



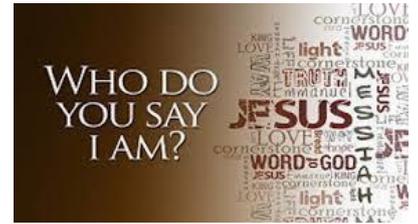
# St George's

**Anglican Parish of Gate Pa**

*All who enter here be reconciled*

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

with **Rev'd John Hebenton tssf OT21**



Worship This Sunday

9.30am Holy Eucharist will be broadcast on-line

## **Service: 476 NZPB**

Psalm: 124

Page 352 NZPB

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

First Reading - Exodus 1-8-2:10

Bible Page 39

Second Reading - Romans 12:1-8

Bible Page 787

Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20

Bible Page 684

**Sentence:** Jesus said to them, Who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

*Matthew 16.15-16*

## **Prayer for the Day**

Living god,  
you sent your Son Jesus to your people.  
embolden your church to proclaim Jesus as Messiah,  
and to trust in him.  
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**

Over the last eight years I have offered these three questions that shape my response to God; whose are we, who are we, what is ours to do? All our readings this week help us think about these.

In our gospel reading (Matthew 16:13-20) we hear one of the turning points in Matthew's gospel. Jesus is with his disciples in Caesarea Philippi; built to honour Caesar Augustus, a centre of pagan worship, on a major trade route so economically important, and an administrative centre for Herod the Great's son Philip. By the time Matthew wrote his gospel it was a centre of Roman authority in the now reconquered and decimated Palestine. It idolised the gods of wealth and power, making all subservient to the Herodians and Rome.

One way to read the passage is Jesus is asking, "In your conversations, who do people say I am?" Those responses saw Jesus as the one to free them from all this place represented, and the oppression laid across the poor Jewish population. Then Jesus asks, "In those conversations, who do YOU say I am?" And Peter responds with "You're the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

There is so much that Peter gets both right and not so right in this response. No matter how little he understood by what he said, out of his experience of Jesus feeding huge crowds, calming storms, walking on raging spirit churned seas, healing, setting people free, and teaching hope; Peter had known that this was the Living God at work. His answer comes out of his experience of God's abundant mercy and compassion, generosity and justice in Jesus. Peter's identity had once been shaped by all Caesarea Philippi represented. Now he is being changed from the inside by compassion and generosity. His identity as a disciple was being shaped by Jesus' love. On that Jesus would build his new community of those walking and living his way.

As we continue on this extraordinary year, what experience do we have of God's abundant generosity and compassion? How does this experience shape our sense of who we are? How open are we to receive it and to live it?

## **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 *Hui Amorangi ki Te Tairawhiti*: the Rohe of Te Matau-a-Maui, Tamaki-Tamatea, and Waka o Te Whakapono (Urban Mission)

**Wider Church:** Today we pray for Central and South Asia.

## Notices



Vestry has re-affirmed our decision from last time that we would only hold online services during the two weeks we are in Level Two. There will be no Sunday or mid-week services until we return to level one. Our facilities are also closed to outside groups. **The parish office will remain open.**

**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.

**Parish Coffee Meet: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 10.30am. Cancelled due to Covid-19, Level two restrictions.**



**Lay Ministry Licences** - the licences have expired but these will stand until the new process is completed. Please return your form a.s.a.p. to the office.



**St George's Art Show - Friday 9th & Saturday 10th October**

Mark these dates in your diaries. The Social Committee has been working hard on planning for St George's very first **Art Exhibition** as the major fundraiser for this year.

We are also supporting Awhina House with a portion of the sales going to this very worthwhile community initiative.

Awhina House helps homeless women in Tauranga to get their lives back together again by providing shelter, care, and life skills.

Over 30 professional and amateur artists - Friday night is our **Gala** evening **7.00pm-9:30 pm**. There will be refreshments provided by Happy Puku catering, raffles and a Mystery Auction, plus a chance to get your glad rags on! Tickets are **\$25** from the office, selling soon.



Another quarter has whizzed by and I need new material for our September Web. *Spring is in the Air*, so anything you as a nething that pertains to our parish in song, poem, artwork, book, or film "springs" to mind. Email or drop your articles into the office before 29<sup>th</sup> August please.

## This week in the Parish:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August Praying together then stay safe  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August Praying together then stay safe  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August Praying together then stay safe  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August Praying together then stay safe  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August Praying together then stay safe  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August Praying together then stay safe  
Sunday **30<sup>th</sup> August 9.30am** 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 30<sup>th</sup> August (OS22)

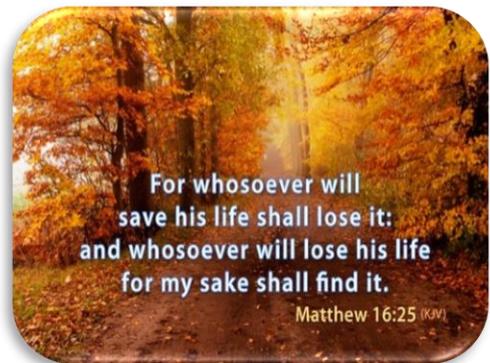
Liturgy page 456

Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26

First Reading: Exodus 3: 1-15

Second Reading: Romans 12: 9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-28



## Dates to note in your Diary:

- Blessing of the Animals 4<sup>th</sup> October
- Week of Prayer for World Peace 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October
- All Souls (All Saints) 1st November
- Carol Service 20<sup>th</sup> December

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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>	