

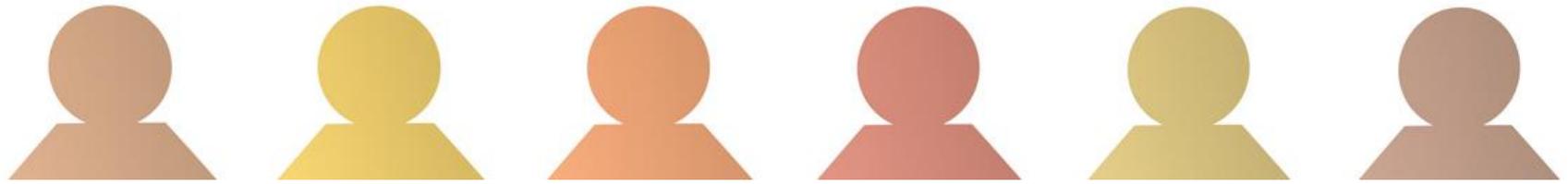
Sunday 17 May: How are we still church?



Whare Karakia

Home Prayers from Northwest Anglican

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 17 May 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!



From Learne: In this week our country moved to level 2 and many Christian leaders and church members were disappointed, even up in arms, about the church not being allowed to gather again. Many weeks ago now we talked about Control: Let It Go – How do we allow God to continue leading us and shaping us even when the world we live in doesn't seem to be doing what we want it to? Is it possible to keep being the church if we can't gather? Today as we begin, take a moment to consider our many brothers and sisters in Christ who are either not able to gather or for whom it is dangerous due to persecution. Eg. Algeria, China, Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka.

Get ready!

Get a coffee, tea, pens, paper, maybe a snack for the young ones!

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

Opening Prayer

*Get someone in your bubble to read out the opening prayer.
Open your hands out to God becoming aware of God with you.*

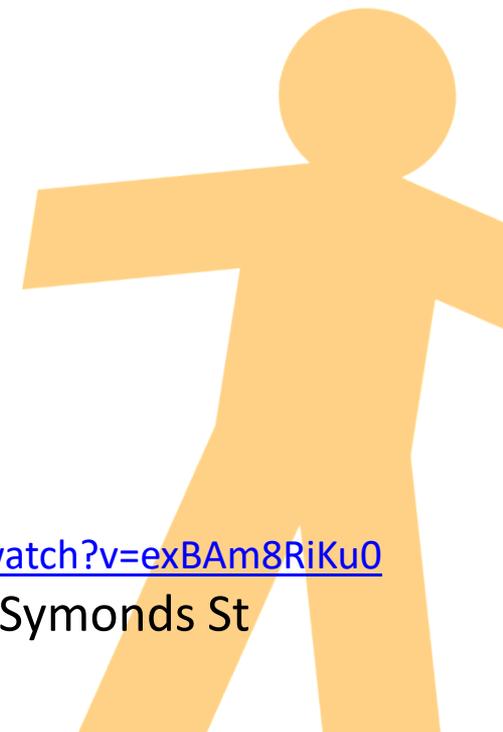
God who speaks in silence;
help us wait in quietness.
When you seem absent,
grant us the faith that knows you are there,
bringing to fulfilment all you have started.
Through Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen**

Song



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exBAm8RiKu0>

God with us – St Paul's Symonds St



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Fruity Activity

Get the fruit bowl and place it in the middle of your bubble – hopefully there is enough fruit for each person to pick out a piece! Take turns each taking a piece out of the bowl and sharing:

- If you picked out an apple share what ‘normal’ activity your are looking forward to in Level 2
- If you picked out a banana share the funniest thing that happened during lockdown
- If you picked out an orange share 3 things we can each do to be safe in Level 2
- If you picked out a mandarin share what has been the easiest thing during lockdown
- If you have some fancy fruit share what you have been dreaming about doing in Level 2

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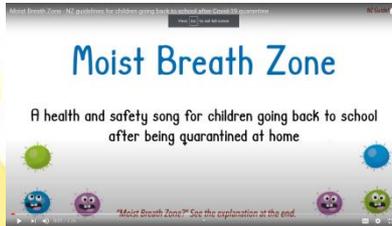
Scripture

Get someone in your bubble to read the following scripture:

John 14:15-21

Read carefully through this passage and find all the encouraging statements and phrases that Jesus makes.

For the kids



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZvtoVrykb8&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3-YLnzylIYNBStFdETP912BtFsq7UZuosK-PtCmaqMKHJO24MoyOYLLdM>

Moist Breath Song

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Reflection: Learn

Obedience and love – I think these can both be scary words. As a country we have done very well at obedience under level 4 and 3 and it remains to be seen how hard it might be under level 2. And the word love is such an overused word in so many weird places –like an emoji heart on Facebook that can be used for a cute kitten or a touching story or any number of things and yet people find it difficult to say “I love you”. The passage before us starts and ends with love and it fits into a long discourse that starts back in chapter 13. There are lots of little phrases and sentences that many might know well but not always know where to find them. “A new command I give you, love one another as I have loved you, by this shall everyone know you are my disciples”; “I am the way, and the truth and the life”; “remain in my love”; “abide in me” to name just a few. In this passage Jesus seems to use love and obedience like two book ends with the promise of the Spirit and the truth of life because Jesus will live.

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Reflection: Learnie

Some people want to sing “all you need is love” but actually I think the scriptures are clear – all we need is love that is shown in obedience. But obedience to what? Love God, love your neighbour? Well yes I guess so but it seems like such a huge task sometimes – which is why the insert of the promise of the Spirit is such a blessing here and in our world today. The apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the church in Rome - “the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Spirit” – how can we love God or know the depth of God’s love? How can we live faithfully obedient? By receiving every day the empowering, equipping, encouraging work of the Spirit. The Spirit will make the presence and the mission of Jesus real to us – opening our eyes to see all around us the needs that Jesus sees and the wisdom to know how best to respond. We will then continue to be witnesses to the loving good news of Jesus wherever we go.

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LEGO/DUPLO Intercessions for Kids



You will need: One LEGO or DUPLO brick per person

1. Hold your brick.

Pray for yourself. Thank God for the things he has given you.

2. Count the bumps on your brick.

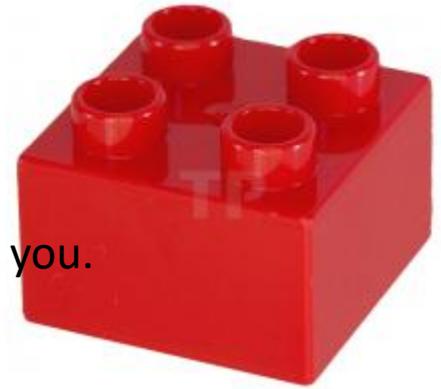
For each bump on your brick, pray for a different person- friends or family members.

3. Find someone who has a different colour brick to you.

Thank God for making each person special and different. Pray that we will learn how to celebrate and understand people who are different to us.

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LEGO/DUPLO Intercessions



4. Find someone with the same number of bumps on their brick as you.
Thank God for families and friends and all who care for us.

5. Swap your brick with someone.
Thank God for the person you swapped with and ask God to bless them this week.

6. Put all of the bricks together and build a structure or tower with them.
Thank God for the church and the communities we live in. Pray that He will help us to include others and to help people know that they are loved and valued.

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Response Activity

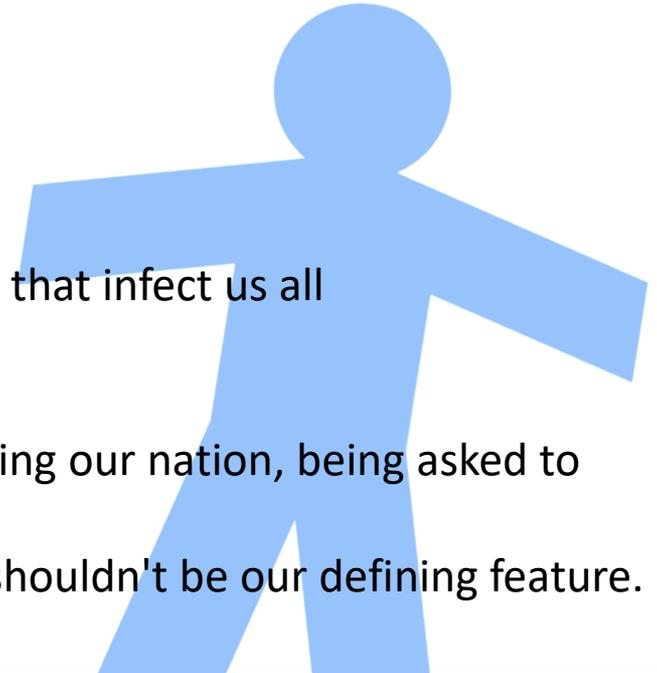
While we are not able to gather as one group as church we are still the church – consider the reflection you have just read and the words of the following letter on the next slide.

When you have finished reading it write down or discuss some practical ways that you could be engaged in living out God's love as we move into level 2 with more engagement with people around you.

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Response Activity

Dear church,
You are free to house the homeless
You are free to heal the sick
You are free to feed the hungry
You are free to stand for the oppressed
You are free to question injustice
You are free to stand with ihumātao
You are free to resist racism
You are free to stand against the narratives of colonization that infect us all
You are free to live the Gospel
You are free to worship in all these ways
There are some real injustices harming our people and facing our nation, being asked to gather in groups of ten is not one of them.
The church isn't a building. And Sunday morning services shouldn't be our defining feature.
A.J.Hendry



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Closing Prayer

Loving and Eternal God, in you we live and move and have our being. In all our cares and occupations, guide and govern us by your Spirit, that we may both remember and reveal your presence through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Go safely now to love and serve the Lord. Go safely in peace.

AMEN! We go safely in the name of Christ!

Now join us for morning tea at 11am via Zoom <https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/98439368407>

Stay tuned this week for another midweek bible study 'Rummaging for God' and next Sunday's Zoom worship service. Kia kaha.

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