

Welcome to
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
CLIVE SQUARE, NAPIER

Sunday May 17th 2020.
Easter 6

Worship Leader: Joanne Gaudin



PREPARATION AND WELCOME

Welcome to this time of worship with our loving God in the comfort of our own homes.

As we continue to transition through this pandemic let us embrace this new ways of sharing our faith with each other and those around us. Invite others from Trinity or your neighbourhood to join with you and share in this service or simply spend time alone; still your mind and listen with your heart for the voice of God supporting and guiding us during this time of worship. You may choose to light a candle to signify the Christ light.

And as we gather with God and each other

Welcome! Malo e lelei! Talofa lava! Ni sa bula vinaka!

Kia ora! Nau mai, haere mai ki tēnei whare karakia

Greetings. Welcome, welcome to this time of prayer

CALL TO WORSHIP

The spirit of God calls us from many places;
some of us come together in busy homes with many people;
some of us live alone.

We are all a part of God's family.

This week has been different for each of us;
some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate;
some of us have faced grief and need to cry.

Yet we all come to this same place;
all of us seeking God's presence in our lives
all of us seeking God's presence with each other.
Together or separately, we become God's family.

(adapted from 1994, [Liturgy Outside](#))

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We come before you today believing in God,
the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers and fathers us,
protecting, nurturing,
and cherishing us.

We come before you today believing in Jesus Christ:
A God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calls us to rest in God
as trustingly as a tiny child.

We come before you today believing in the Holy Spirit,
breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth
and inspiring our living.

We come before you today believing in the reconciliation
of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth and humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light.

Nathan Nettleton, *Laughingbird*

God in Community, Holy in One,
You offer the gift of life and grace
to all your children and so we pray as we were taught,

THE LORDS PRAYER *using whatever version and language you prefer.*

GREETING OF PEACE

Once again I extend the invitation made by Reverend Lynne to phone someone in the congregation each week as an act of sharing and caring. Remember to try to ring someone different each week so that we continue to expand our Peace bubble just as we would if we were attending a service at Trinity.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus, thank you for those who show me the way when I am lost:
parents and grandparents...

Jesus, thank you for those who teach me your way when I get mixed up:
family, friends, teachers...

Jesus, thank you for those who give us life:
for farmers who grow our food, doctors who keep us well,
for friends who make life fun.

Jesus, thank you for being you and for helping me
to be the me you want me to be. **Amen.**

We listen and reflect

Whakarongo ki te kupu a te Wairua ki te Haahi.

(Listen to the words of the Spirit to the Church.)

THE BIBLE READING

John 14: 15-21 (page 138)

REFLECTION

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.”

Over these last few weeks we have been called as the people of Aotearoa to act together in order to fight the Covid-19 virus; to stop its spread, to save lives and to maintain the long term wellbeing of us all.

In an unprecedented action we were called to stay at home; to close our workplaces, our schools, our churches and forgo our lifestyles.

We were asked to stay in our ‘bubble’ and not visit friends or family - especially family members over the age of 70.

Essentially we were asked to put our lives on hold and make personal sacrifices. And by and large that is what we have done as a Nation.

No matter the emotional cost or financial hardship we became one body united against the Virus.

Why was it so easy for our people to trust in the Government and take these necessary steps? Why were we so prepared to fight Covid-19 when the virus cant even be seen without the assistance of a microscope?

I've asked myself this question even while I was indulging in the feel good pat on the back sensation that we could achieve this without a civil uprising taking place.

So often followers of the Christian faith are asked “ how can you believe in something you cannot see?”

“How can you believe in the resurrection and the Holy Spirit?”

There is no easy answer to these questions but for me accepting the teachings of Christ, being guided by the voice of God in my heart, accepting the guidance of the Holy Spirit is the basis of my faith.

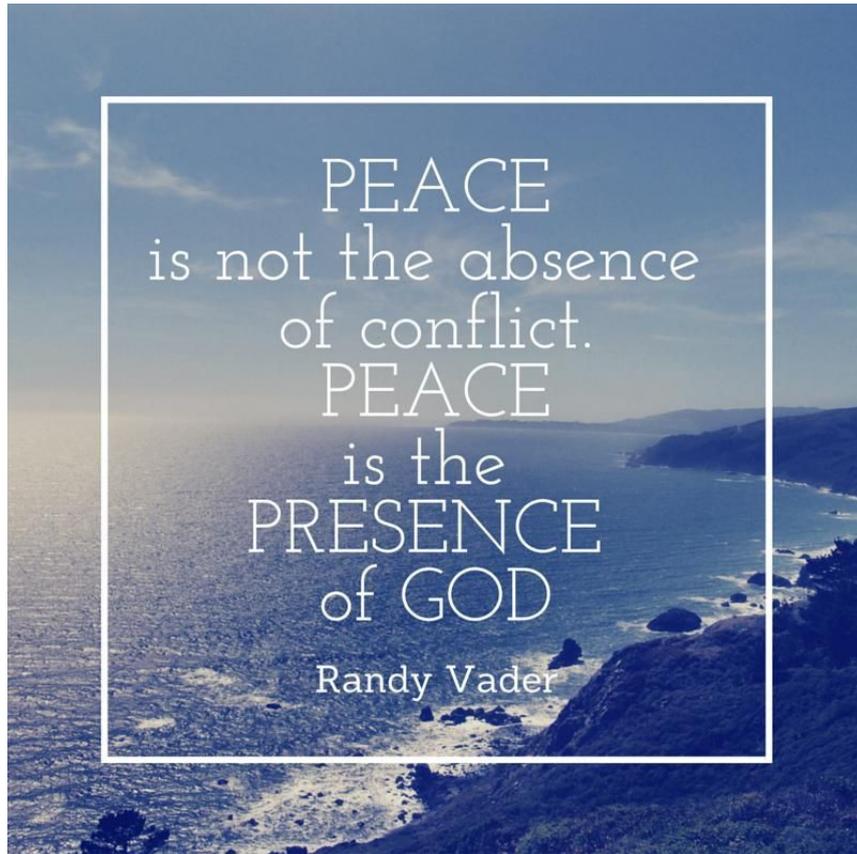
When I am still and listen to that voice there is much more peace, hope, joy and love in my life and therefore more of each of those commodities to share with those around me - be they known to me or total strangers.

I don't need to see God, I can feel his presence in my soul and it makes me stronger.

Nor is it necessary for me to be worshiping God in a building known as a church. As Rev Lynne reminded us earlier this week “the church is wherever God’s people are praising”.

And from Matthew 18:20 “ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

This week take the time to listen for the Spirit, gifted to us by God, who will guide us on our journey. Invite others to listen with you not only with words but by your actions. Help them to see what you do, for when you believe in what you can only know anything is possible.



PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND FOR THE **W**ORLD

Faithful God,

we bring to you our prayers for all who are present,
for the friends and families who support us;
and for all those who care for us.

God our refuge,

we pray for those who are fearful for the future
we ask that when we are troubled and afraid
you will give wisdom, care, and protection.

God of hope,

We pray for ourselves,

when we are fearful and uncertain,
conscious of the forces that threaten us
and aware of our own vulnerability.

give us strength to face our fears,
and to trust you for the way ahead.

God of encouragement,

we ask that we will find confidence
and strength in your faithfulness.

Today we ask you to give strength to June Johnson & family
as they adapt to the loss of family leader Tom;
to Betty Martin as she once again recovers at home
after time in hospital for a fall;
and to all of the Trinity family as we adjust to the different
constraints of Covid-19 Level 2. **Amen**

SENDING

Sometimes we find ourselves on our own and are frightened
But our families can make us feel safe
Sometimes we feel sad, lonely, left out.
But our friends cheer us up.
Sometimes we feel our friends and family have left us.
But God is with us always and we are never alone.

Haere i runga i te aroha. Haere i runga i te rangimārie. Amine.

BLESSING *We bless each other by saying the Grace together.*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.
Amen.**

Love feast liturgy adapted from Olof's Brothers' Love Feast. www.katrinadream.org

*To conclude your time of worship you may choose to select hymns or music to
listen to in quiet reflection or you might like to listen to this recording*

Be still for the presence of the Lord'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

or 'How many roads must man walk down' by Peter, Paul & Mary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9o_Lf6Jr12Q



The Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa

**The Mission of Trinity Methodist Church, Napier
is to demonstrate God's unconditional love through friendship, outreach
and service in the community.**