

St Paul's Presbyterian Church - [online](http://www.stpaulsnapier.org.nz)
www.stpaulsnapier.org.nz

'We celebrate life in Christ. Join us on the journey'
Easter 4A Sunday May 3rd 2020



*It is delightful that you are here as we worship God this morning. I hope that you are finding God in both usual and unusual places and experiences during these strange times. Please join in reading the **words in bold italic type** if you would like to.*

Pre-service music: Be still for the presence of the Lord

Worship Service: led by Rev Sally Carter and the worship team

Let us light our candles:
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:

Children of God, do you love the God
who hovered over the face of the deep and called the worlds into being?
Yes, you know that we do.
Then feed God's children.

Children of God, do you love the God
who was revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ?
Yes, you know that we do.
Then take care of God's children.

Children of God, do you love the God
who breathes new life into us even as we gather this day?
Yes, you know that we do.
Then feed God's children.

***Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him song ends at 2:12**

Telling our story 1: Fishing

One of my teachers used to love going fishing. She would take her small dinghy out into the Hauraki Gulf and cast her line over the edge. Only thing was she chose not to put any bait on the hook!

Bring to mind some of your own experiences of fishing or watching people fishing.

We catch up with seven of the disciples for this third encounter with the risen Jesus. I'm going fishing says Peter.

Feel the draw of the familiar in the midst of confusion....going ... back perhaps....to what they were doing before they were called to follow Jesus

Imagine fishing all night and catching nothing. Cold and wet you come back to shore. Imagine this stranger coming up and telling you to cast on the other side.

*Imagine hauling up a net FULL of fish
What are you going to do with them all?....*

Imagine after all that chaos, Jesus calling out from the beach...the charcoal fire burning, bread and fish cooking, the gentle invitation... come and have breakfast.... Next time you have breakfast, imagine Jesus inviting you to share it with him. What would you be chatting about?

Pray: Jesus, you meet me at the water's edge of my ordinary life. You accept me lovingly, you encourage me, you invite me to abundance. Nourished by the food of your word, warmed by the fire of your unfailing love, may I in turn nourish, heal and love those I meet today.

Prayers: *followed by the Lord's Prayer*
Holy Risen One,
Signs of your resurrection
surprise us with their ordinary sacred.

We go about our lives,
not knowing how to live into the new life you promise,
so we do what we know to do –

As the disciples go back to fishing,
we get back to business.
All the while,
in the back of our minds and hearts,
we grieve Your Absence,
we miss Your Presence.

And just as we start to think You were just a dream,
You show up as ordinary sacred,
grilling fish on the beach,
offering a small kindness through a stranger on the street,
a simple magic moment with a friend,
a tulip blooming in the rain.

Help us to remember that everything is different
in the living of our lives
because of You.....hear us as we pray, saying,

*~ written by Rev Karla and posted on RevGalBlogPals.
<https://revgalblogpals.org/2016/04/09/sunday-prayer-190/>*

***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.***

Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

Going Fishing *Thank you, Heather, Penny, Pam, Brenda, Lynne, Eleanor,*

Sally for your photos and memories

The song comes from the Iona Community 'Were I the perfect child of God'

Were I the perfect child of God
Whose faith was deep, whose love was broad,
Not doubtful, guilty, worn or flawed,
I'd gladly follow Jesus.
But I'm the child of what I've been,
Estranged by much I've done or seen,
Ashamed to show the love I mean,
Unfit to follow Jesus.

Yet, God who knows me first and last
Who's seen my best, my worst, my past
Has shown his love intense and vast
By meeting me in Jesus.
For Christ, though killed at Calvary
By sins like mine and folk like me,
Has ris'n, forgiv'n and set me free
Made fit to follow Jesus.

Then sprinkle water on my brow
As, in this place, I make my vow
To own and love my Saviour now
And give myself to Jesus.
God, grant me what I still require
That I, in others, might inspire
The hidden hope, the deep desire
To love and follow Jesus.

Reflection:

Bonus bit: Lynne's version called it The miraculous catch of fish, others call it 'Jesus appears to seven disciples' what would you call it?

Just a couple of things about this chapter. When we get to the end of chapter 20, it seems as though that is the end of John's gospel....

So some scholars think that chapter 21 is an addition by someone else. Who that someone might be is one of the mysteries.

Another mystery is who the beloved disciple is - most likely the author of John's gospel - but some say Lazarus, some say Mary Magdalene, some say the host of the last supper.

The third mystery is the specificity of the number of fish in the catch 153. As a maths teacher I am interested to know that the sum of the numbers 1 - 17 is.... Yep....153. Well, well. You can find out a lot more about this if you want to!

***Hymn: Oh Jesus I have promised**

Telling our story (ii) A place for hope

*Imagine being Peter - so conscious of his frailty and failings,
Imagine the hurt you feel when Jesus asks you again and again
If you love him.*

*Imagine the relief when you realise that you are free to love him
And that he loves you.*

*Imagine being at a place that is special to you....
A place that reminds you that you are loved,
A place where you can be replenished, restored,
A place where you are able to trust again in Christ's love.
Your emptiness filled with God's grace and love for you, his precious and
beloved.*

***Pray: Lord, I see here your unbounded mercy and forgiving love for me.
You remind me that everything in the world is redeemable because of
your rising from the dead. From your acceptance of me may I learn how
to accept others who fail me.***

Hymn: Amazing Grace

Prayer from Corrymeela

God of tumult, God of peace: more will change in the weeks and months to come. Further landscapes of our normal will be shaken to the ground. Gradual movements will accelerate, market trends will shift, and they will sweep away much of what we know. And so we pray for what we need: the reassurance of your strength in the midst of our community; and the life that returns in fuller resurrection after what we love is laid to rest.

Amen.

***Offering**

***Source of all life, we offer this food and money to your purposes .
Jesus, redeemer of our frailties, we offer our hearts to you.
Spirit, our eternal companion, we offer our work and energies to you.
God, three in one, we offer our lives to you. AMEN.***

Benediction:

Christ within us,
Light above us,
Earth beneath us,

Love surrounds us. **Amen.**

And now let us enjoy Malcolm Gordon's hymn 'Christ before me' as we leave this space.... See you next week....

***Hymn: Christ before me**

Christ before me, Christ behind me
Christ above me and below
Christ beside me, Christ within me
Christ around me wher'er I go

*Everything is sacred
Everything is blessed
Everyone made worthy
To find their holy rest
Everyone belongs here
Everyone is loved
Every life that's failing
Grace will lift above*

Christ before you, Christ behind you
Christ above you and below
Christ beside you, Christ within you
Christ around you wher'er you go

Everything is sacred....

Christ before us, Christ behind us
Christ above us and below
Christ beside us, Christ within us
Christ around us wher'er we go

Everything is sacred....

Christ before me
Christ behind me
Christ above me and below
Christ beside me
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