



17 December 2017

**Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ**

*“Thinking allowed; thinking aloud allowed”*

**Celebrating the First Birthday of  
Cornerstone – Whare Karakia o Manako**

**Musicians:** Dave Hallam and Clyde Foster

**Reader:** Kay Blunkell

**Minister:** Robyn McPhail

*As we gather each Sunday we pray God’s blessing over our buildings: thanks for the good that has happened through the week and cleansing for anything that is troublesome. In the coming week may the Spirit touch all who come into our church home.*



Being family, we watch out for one another and particularly as Jesus taught for “the little ones”, any who vulnerable. If you see something that calls for intervention, it is right to step in.

**Plugging in**

*It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a community to nurture wholeness and well-being.*

**Vagabonds Video**

**Light Table Candles as everyone is welcomed**

**Karakia – Prayer**

He hōnore, he korōria ki te Atua.  
He maungarongo ki te whenua.  
He whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa.

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

The New Zealand Prayer Book, adapted from Jim Cotter’s version

**Hymn Mārie te po/Silent night**

## **Partner Story from Uganda: our story is of water**

Thanks to freshwater on tap, the lives of three HIV and AIDS orphans have been transformed in Southwest Uganda. Spared from long treks and early morning queues, they enjoy drinking crystal clear water from their very own water tank. When everything is dry and dusty from another drought, there is nothing better than fresh water to drink. They have time to help their grandmother with gardening and chores, and go to school. The Centre for Community Solidarity channels hope through 25 local associations of people caring for the orphans of HIV and AIDS.

### **Lighting the Advent Candles**

In the lighting of this third Advent candle we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity.

We remember also the voice of God's messengers calling us to be bearers of joy in a troubled world.

We remember also the voice of the prophets calling us to be bearers of joy in a troubled world.

*Light the candles*

WE LIGHT THE CANDLE FOR JOY. MAY IT LIGHT THE WAY FOR US AS WE MAKE HOPE OUR STORY.

**Singers** *You shall go our with joy*

### **Connecting – Whakawhanaungatanga**

What brought you here today?

What is your connection or interest in this whare?

What have been your experiences here?

**Hymn** *Song of the Wilderness* – the Union Church's Journey

## **Clarifying our Purpose**

### **Conversation with the Word**

**Reading** Matthew 11:28-30

Are you tired? Worn out? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

Paraphrase by Eugene Peterson

### **A Vision of "Home"**

"At home" is the way the Christian faith has expressed our deepest longing as human beings. Quite likely this is something shared with all faiths, in fact among us all in our humanity.

Longing to be in a place of well-being, acceptance as is, able to be oneself, be our ourselves together, each person love and respected in their uniqueness.

A place of listening, changing, growing.

It has its responsibilities, for these things we're to be offering these things – acceptance, respect, acknowledgement of difference to all others present in the home, and others who come. A genuine home will always be a place of welcome.

### **Brainstorming – Ō Tātou Tūmanako**

As our one-year child grows, what hopes do we share for it?

What possibilities do you envisage?

**Hymn** *One more step along the world I go*

## **Conversations around the Table**

**Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil.

Paraphrase by Eugene Peterson

“Be cheerful no matter what” or, in the more standard version, “rejoice always”. Ha! Fine when things are good to be cheerful about. But this actually about all the time. “Thank God no matter what”. Is that crazy or what?

“Pray without ceasing”.

This is how we understand it here. We come to this time in the service when we look at what is happening in the world. We recall the things we have seen and heard through the week – on the news, in the community, among our friends, family. We think of these things knowing that there are places of little cheer, so much pain, far too deep seated injustice.

But praying is like sitting with it despite how hard it is. Not pretending, not avoiding. That’s exactly what we’re doing when we take this time in prayer. Being aware. Joining the longing for relief, for healing, for justice. Keeping our eyes on the vision that life can and will be good for all that exists (and that’s not just people). Effectively we are reaffirming our commitment to good.

## **The World: Our Prayers**

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: China, Hong Kong, Macau

God of many names

God of all peoples

No great wall  
can keep you out  
no great dam  
stop your love flowing.  
From mountain to sea  
in paddy field and city  
you walk with your people,  
you see  
smile  
suffer  
weep.  
In you  
strangers become friends  
and so  
we weep for the world’s pain...

based on a prayer from China

...*prayer book prayers*...

*E te Atua, aroha mai* tune: Kumbayah

## **Karen Armstrong and the Charter of Compassion**

On the last night of the Inter-faith Week of Prayer for World Peace, one of the many different events that took place in Cornerstone during this last last, we thought about truth. Specifically the quality of truth.

We listened to Karen Armstrong. I’d like to offer us all here the opportunity to listen to some of this as something that relates directly to the convictions we hold to, we who gather each Sunday morning, and something I suspect we all share in one way or other. In the Bulletin is the Charter of Compassion she speaks of, which is yours to read and reflect on as you choose.

**Offering Hymn** *Joy to the world* WOV224

## **Empathy Visualised**

### **Baroque Ensemble**

The Sunday Ensemble that rehearses each Sunday afternoon in Cornerstone

## **Acknowledgements – Thank You – Birthdays**

**Love the World as God Loves**

## **Notices**

### **Jean’s Poem**

## Blessing

God go with us into the future  
Christ Jesus walk beside us  
And the Spirit surround us like a cloud of grace

We bless each other

Kia tau/May the grace

.... *May the God of aroha nui*

Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed.

Jean Vanier

### NOTICES FOR TODAY – 17 DECEMBER 2017

Parish email: [admin@kkup.org.nz](mailto:admin@kkup.org.nz)

Church Office at Cornerstone: 09 407 8250

Minister: Robyn McPhail (DD) 09 283 4802, 02102476280  
[minister@kkup.org.nz](mailto:minister@kkup.org.nz)

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

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

Notices: Jenny Phillips 09 407 8883 [jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz)

KK Pastoral: Jessica Scott 09 407 5555 [jomscott2@gmail.com](mailto:jomscott2@gmail.com)

### ROSTERED FOR NEXT SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2017

**Organist:** Marie Cannon KK                      Clyde Foster Kaeo  
**Readers:** Bob Tayler KK                        tba Kaeo  
**Door and tea:** Trevor and Ngaire    **Flowers:** Mary Fenton

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16                                  Psalm 89:1-4,19-26  
Romans 16:25-27                                      Luke 1:26-38

**BIBLE STUDY:** tomorrow, Monday 18 December, 1.15-2.45pm in the Cornerstone Meeting Room.

**IN CORNERSTONE THIS WEEK:** Today: Ensemble pm. Monday: Bible Study pm. Tuesday: Tai Chi pm; Yoga evening. Saturday: Car Boot Sale am; Dance Divine evening

**IN KAEO CHURCH HALL THIS WEEK:** Monday: Yoga evening. Tuesday: Cooking Workshop day.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Tuesday 19 December 7pm in the Supper Room, Kaeo

**ANGEL TREE** Thank you to all who assisted this year!

**CAR BOOT SALES:** Next sale is **this Saturday** 23 December 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Thereafter 13 and 26 January. Contact person: Mary 021722938 or 4071117

**CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD:** Friday 22 December from around 7pm/7.30pm as part of the Christmas in the Pā event on School Gully Road. Christmas in the Pā begins around 5-6pm

### UNION CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Christmas Eve** 24 December 9.00pm at Cornerstone, Kerikeri

**Christmas Day** 25 December 9.15am at Cornerstone, Kerikeri  
10.30am at Wesleydale Memorial Church, Kaeo

### SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE COMING WEEKS

The regular schedule: 9.30am at Kerikeri  
11.15am at Kaeo