



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

17th March 2024 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

LENT 5 Year B



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

Please turn off your mobile phone.

There is morning tea after the 9am service followed by our AGM.

Visitors are very welcome.

Liturgy page 404 NZPB

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

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Gospel: John 12:20-33

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Sentence: "This is the covenant I will make with them", says the Lord God:
"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people". *Jeremiah 31:33*

Prayer for the Day

O God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim our reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive communion

Prayers and anointing for healing are available during communion in the chapel, at the back of the church.

Theme

A while ago I was talking to someone about how our goals often change in the second half of life. He mentioned a book he had read on how in the first half of life we strain to be successful, and in the second half we let that go and live to be significant. To be significant you need to be imaginative and reframe what your life is about, and then live towards that.

Reframing is a big theme in today's readings. Jeremiah (31: 31-34) reframes the covenant from obedience for a reward to the vehicle the people are shaped by God's generosity and mercy already experienced. In the shadow of a destroyed temple, Law moves from the lost Ark to the Way of God written on their hearts so that the people live as beacons of God's generosity and mercy, to each other, their neighbours, and all creation.

John too is in the business of reframing. John's version of the story of Jesus is so very different from the other three. God only speaks here, not at the baptism. No transfiguration. The angst of Gethsemane is moved here and replaced with determination. In John the cross is central and changes everything. Here we are in chapter 12 heading into the last supper. About 35% of John's gospel tells the story from the last supper and events leading up to the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. John is reframing Jesus' death on the cross from utter humiliating defeat to the turning point in history, where God's honour, glory, and presence are revealed for all people. Rome and the Judean leadership crucified Jesus to eradicate all Jesus lived for, John portrays it as the moment of victory and hope.

The cross becomes the point we see Jesus through, and through Jesus we see God. It is the point we see world history through. It is the mirror we are invited to see ourselves in. John hoped his hearer's imagination would be blown apart and they would begin to see the world and all that is in it in a new light, God's light revealed in crucifixion. As N.T. Wright says, it is the day the revolution of generosity, mercy, inclusion, justice and aroha begins.

I wonder then what we need to reframe as we tell the story of our Parish? Are we willing to allow our imagination to be blown apart by God's generosity and love for all creation.

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Oropi, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepont, Whanau Aroha Centre, Hodgson House, and Merivale Community Centre.

Our World: We pray for mission in Aotearoa New Zealand and for those who lead the Anglican Church in our Province.

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 and any others you hold in your hearts at this time.

Our Church: We pray for RSA Mt. Maunganui; RNZAF; Training Ship Chatham Sea Cadets (Tauranga) Chaplain; Anglican Financial Care-Te Maru Mihinare: Board & staff; Retired clergy.

Notices



The AGM is on TODAY Sunday 17th March after the ONE service at 9am. After the service we will have morning tea together then return to the Church for the AGM. Please join us.



2024 Lenten Study: This is Us – Who we are as Anglicans.

No study today due to the AGM. We will resume next week.



Palm fronds needed to wave next Sunday on Palm Sunday 24th March. Please contact the office if you can give us some.



Palm Cross Making: With Reverend Joyce Crawford, in the lounge Saturday 23rd March 1pm. All welcome to come and join in.



Taizé Service on Palm Sunday 24th March, 7pm at St George's. You are invited to a quiet service. We will use the traditional Stations of the Cross and the style of worship from the Taizé Community in France.



Maundy Thursday, 28th March. Come and share a simple meal, at 5.30pm in the Lounge. Please bring a plate of simple foods; hardboiled eggs, flat breads, tomatoes, fruits, cheese etc. **This will be followed by a Tenebrae Service at 7pm.**

2024 Anglican Missions Lenten Appeal: This year they are supporting projects in **Uganda and The Middle East**. You can donate on the website www.anglicanmissions.org.nz or through Internet Banking to the Anglican Missions Bank Account: **02-0585-0001796-00** Please write the name of the project you wish to support in the Reference field and then email accounts@anglicanmissions.org.nz so they can send you a tax credit receipt.



Tauranga Civic Choir present Fauré Requiem on Saturday 13th April, 4pm at St. Peter's in the City, Spring St, Tauranga. Tickets \$20 available from Jan or Bonnie.

The Friday Parish Prayer Circle for prayer for yourself or another, please contact Rev'd Joyce Crawford (5794363) or Shirley Scott (571 2450). Please let them know when prayer is no longer needed.

This week in the Parish:

Tues 19th March Holy Communion 9.30am

Wed 20th March Vestry meets Church Lounge 7pm

Sat 23rd March Palm cross making Lounge 1pm

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday 8.30am and 10am Communion Services
Lenten Study after morning tea

Service Next Week 24th March – Lent 6 Palm Sunday

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Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11



Dates to note in your Diary for Holy Week

- **Palm Cross Making: Saturday 23rd March** 1pm Church lounge
- **Taizé Service on Palm Sunday 24th March** at 7pm
- **Easter Monday 25th March** 5.30pm Reflective Service
- **Easter Tuesday 26th March** 5.30pm Reflective Service
- **Easter Wednesday 27th March** 5.30pm Reflective Service
- **Maundy Thursday 28th March** 5.30pm shared meal, followed by a **Tenebrae Service, 7pm**
- **Good Friday 29th March**
 - **9am Reflective Service**
 - **12noon-3pm Stations of the Cross:** A 3-hour service at St. George's that invites us to interact and engage with some of the stations of the cross. Come for as long or short as you like.
- **Easter Sunday 31st March** 8.30am and 10am Communion Services

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St George's Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu

Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known