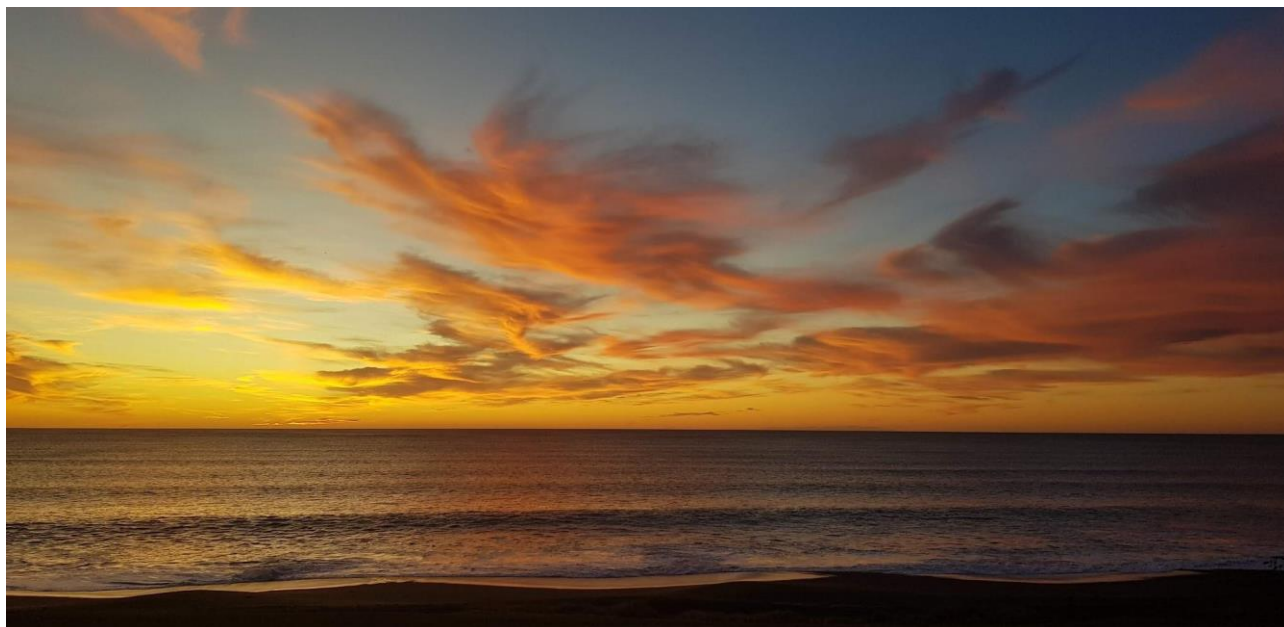


**St Paul's Presbyterian Church
Harvest Festival Service, March 29th, 2020**

Even In the midst of COVID19, the flowers are flowering, the olives are ripening, the feijoas are falling.



Pre-service music

[For the Beauty of the Earth](#) these two take a while to load....

[Sheep may safely graze JS Bach](#) a bit quieter than some of the other videos.

>>

[Good morning and welcome](#)

You might like to light your candle as I light the Christ candle from Church.

***As we light this candle,
We feel the warmth of your presence
And see the light of your hope
For us and for our world.***

Call to Worship:

Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent
towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,
putting our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,
whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

People of God, we give thanks for all creation
and for the harvest of the earth which feeds and sustains us.

Hymn: [For the fruits of all creation](#)

For the fruits of all creation
thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

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Prayer *from the Corrymeela community for this week*

God of the one and God of the whole,
be with those who are working from home today
and those whose work keeps them from home.
Be with those who won't go beyond the front porch,
and those who stay on the front line.
Be with those who must choose between
doing a job they know they can do
and being the parent only they can be.
May we each in our private worry
hear your universal call
to come, lay down heavy burdens,
and find a welcome rest.
And then with our burdens lightened,
may we help to hold the whole. Amen.

Readings Deuteronomy 24:19 - 22 [read by Frank](#) We chose this reading because it reminded us how we are all interconnected, especially in this moment of our human lives.

Reflection you might like to pick up something from your garden or remember some of your experiences of harvesting during your life. You might like to have a look at some of our harvest photos while you do so.



....I remember the joy of seeing mushrooms sprouting up on an autumn morning, going out in the dewy grass, picking them and giving them to Mum to cook for breakfast. Mushrooms, sizzling in butter.... They remind me even now of God's surprising presence. *Sally*

.....I have vivid memories of my first time bottling fruit. Having come from Scotland where fruit wasn't plentiful, there was heaps to learn and the results were pretty good. *Brenda*

Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-29 [read by Frank](#)

Reflection: HARVEST acrostic - *Please pick up your piece of paper and pen and write the letters*

HARVEST down the left hand side like this. Then, write a word starting with each letter - a word which reminds you of God's presence. *faithfulness, and love. H for Holy, A for abundant, R for....*

Take time to breathe.....and listen to this Taize chant.

[Come and fill our hearts with your peace](#)



Prayers for the world: *Let us sit in silence and remember those who are top of our minds and hearts. Family, those who are working in difficult circumstances, those who are at home in difficult circumstances..... And those who are just at home creating a 'new normal'*
And let us say the Lord's prayer:

***Our father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. AMEN.***

And here is a fine old hymn to close with:

Hymn: [We plough the fields and scatter](#)

Blessing - *you might like to say this out loud with those in your bubble, or to those you are thinking of. And I say it to you....*
The arm of God be about you
The way of Christ guide you
The strength of the Spirit support you. AMEN.

Postlude

[Look at the world John Rutter](#)

You might like to share some of this worship and reflection with someone who hasn't got email. If you would like to keep up your freewill offering during this time, the church bank account is BNZ 02 0700 0013101 000. Thank you.

At Harvest time, we make a special effort in our ongoing support of the foodbank. Here is their bank account, too. Napier Community Foodbank Trust – BNZ 020766-0026618-02.