



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

18th September 2022 OT25
and 3rd Sunday of The Season of Creation
with **Rev'd John Hebenton**



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

While masks are no longer required you are welcome to wear one.

Please remember to turn off your mobile phone during the church service

Please join us for morning tea in the church lounge after the 10am service

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Psalm:	79:1-9	NZPB Page 290
First Reading:	Jeremiah 8:19 – 9:1	Bible page 619
Second Reading:	1 Timothy 2:1-10	Bible page 963
Gospel:	Luke 16:1-13	Bible page 851

Sentence: You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

Prayer for the Day:

O Lord our God, who brought your people into a good land,
and sends showers of blessing that the earth shall yield its increase;
flourish within us your gift of faith
that, in our worship, our churches, our communities, and our lives,
we may honour and renew your creation
and join in obedience with the wind and the waters,
the wilderness and the desert,
the birds of the air and the fish of the sea,
and all created things to give glory and praise
to the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation,
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of 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:

In this third week in the Season of Creation we read– the weeping prophet. Jeremiah is overcome with grief at what is happening in Judah, and he can see it leading to the inevitable destruction of his home. Today the UN General Secretary said, “Humanity is waging war on nature. This is senseless and suicidal. The consequences of our recklessness are already apparent in human suffering, towering economic losses and the accelerating erosion of life of Earth.” Today we are invited to weep with Jeremiah.

Jesus’ story of the shrewd manager from Luke 16: 1-13 is unsettling. Is Jesus advocating dishonesty? He finishes with “You cannot serve God and wealth” (Luke 16:13). The word “serve” can also be translated as “be a slave to”, or “to be bound to”. It invites us to ask to what we are slaves to. Are we bound to God’s desire that all life might thrive, or slaves to something else.

The story also asks us how shrewd we are in the use of our wealth and resources. For what purpose do we accumulate and spend? At the Lambeth Bishops Conference this year the “Communion Forest” was launched as a practical, spiritual and symbolic response to the environmental crisis, and an act of Christian hope for the well-being of humanity and all God’s creation. We are all asked to join together by celebrating occasions and services by planting trees or providing trees for others to plant and care for. And we are asked to join others in protecting and restoring forest and other habitats as we “strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. (5th Mark of Mission). Around the communion forests will include grasslands, wetlands, or coastal habitats. All actions are part of the Communion Forest.

Jeremiah was also a prophet of hope. Archbishop Justin Welby describes the Communion Forest as a symbolic act of hope, something we can do together as God’s church for God’s world. He says that to plant is to hope, to protect is to love, and to restore is to heal – to share in God’s reconciling work in all creation. How do we respond to this idea? In what ways are you already involved in planting, protecting, and restoring? How might we as a parish join this global act of hope.

Prayer

Our community: We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, The Lakes, Oropi, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepoint and Whanau Aroha.

Our Church: The people and clergy of the Parish of Holy Trinity, Tauranga, and the people and clergy of the Waipaoa Parish.

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 World: Today we pray for The Anglican Chinese Mission in NZ, Anglican Alliance, London for its emergency, development and advocacy work, The Bible Society of NZ, and Missions Interlink which represents over 100 organisations and churches engaged in mission.

Notices

Medal ceremony for Cliff Simons - 11:30am on Tuesday 27 September

Cliff is receiving a long service award from the NZ Army and has chosen to have the ceremony at the flagpole on the Gate Pā battle site next to St George's. Members of the St George's congregation are invited to the ceremony, followed by a light lunch in the church lounge.



You are invited to the **Planting and Blessing of our Peace Pole** on the 15th October at 11.30am. This will be followed with a time of sharing with the members of the Korean Dream church and St. George Jacobite SOC Church who hold services in our church. Details soon.



SPCA PET SERVICE: We will celebrate St. Francis of Assisi with the SPCA Pet Service at **10 am on Sunday 16th October**. *Dogs on leads, etc.* Please bring a plate of delicious fare to share.



Join us for our next Taizé Service! Sunday 16th October at 7pm, for a quiet, candle lit, contemplative service remembering Saint Francis



Advance warning – on 30th October we are going to All Saints Maungatapu – to join their 10am service (There will be an 8.30am service at St. Georges, but NO 10.am service). We will meet in the car park at 9.30 and share transport.

Proposed partial reclassification of Gate Pā Recreation Reserve.

The city council has asked for public feedback about the proposal to change the classification of the old bowling club land from a recreation reserve to an historic reserve. This change is needed to allow the proposed museum about the Battle of Gate Pā and the New Zealand Wars is to go ahead. The museum is likely to become a significant educational and tourist attraction. You can read about the proposal and fill in a brief online survey or make submissions at: <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/exploring/parks-and-reserves/parks-projects/proposed-partial-reclassification-of-gate-p%C4%81-recreation-reserve> Alternatively you can email the council at gatepareserve@tauranga.govt.nz, or

pick up a proposal or submission form at any public library or council customer service centre. The closing date for feedback is 5pm 12 October 2022.



The Friday Parish Prayer Circle: For prayer for yourself or someone else contact the Joyce Crawford (579 4363) or Shirley Scott (571 2450).

This Week in the Parish

John is away attending Franciscan events 20th to 26th September

Tuesday 20th Sept 9.30 Mid week Communion service

Sunday 25th Sept 8.30 and 10am Communion with Rev Debbie Garrett

Service Next Week 25th Sept OS26 and Season of Creation 4

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Psalm: 91:1-6, 14-16

First Reading: Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Dates to note in your Diary

Peace Pole Installation Ceremony: Saturday 15th October 11.30am

SPCA Animal Blessing Sunday: 16th October 10am service

Taize: Sunday 16th October 7pm

Art exhibition: 28-29 October

Joining All Saints Maungatapu for the 10am service: 30th October

All Souls Service: 6th November

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Website <https://www.stgeorgesgatepa.com>

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

Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known