15-2.45pm in the Cornerstone Meeting Room.

CORNERSTONE GARDENS: Keen gardeners may like to contribute plants propagated from their own garden. Drought resistant, hardy plants preferred, potted and kept through to the autumn when a planting session will be arranged. Please record on sheet available.

IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK: Today: Ensemble pm. Monday: Oranga Tamariki day; Finance committee am; Bible Study pm; Lions meeting evening. Tuesday: Yoga Therapy am; Tai Chi pm; Yoga evening. Wednesday: Learning Hub pm; Education Workshop evening. Thursday: Oranga Tamariki pm; A Choired Taste evening. Friday: Community Workshop day. Saturday: Dance Divine evening.

IN KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK: Monday: NorthTec day; Yoga evening. Tuesday: NorthTec day. Wednesday: Yoga evening; Boyd Committee evening. Thursday: Puna Awhina am; Community Workshop evening. Friday: Hui day.

CAR BOOT SALES: Next sale is Saturday 25 November 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone.