

Whare Karakia

Home prayers

28 June 2020

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Matthew 6:25-34

In this our last Whare Karakia resource we end with a wonderful passage from the book of Isaiah. The whole book brings the revelation of God to Isaiah the prophet and, as is usual with prophets the book is to be read and understood through a number of lenses – whether past history, or present events the people are living through, or future reality.



Opening Prayer

God of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things,
graft in our hearts the love of your name and increase in us true spirituality.
In this way nourish in us all goodness and your great mercy
that we might reflect the one who saves us.
Amen.

Confession & Absolution

Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where your thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.

God forgives us; be at peace.

Song

I love you Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship you, oh my soul rejoice
Take joy my king, in what You hear
Let it be a sweet sweet sound in your ear

Scriptures

Isaiah 51:1-16

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

There are many repeating patterns and themes throughout the scriptures and the word “Remember” encapsulates one of them. Remember what your God did. Remember your frailty. Remember how you behaved and God stepped in. In troubled and difficult times when we have perhaps lost our perspective, one way to have it restored is to remember not only who God is but what God has done and what God has promised for the future. The writings of Isaiah speak to us often of the righteousness of God and it is present in our passage today. The righteousness (or straightness or rightness) of God is closely related to God’s mercy and lovingkindness which results in salvation - be it deliverance from the Egyptians, crossing the red sea, rescue from exile in Babylon (as in today’s passage) or looking forward to the great acts of salvation through the work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord. This passage today is replete with images and ideas that draw the reader to the wonder of the God at work and the certainty of God’s righteousness always at work despite what they sometimes see around them. It reminds the Israelites of God’s goodness towards them, God’s promise of rescue, God’s justice shown to all the nations, the eternal nature of God’s salvation, God’s protection and the certainty of restoration and rescue by God’s powerful hand. I encourage us all to be still again, let God be God and take courage and comfort from all that you find in this passage.

Questions to Ponder

- What are the things that make it difficult for you to recognise God’s hand at work in the wider world or in your small world?
- How can these verses from Isaiah 51 help you focus back on God?

Response Activity

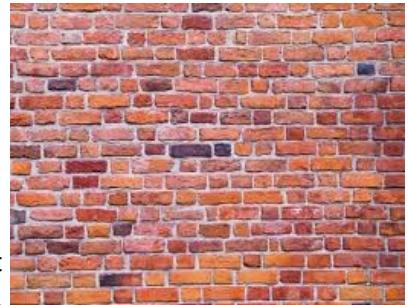
As you read the passage slowly out loud, ask God to pause your reading when there is a phrase or sentence or a verse or two that you need to focus on today. Allow yourself to meditate on this phrase or verse and let God speak to your particular circumstance or worry or concern.

Intercessions

God is the our DEFENDER

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. (Psalm 68:5)

1. Find and print off an image, or graphic of a wall. Spend some time looking at it and reflecting on God’s strength and reliability. Then write, with marker pen, other words and phrases you associate with the nature of God’s defence.
2. On a separate piece of paper, write the name or situation of the vulnerable individual (or group of people) you want to pray protection over. Then put the wall over this.
3. Using post-it notes if it helps you, bring to mind the particular dangers, threats or concerns that those you are praying for are facing – knowing that God’s wall of defence protects the core of those sheltering behind it.



Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
as we continue to search the scriptures patiently and reverently
give us eyes to see and a heart that yearns for more understanding
and light from your Word.

May we always be led to you, the Word made flesh;
remembering all that you have done
and offering your light for all who walk in dark places. Amen.

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