

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

Te Pouhere Sunday:
14 June 2020
Acts 10:44-48
Luke 10:25-37

Today in the life of our church we celebrate our church's constitution which binds us together as one church with three cultural strands. The constitution is Te Pouhere, meaning the post to which waka are fastened to prevent their loss. This constitution holds us together in the name of Christ respecting and honouring the three tikanga partners in our church.



Opening Prayer

Bountiful God, with a generous hand you sow the seeds of the Kingdom.
Grant us the grace to cultivate your saplings, that all might find shade in the forest of love. Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Confession & Absolution

God of love and power,
we listen to the stories of miracles and doubt that these things can happen today.
We look at the waves of misfortune, distress, misery, distrust, and anger
and wonder how we can still those waves.
We feel the pressures of power and fear flooding into our lives,
threatening to drown us and wonder where you are.
Forgive us for the littleness of our faith.
Forgive us for our doubts.
Help us to place our trust in you, Lord Jesus.
Help us to fix our eyes on you and on the ministries to which you have called us.
For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Song

Wairua Tapu, Kuhu Mai
Nau mai ki konei
Wairua Tapu Arahia
Korero mai ano

Holy Spirit, welcome
You are welcome here
Guide us, Holy Spirit
Speak to us again

Scriptures

Acts 10:44-48 & Luke 10:25-37

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 Learne

Both of our readings for today call us out to see the wonderful God we are following. The God for whom there is no discrimination of class or creed or colour or race or gender or age. When Jesus walked on this earth there was much discrimination amongst the peoples. Today we find Jesus being put to the test as he was questioned by the lawyer. *What shall I do to inherit eternal life?* A good question. To all intents and purposes an honest question. Eventually with the banter back and forth Luke records that the man wanted to justify himself and he asks “*yes but who is my neighbour?*” Jesus tells a story about a man who is robbed and harmed but the key shocking figure to those who are listening is the Samaritan. The one who is hated by the Jewish people. This foreigner is the one who has compassion and empathy for the wounded one and Jesus tells the lawyer that he is to go and do likewise. Go and be like that one you don’t trust. Go and be like the one you don’t name as your neighbour. In today’s world everywhere we continue to see racism where people are treated a certain way because of the colour of their skin. This week I have read some terribly sad stories of disrespect, and abuse and mistrust and downright bigotry against a person simply because of the colour of their skin. As people who follow Jesus we must love our neighbour and stand with all who are created in the image of God.

Questions to Ponder

1. To what length did the Samaritan go to offer love and care to the man who had been robbed and wounded?
2. Where do you think we see racism operating in our country of New Zealand?

Response Activity

Consider one thing we can do to stop the tide of racism in our country. Eg. Become informed; pray specifically; refuse to listen to/laugh at racist conversations and jokes; learn Te Reo Maori.

Intercessions

God is our Lighthouse

We have found that thinking about God as a lighthouse who guides us to safety has been particularly useful when praying for nations that are going through stormy times, for situations that seem dark or unreachable, or for individuals who feel lost.

- Draw a picture of a lighthouse (or print out a photo!) and write down around it all the reasons why a lighthouse is so important for those out at sea, expanding the list outwards to include the reassurances of God as our ‘lighthouse’.
- Imagine God as that lighthouse beckoning all to safety – and one-by-one lift to him the particular individuals, situations or nations, asking for his guiding light to bring them out of the storm and into the safety of his harbour.



Closing Prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ
who reached across the ethnic boundaries
between Samaritan, Roman and Jew;
who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives,
help us to break down the barriers in our community,
enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry,
and free us to challenge and uproot it
from ourselves, our society and our world.
Give us strength in facing this challenge. Amen.

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