

# Whare Karakia

## Home prayers

17 May 2020

John 14:15-21

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 Learné: 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.

### Opening Prayer

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

### Confession

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:  
**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Absolution

God forgives us.  
Forgive others;  
Forgive yourself.

### Song

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me  
Spirit of the living God Fall afresh on me  
Fill me anew, fill me anew,  
Spirit of the Lord, Fall afresh on me.

### Scriptures

John 14: 15-21  
*Read carefully through this passage and find all the encouraging statements and phrases that Jesus makes.*

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



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

## Reflection: From Learne

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. 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.

### Response Activity

Consider the reflection you have just read and the words of the following letter.

After you have read 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.

*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*



### Intercessions

Hold your hand out separating your fingers. Using each finger to symbolise a different topic, pray for each of the following: the World, the Church, New Zealand, our local community, yourself and your family. Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.

### 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.

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