



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

10th May 2020

EASTER 5

with **Rev'd John Hebenton tssf**



There is a Zoom morning tea after the 9.30am Service.

Please join us, using this link code from 10.30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88100362839>

Meeting ID: 881 0036 2839.

Service: 476

NZPB

Psalm - 31:1-5,15-16

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Psalm Response: Glory to God – Creator, Word, and Spirit

As God always was, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

First Reading - Acts 7:55-60

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel - John 14:1-14

Sentence

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14.6

Prayer for the Day

God of truth,
hidden force of all creation, you long to set us free.
Confront us with your tenderness,
fire us with your justice;
that, at your coming,
we too may set the world alight.
through Jesus Christ our liberator,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Theme:

So here we are, week 7 of lockdown and starting the fifth week of Easter. It is all very different this year. Well, at least in our doom and uncertainty we get uplifting readings about the risen Jesus celebrating resurrection and eternal life. Except we do not. Stephen gets stoned and Jesus is in his final pep talk with his friends and disciples as they and he prepare for the horrors and uncertainty that lie ahead. So, I guess it is time to start living out for ourselves in our own time of uncertainty what resurrection and ascension might mean for us.

In our grief of what has been and uncertainty about what will be, we join those disciples in the room with Jesus, and those disciples John wrote for listening to this version of Jesus final summary of everything that had been said and done up to this point. We are invited to abide in the compassion and love of God made known in Jesus. And that involves living this simple message.

“Trust that God is the way Jesus told us and demonstrated to us. That means two things, especially as we now think canonically and include more of the story of Jesus from the other gospels: we can trust in the God of compassion in which there’s a place for us (even if we know nothing else!) and we can know that the meaning of life is to share that compassion in the world - there’s a place for all! We can join that compassion wherever we recognise its ‘Jesus shape’, acknowledging it as life and truth and the only way.”^[1]

I wonder where we see that Jesus shape in the way people are responding to our current situation. What might that invite us to?

As we wait for what will be, may we abide in compassion, and live that compassion for ourselves and others. Be kind to yourself and others. Stay safe. Stay calm. Wash your hands.

Prayer

Our community - We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Pyes Pa, The Lakes and Merivale, especially for those badly affected by Covid-19, either through the death of a loved one, ill-health, or changes to employment. We pray for all those seeking to bring healing and hope, particularly health workers and organisations like Te Tuinga Whanau, and Foodbank

We pray for those who are dying, sick, in hospital or in any other kind of need, parishioners in rest homes and those who normally receive home communion. We especially pray for any others you hold in your hearts.

¹ Bill Loader, < <http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/MtEaster5.htm> >

Our Church: Today we pray for the people of the *Otumoetai Parish & their clergy*: Sue Beverly (Vicar), Isabel Mordecai (Priest Associate), Sue Genner (Deacon Associate). Retired clergy: Geoff Crawshaw, Debbie Garrett.

Wider Church: Today we pray for the staff and Board of Anglican Missions, who help enable global mission. We give thanks for the ongoing support of Parishes and Rohe for the overseas mission work of our Church carried out through Anglican Missions.

Notices:

Parish Coffee Meet: Tuesday 26th May, 10.30am Zoom get together???

Tauranga Community Foodbank are in need of donations to help them continue to support those most in need during this time. You can donate online:
<https://taurangafoodbank.co.nz/>

WBOP Rapid Response Fund - COVID-19

Funders in the Western Bay of Plenty have come together to establish a new rapid response fund to support community groups who are experiencing increased demand and/or funding shortfall as a result of COVID-19. The funders, who have collectively pooled funds totalling \$600,000 to create the WBOP Rapid Response Fund include TECT, BayTrust, Acorn Foundation and Tauranga City Council.

If you would like to participate, you can make an online donation either via credit card (selecting Acorn COVID-19 Rapid Respond Fund), or via internet banking using the word COVID as your reference.

Together in Prayer on Sunday - You are invited to join us for the Sunday service on the Parish Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican/>. You do not need to be a Facebook member to join us

Together in Prayer during the week- You continue to be invited to join in praying at 9.30 each morning in our own places.

Praying with our Province and the Communion. The Archbishops and bishops have asked us all to join them in prayer at 7pm every Sunday while worship services are suspended. Please light a candle and pray with and for others. Bishop Andrew Hedge invites you to join him on Zoom for Night Prayer from 6:50pm onwards, (<https://zoom.us/j/494425649>, Meeting ID: 494 425 649) or to follow on Facebook on Bishop Andrew Hedge's page <https://www.facebook.com/BishopAndrewHedge/>.

For more resources from the Diocese – go to the Facebook page or the Waiapu Diocesan website at <http://www.waiapu.com/>

Tax Receipt Envelopes – due to the Lockdown, these will be emailed out to parishioners when completed

St. Georges Parish Social Night - Join us for a social night on Zoom, from your homes, Friday 8th May at 5pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84376648062>. Meeting ID: 843 7664 8062

Taizé Service – 14th June, 7pm at St George’s. Come and join us for a contemplative service based on the music of the Taizé Community, if we are in Level 2 and can meet.

This week in the Parish:

Monday 11th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Tuesday 12th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Wednesday 13th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Thursday 14th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Friday 15th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Saturday 16th May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe
Sunday 17th May online service on our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican/> , or on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY6aj_VKJYW9YzDy2zZ-EAA

Followed by **zoom morning tea**– Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88100362839> - Meeting ID: 881 0036

Service Next Week 17th May - Easter 6

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Psalm - 66:8-20

First Reading - Acts 17:22-31

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel - John 14:15-21



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