



# St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

*All who enter here be reconciled*

17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

## EASTER 6



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.

**Liturgy Service: 476**

**NZPB**

Psalm - 66:8-20

**Psalm Response:** Glory to God – Creator, Word, and Spirit  
**As God always was, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

First Reading - Acts 17:22-31

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel - John 14:15-21

### Sentence

Those you love me will keep my word, Jesus promises, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

John 14.23

### Prayer for the Day

God who speaks in silence;  
help us wait in quietness.

When you seem absent,  
grant us the faith that knows you are there,  
bringing to fulfilment all you have started.

Through Jesus Christ our Liberator,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Theme for the Week

We have left lockdown, our normal for the last 7 weeks. We look ahead to the new normal, which is not quite as life was, but very different to the last 7 weeks. And that will bring joy and sadness, with a sprinkling of uncertainty. Even entering level 2 is not as easy as we might think. This has been and continues to be hard.

For the last few weeks, we have focussed on how John placed Jesus in the Good Shepherd tradition – a tradition that names God as the one who provides and protects. And a significant part of that is God's promise to restore humanity and renew all creation. I cannot help but think we need this promise now more than ever.

Like last week, this week's gospel invites us to join the disciples in the room with Jesus, and those disciples John wrote for, in their fear, grief, and uncertainty. We join them listening to John's version of Jesus' final summary of everything that had been said and done. That in Jesus we see the Father who abides in Jesus. We see the character of the Father: love, compassion, mercy, justice, inclusiveness, passion, goodness, and peace. For John, the chief character is love. We are to live/abide in this love, dig roots deeply into this love, and base our identities in this love. When we do this, we cannot help but love. That is the commandment – to love one another, not out of obedience but because we abide/live in love.

Abiding in love can sometimes be very difficult. This week we continue to hear Jesus encouraging his shell shocked and grieving disciples as their dreams come to an end. We bring our own response to all that is happening to us and our world. We hear with them that this is not the end. Jesus sends another advocate, The Spirit of Truth, to walk alongside and within each of them and us in all that lies ahead. In all that is happening and all that we are feeling The Spirit is with us and in us. We are not alone.

I wonder what we hear in that promise what words are spoken to us? How have we experienced the Spirit of Truth over these weeks, and how do we experience this spirit in our new normal? How might we live that out.

## 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 receive home communion. We especially pray for any others you hold in your hearts.

**Our Church:** Today we pray for the people of the Waipaoa Parish & their clergy: Sheryl McGrory (Priest in Charge), the people of the Waikohu Co-operating Parish & their clergy. Retired: Pat Davidson

**Wider Church:** Today we pray for our partners in Australia. We pray for the work of Anglican Overseas Aid and of the Australian Anglican Board of Mission. Especially we pray for their work among the indigenous people of Australia and for continued reconciliation and justice.

## **Notices:**

**Tauranga Community Foodbank** are in great need of donations. Nicki Goodwin, the Manager writes that “There is no doubt that demand on Foodbank is growing. We have issued 1,039 food parcels since Level 4 Lock Down started. I can't even begin to tell you how proud I am of our Foodbank Team and Whanau, for really going above and beyond to make sure we continued to be able to operate.” Please donate online: <https://taurangafoodbank.co.nz/> During Level 2 we will still be operating as we have been so far.

**WBOP Rapid Response Fund - COVID-19.** Funders in the Western Bay of Plenty have established a WBOP Rapid Response Fund to support community groups who are experiencing increased demand and/or funding shortfall because of COVID-19. The funders include the Acorn Foundation and Tauranga City Council. To help with this 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. We also now have a parish YouTube channel - Anglican Parish of Gate Pa. The services will be available on that too. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY6aj\\_VKJYW9YzDy2zZ-EAA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY6aj_VKJYW9YzDy2zZ-EAA)

**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 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/>.

**Tax Receipt Envelopes** – these will be emailed out to parishioners soon

**This week in the Parish:**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
AscensionDay  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](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 24<sup>th</sup> May - Easter 7**

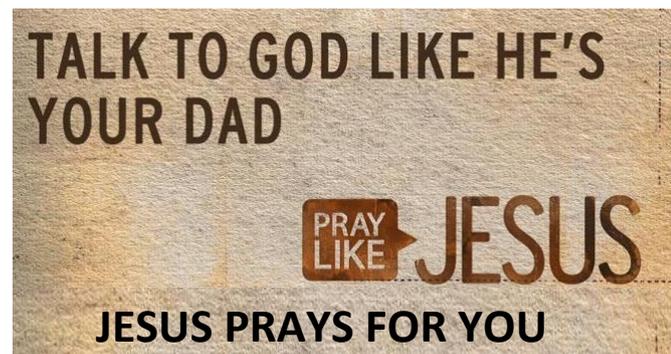
Liturgy page 476

Psalm - 68:1-10,32-35

First Reading - Acts 1:6-14

Second Reading - 1 Peter 4: 12-14;5:6-11

Gospel - John 17:1-11



**Dates to note in your Diary**

- **7pm Taize service Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June (maybe)**

Vicar	Rev'd John Hebenton 021 679202, Email: <a href="mailto:john.hebenton@waiapu.com">john.hebenton@waiapu.com</a>
Parish Office	Patricia Price 578 7916 / 021 0292 1498 email <a href="mailto:admin.gatepa@waiapu.com">admin.gatepa@waiapu.com</a>
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram 543 2366
People's Warden	Faye Mayo 543 3369
Parish Website	<a href="http://www.stgeorgesgatepa.com">www.stgeorgesgatepa.com</a>
Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican">https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican</a>
Vicars blog	<a href="http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/">http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/</a>