

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

19 April 2020
John 20: 19-31
Theme: Into the Unknown

We realize life is a bit different for all of us right now but nonetheless we worship a God who stays the same through every age and season, and is our constant guide. So, like the first disciples we are imagining church in a new way and invite you to 'worship through' the following liturgy on your own or with your family this Sunday 19 April at 10am, from your home. Get yourself a cup of tea and join the community in spirit as we worship from our homes, but with one voice and with one heart!

INTO THE UNKNOWN

From Becs: In the coming weeks it is likely that as a country we will be shifting to alert level 3. Some businesses may be able to reopen, some children may be able to return to school, some bubbles may be able to expand. We will be thrust into another new season, and right now it seems that with this new season we are stepping 'Into the Unknown'. Let us consider this day, through our worship, the everlasting and ever-constant presence of God that guides us, protects us and comforts us. After the resurrection had occurred the disciples and followers of Jesus were unsure of the future, something powerful had occurred but what was life going to look like next? They too stepped 'Into the Unknown'....

Opening Prayer

Today we gather from different homes to meet with God.
Let us take notice of God's presence with us.
God you are our certainty and assurance.
May we know your constancy in this season as life continues to change around us.
May our faith in you be our normality forevermore.
Amen.

Confession

God of healing,
God of wholeness,
We offer to you this day, our sins, our failings, our brokenness.

Let us take a moment to bring to mind those things that we have said and done that have separated us from God.

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
Forgive us our sins,
And assure us of his eternal love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home,

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

Bible Story

John 20: 19-31
Take a moment to silently reflect on our reading for today.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:
Rev. Learne 021 984 002 or office@northwestanglican.org.nz



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

Reflection: From Bees

It's a week on from Easter and we know that Jesus rose on the third day, a day we celebrate as Resurrection Sunday. But for the disciples of Jesus who saw him crucified and laid in the tomb, how were they feeling a week on? Mary Magdalene had witnessed Jesus in the garden and had rushed to Peter and the disciples to testify of his living presence. John's gospel doesn't give us any sense of whether they believed her testimony. I imagine they hoped, believed and prayed that her testimony was true and that Jesus was alive! In this scripture we have just read they have locked themselves in a room for fear of what the Jewish leaders might do to followers of Jesus after his very public and gruesome crucifixion. They gather in a room with locked doors, they don't know what is going to happen next. They have no idea of what life is going to look like in the next season. Sound familiar?

When Lent began we kicked off a series called The Let it Go Series. Let it Go is a song from a hugely popular kids film called Frozen. Elsa sings this epic song as a declaration of letting go of the past and what others think of her and embracing her identity. In the second film Frozen II, Elsa sings a moving anthem again. This time it is called 'Into the Unknown'. She is steady in her character and sense of self and feels the call of a voice calling her outside her comfort zone, calling her outside of her home, into the unknown.

Jesus appeared before the disciples in that locked room offering them Peace. He knew what they needed to hear from him that day that would still their fears and anxieties, "Peace be with you." It is something we say to each other every time we gather together as a church. And now more than ever we are asking Jesus to be with us as we venture out of lockdown into the unknown, needing God's peace. So, may peace be with you this day as our world changes yet again, as we move into the unknown.

Intercessions

In our prayers today, we put all our thoughts and worries and hopes into the hands of God. You may like to hold your own hands in front of you as you pray. Create your own prayers for each of the headings below:



The World



The Church



Communities



Sickness



Sorry God

Questions to ponder

- As we head 'into the unknown' what are you anxious about?
- The future may be unknown but what do you hold fast to this day?

Response Activity

Light a candle if you haven't already and maybe play some quiet music while you work through the following response activity. You will need a piece of paper and a pen.

1. Write on one side 7 things that this lockdown has gifted you that has manifested joy and faithfulness in you.
2. Write on the other side 7 things for which you are still worrying, anxious or fearful of.
3. Assign to each day in the coming week one item from each side of the paper, a joy and a fear.
4. Each day in the coming week give thanks for the joy that has arisen, and ask God for peace for the fear.
5. Consider how you feel in a week, and what God has or might be doing to still you in the unknown.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Resurrection Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness.
Let us have eyes that look upon
Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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