



# St George's

**Anglican Parish of Gate Pa**

*All who enter here be reconciled*

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

**EASTER 7**



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: 68:1-10, 32-35

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

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

First Reading - Acts 1: 1-11

Second Reading – Eph 1: 15-23

Gospel: John 17:1-11

**Sentence:** This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

*John 17.3*

**Prayer for the Day**

Holy God, you have not left us alone  
but promised your abiding protection.

In all we face, grant us such a knowledge of your presence,  
and abiding care, that nothing can destroy our trust.

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**

On Thursday we remembered the Ascension of Jesus. I posted some remarks on Facebook and the parish YouTube channel about what that might offer us this year. We sometimes describe the Ascension as the risen Jesus leaving earth to be with

God, leaving us to carry on the work of God in the Spirit. Because Christ is no longer with us, we become his hands and feet. I am not sure that is what is meant here. In the incarnation, the Word of God came among us in a particular place and time in Jesus. The crucified and risen Jesus was still present to his disciples in that particular time and place. The Ascended Christ returns into God who is beyond time and is present in all places and in all time. Though the Ascension Christ is known in all times and in all places and continues the work of bringing about the reign of God on earth as in heaven. Which means that Christ is with us in all times and places including: in lockdown levels 4 and 3; in the restrictions of level 2; whether we are gathered in our churches, or in our homes watching church online or praying on our own knowing we are not alone in our prayer.

In our gospel reading for the last Sunday in Easter, we return to John's version of the last supper and hear Jesus' prayer as he prepares to leave his friends and disciples. His prayer, how he prays and what he prays for, reveal who he knew God to be. It is a deeply intimate moment as Jesus prays first for himself, and then for his disciples and followers. In these testing times as we hear Jesus pray for his disciples we can hear the prayer that Jesus continues to pray for his disciples and followers today, including us. We might not be able to gather in our building, but we can rest in the Ascended Christ's ongoing prayer for each and all of us.

Like Jesus' prayer, our prayers reveal our understand and expectations of God. As we look uncertainly to the future, I wonder what we pray for: for our world, for Aotearoa – New Zealand, for our church? If you would like to share some of these prayers, I invite you to send them into Patricia to be included in our next parish web.

## **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 St John's Theological College: Manukura: Katene Eruera & Tikanga Deans & Students; Waiapu students at SJC; Vicar General: Jenny Chalmers; Diocesan Ministry Educator: Deborah Broome; Regional Deans: BoP Paul

Williamson, Eastland and Hawke's Bay; David van Oeveren, Koru Ministry Leader, Jocelyn Czerwonka; Diocesan Theologian, Howard Pilgrim; AAW members, leaders and the Diocesan President: Cynthia Prince,

**Wider Church:** Today we pray for Tanzania.

## Notices:



On Wednesday at the weekly vestry meeting, we discussed when we might be able to open again for worship in our church. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that, currently as it stands under level 2 we will not be holding services at St. George's. We understand that this will be very disappointing for many of you. But we make this decision with your welfare and safety as our first priority. We also want to be able to truly gather and to really celebrate when we do hold church, with all who want to attend able to attend, with singing, and being able to enjoy each other's company over morning tea after the service. And we can't do those under level 2. Thank you all for your patience at this difficult time. Please continue to join us at 9.30 as we pray together, especially on Sunday on Facebook or YouTube.

**Tauranga Community Foodbank** are in great need of money donations. You can 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.** The WBOP Rapid Response Fund has been established 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/> . or on the parish YouTube channel - Anglican Parish of Gate Pa on.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY6aj\\_VKJYW9YzDy2zZ-EAA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY6aj_VKJYW9YzDy2zZ-EAA)

**Together in Prayer during the week**- We continue to invite you 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/> .

### **This week in the Parish:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am Praying together then stay safe  
Sunday 31<sup>st</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 31<sup>st</sup> May - Pentecost**

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Psalm - 104: 24-34, 35b

First Reading - Acts 2: 1-21

Second Reading - 1 Cor 12: 3-13

Gospel - John 20: 19-23



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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>

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St George's Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu  
*Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known*