

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'
'We celebrate life in Christ. Join us on the journey'

10:00 am Service led by Keith Rowe
***The fifth Sunday in
Easter Year C, 15th May 2022***

*It is delightful that you are here as we worship God together this morning. Please join in reading the **words in bold italic type** if you would like to.*

*Where you see a * please stand if you are able.*

*Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Anyoung haseyo, Malo elelei,
Ni hao, Ohayo gozaimasu, Fakaalofa atu!
Nau mai, haere mai, welcome!*



Gathering Prayer:

Each of us is a unique and named person. We are loved individuals.
When we gather in this place, we individuals, become a community,
Where each of is valued and every gift is respected.

It is time for our morning worship as the Community of St Paul's.

The Peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.

From a world shaped by grasping and accumulation,
we come to recall the way of Jesus:
though he was in the form of God he did not grasp at equality with God but
became a servant of humanity.

***In the stillness of this place and as people of the Jesus Way
we open ourselves to the presence of Spirit.
We let go of whatever else lays claim to our living.***

From a world cruelly divided by wealth and culture, religion and politics,
we come to drink from the well of Divine love for every person,
we recall the healing and hospitable love that shaped the being of Jesus.

***In the stillness of this place and as people of the Jesus way
we open ourselves to the presence of Spirit.
May the seamless love of Jesus soak into our being.***

From a world awash with words and explanations, human ingenuity and
ambition

We rest in the grace filled silence of Divine love,
losing ourselves in truth beyond words, love beyond explanation.

***In the stillness of this place and as people of the Jesus Way
we open ourselves to the presence of Spirit.
In the gentle silence we listen afresh for whispers of grace.***

From a world of rushing to and fro,
of racing the clock and meeting the demands of others,
we come seeking rest and renewal in the deep places of our existence,
allowing the good news in Christ to shape our living and our thinking, our
doing and our praying.

Amen, Amen

***Hymn: Come and Find the Quiet Centre**

Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Shirley Erena Murray

Welcome and Notices

Prayer for the Day

God of the poor and the overlooked:

***Open our eyes to see those whose needs are ignored;
Open our hearts to feel the pain of the dispossessed;
May the day come when everyone
has a secure place at the table of life.***

The Readings

Acts 11: 1-18

Peter assumes that some are to be accepted as among the people of God while others are to be regarded as beyond the reach of divine and human acceptance. Peter takes this popular view for granted until he has a vision that convinces him that no one is to be regarded as excluded from God-love. He knows that from now he is to be a servant of this inclusive love that has touched him. To walk in expansive and inclusive love is to live within the Spirit of God.

Revelation 21: 1-6

John concludes his strange and visionary meditation with a vision intended to encourage those who yearn for a time when the power of those who oppress is no more, when weeping is no longer the dominant song of humanity, when water and food is shared, when God is known as love that wipes away tears, makes all things new and heals humanity from foolish and life denying divisions.

Hymn: Dear weaver of our life's design

Dear weaver of our lives' design
whose patterns all obey,
with skilful fingers gently guide
the sturdy threads that will survive
the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives
with hands that gently hold;
bind in the ragged edge that care
would sunder and that pain would tear,
and mend our rav'ling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see;
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free.

Address

***Hymn: God Who Sets Us on a Journey**

God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide

Prayers for the world: *followed by the Lord's Prayer sung*

*Our Father in heaven,
Holy be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as 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 for ever.
Amen, amen, amen, amen;
amen, amen, amen, amen.*

Offering

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

God – our origin, our depth, and our destiny,
we give thanks that all our days are lived
in the presence of your eternal love.
We work hard to earn a living,
We are careful with our money,
We worry about life's uncertainties.

***Yet we know that life is more than things,
more than achievements, more than possessions.***

We have learned from Gospel words and life experience,
that there is truth beyond what can be spoken,
love deeper than human experience,
achievement more lasting than a bank balance.

***We give thanks that because of your unwavering love,
new beginnings are always possible,
healing always available for a wounded spirit.***

We give thanks that in Jesus
we know of your eternal love for all people,
even for those whose errors bring hardship to others.

***We give thanks that in your love every person,
is precious and of infinite value;
that you love us as we are
and towards what we may become.***

***Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God**

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,

and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

As we go,
Let us recall the way of Jesus:

Blessed are those who know their need
the grace of heaven surrounds us.

Blessed are those who weep
our tears are being wiped away.

Blessed are the humble
we are close to the sacred earth.

Blessed are those who hunger for earth's oneness
we see signs of what we seek.

Blessed are the forgiving
we are being freed from slavery to past hurts.

Blessed are the clear in heart
we live within the Living Presence.

Blessed are the peacemakers
we are born of God and serve God.

Blessing

*The contemporary hymns used in our liturgies are reproduced with permission under
license #A608963 LicenSing – Copyright cleared music for churches.*

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES 15th May 2022

Helping Today

Greeters: Elaine Brown & Christine Woodward

Offering: Helen McClymont

Bible Reader: Marion Fell

Musician: Dorothy Finlayson

Flowers: Pam Clare & Marian Eagle

Grounds: Bruce Tucker

Helping next week Sunday 22nd May

Greeters: Anne Loan & Marian Eagle

Offering: Sylvia Low

Bible Reader: Anne Loan

Musician: Pam Clare

Flowers: Grace Moore & Rae Wildbore

Grounds: Lynne & Murray Arnold

What's On This Week

Monday Care and Share in Church Lounge 16th May at 1.30pm

Tuesday Jitterbugs Pre-school music from 9am..

Thursday - Prayers in Church Lounge at 9.00am.

Prayer Focus: Let us pray for: -

- * Ministry among us: Jitterbugs
- * Partners in God's Mission of Love: Napier Food Bank
- * Partners in the Napier Inner City: Catholic Parish of Napier
- * Parishes in our Presbytery: Waipukurau

Care and Share

Our monthly meeting will be held in the lounge on **Monday 16th May at 1.30pm** in the Church Lounge. Do join us for fun and fellowship. Topic - A Royal Occasion. To be involved we would love you to bring along your Royal books and share memories. Don't forget our sales table. All welcome. Dorothy Phone 8431266 (for the team).

Driver required to help with Care and Share

If anyone is able to occasionally help with transporting a non driver to Care and Share, it would be much appreciated. Care and Share is held in the Church Lounge at 1.30pm every third Monday. It would only require half an hour of your time. Contact **Marian Eagle on 835 4590** if you can help.

Napier Food Bank

The Napier Foodbank is currently low on canned fruit, soup, baby food and nappies. Thank you so much. All donations are very gratefully received.

June Newsletter

We are putting together items for the next newsletter in early June. Please send all contributions to Bridget at the church office stpaulsnapier@gmail.com. The cut-off date for submissions is Tuesday 24th May, 2022.

Bible Readings for Monday 16th May – Saturday 21st May

- **Monday, May 16, 2022:** Psalm 133; 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42; Acts 11:19-26
- **Tuesday, May 17, 2022:** Psalm 133; 2 Samuel 1:4-27; Acts 11:27-30
- **Wednesday, May 18, 2022:** Psalm 133; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-28
- **Thursday, May 19, 2022:** Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:1-5; Acts 15:36-41
- **Friday, May 20, 2022:** Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:6-8; Acts 16:1-8
- **Saturday, May 21, 2022:** Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:9-15; Luke 19:1-10