

# Whare Karakia

## Home prayers

19 December 2021

Mark 12:28-34

# ADVENT

# LOVE

*This is our last Whare Karakia for 2021. We will assess in the New Year whether they will be continued. Please take care over the Christmas/New Year Season and get in touch if you need anything. Richest Christmas blessings to you. Rev Learne McGrath, Vicar.*

### Opening Prayer

We thank you God that you are love.  
You are here as usual with your loving presence.  
We still ourselves to worship you.  
We welcome you.  
Amen

### Confession

Merciful God, we have sinned  
in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done  
and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance:  
we have sinned in weakness:

we have sinned through our own deliberate  
fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to  
you. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name.  
Amen

### Absolution

The God of love brings us back to himself,  
forgives us our sins,  
and assures us of his eternal love.  
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Song

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come  
down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou  
art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to  
deliver,  
let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and  
never,  
nevermore thy temples  
leave.  
Thee we would be  
always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts  
above, pray, and praise  
thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new  
creation;  
true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into  
glory,  
till in heav'n we take our  
place,  
till we cast our crowns before  
thee, lost in wonder, love and  
praise.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:  
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CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Northwest Anglican

## Reflection: From Learne

The scriptures tell us that “ we love because God first loved us”. They tell us that “God loved the world so much that he gave his only son”. Many of the middle eastern gods that were worshipped in Old Testament times were punitive and tyrannical. They were gods that demanded people do certain things in order that they be blessed. Our scriptures tell us about Yahweh the God who loves. This God that has called them is different to the gods of the nations around them. God called them to love people because that is what God has done for them. When we move into the New Testament scriptures the nature of this loving God is further extended as Jesus once again calls his followers to know that God is love and that all our behaviour and attitudes are to be modelled on that love. There is never a time when God doesn't love you. Is that hard to believe? We are told that God is love. It is because of this essence that God is that we can be certain God is always loving towards us. We don't have to earn it. We can't stop it. God is love! And God is loving towards us. That is why Emmanuel, God with us came the first time and that is why God is coming back again to restore the earth to its original beauty and order where justice and love prevail. God is love – believe it.

## Questions

- To what degree do you believe God loves you completely and totally unconditionally? Read John 3:16
- Spend some time thanking God for the love poured out towards you.

## 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

## Closing Prayer

God I thank you for your love. Help me this week to love others around me and share the truth of your loving presence with them. Fill me again with your loving presence. Amen