



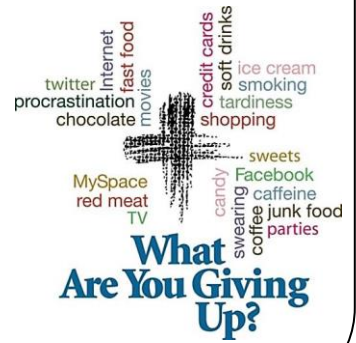
# St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

*All who enter here be reconciled*

25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with The Rev'd John Hebenton

**LENT 2 Year B**



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is morning tea after the 10am service followed by our Lenten Study.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

## Liturgy page 404 NZPB

Psalm 22:23-31

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

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**Sentence:** If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. *Mark 8:34*

## Prayer for the Day

God of Sarah and Abraham  
of Moses and Elijah,  
you made a covenant with your people;  
draw us into covenant with you,  
that we may see your glory,  
sing your praises,  
and see your reign on earth as well as heaven.  
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.**

**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

Two weeks ago, I invited people to think of 4 words we would use to describe Jesus, and then how these words also described God. Last week we began lent and entered with Jesus into the wilderness. I suggested that for Jesus this was a time of testing his identity as the Beloved Son of God, and how he would live that out. For us it is a time to prayerfully reflect on who are we as the people of God, the God we name using those four words. How do those four words apply to us? What might we need to let go of, fast from, to be made in the image of this God? And what might we need to take up?

This week we are offered two significant pieces of scripture – the restatement of the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 17, and Jesus first teaching that the way of God for Jesus and us leads to the cross.

Genesis 17 is a shortened restatement of the promise made in Genesis 12 and Genesis 15. This restatement leaves out that the many descendants of Abraham through Isaac would be a blessing to all creation and the means through which God would restore creation and all who live in it that all might thrive. Blessed to be a blessing! That's an important bit of the covenant.

The gospel writers understood Jesus – the Beloved Son, to be the way we know God and how this covenant of renewal would be fulfilled. But the kingdom of God would not be established by force – that was the test of the wilderness and is the test in Mark 8. In Caesarea Phillipi – a place build by the Greek conquerors to honour their god Pan at the source of the Jordan, and then a city built by one of Herod's sons to honour Caesar, Jesus renounces the way of violence and will instead stand with all who suffer at the hands of empire. And that can only lead to the cross – not what Peter or anyone else was hoping for. And beyond the cross, God's affirmation of this way in the resurrection.

In our Lenten studies last week, we heard of the 7 martyrs of Melanesia killed by Harold Keke in 2003. They stood against the violence. We will hear about Archbishop Janani Luwum martyred in February 1977 on the orders of Idi Amin for his protests against the policies of arbitrary killings and unexplained disappearances. He stood with those suffering. What do they offer us this Lent?

Whose are we, who are we and what is ours to do this Lent as beloved children of God?

## 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.

**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.

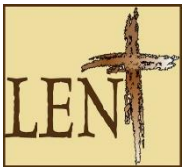
**Our Church:** We pray for the people & Clergy of the Southern Hawkes Bay & Woodville Parishes; Tararua Community Services Manager & Growing through Grief Coordinator.

**Our World:** We pray for the clergy, churches & partner organisations of Central and Southern Africa.

## Notices



**AGM Reports** need to be in by TODAY Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February please, so they can be collated and printed for Sunday 3rd March. The AGM is on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March after the ONE service at 9am.



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

Join us after the 10am service during Lent for a time of study and reflection as we engage with our identity as Anglicans – the values that have shaped us and our way of being in the world.

A donation towards photocopying of the booklet would be appreciated.

**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](http://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](mailto:accounts@anglicanmissions.org.nz) so they can send you a tax credit receipt.



**We are now gathering content for the next Parish Web.** If you have never contributed, we would welcome your input. Please send items to the office; Stories, poems, jokes, recipes, gardening tips...

Send to Charmaine [admin.gatepa@waiapu.com](mailto:admin.gatepa@waiapu.com) or drop into office.



**Food for the Foodbank:** Non-perishable items are gratefully accepted, thank you.



### **Small cardboard boxes and cylinders**

Bonnie is collecting for craft at school. Please save any small boxes, toilet rolls and paper towel cylinders or similar and bring to church.

There will be a box in the foyer. Thank you.



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

**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.



**World Day of Prayer Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.** The theme for the World Day of Prayer 2024 **Bear With One Another in Love**” (Ephesians 4:1-3). Written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women which calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

<https://worlddayofprayer.net>

### ***ROSTERS***

**The new roster** is out this Sunday for March. Please add your name to the Master roster in the foyer if you can help.

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

**Sunday 25th February** Lenten Studies start after 10am Service  
(Koha) All welcome.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** Holy Communion 9.30am

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** 8.30am and 10am Holy Communion Service  
Lenten Study after morning tea in the Lounge

### **Service Next Week 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Lent 3**

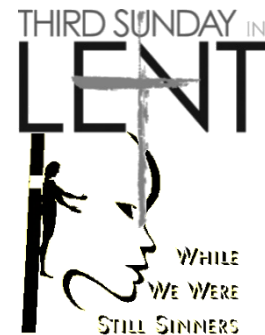
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Psalm 19

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-25

Gospel: John 2:13-22



### **Dates to note in your Diary**

- **AGM** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March after 9am service (only 1 service held)
- **Palm Cross Making:** Church lounge Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1pm.
- **Palm Sunday** 24<sup>th</sup> March
- **Good Friday** 29<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Sunday** 31<sup>st</sup> March

Vicar John Hebenton 021 679 202 [john.hebenton@waiapu.com](mailto:john.hebenton@waiapu.com)

Ministers The Congregation

Parish Administrator Charmaine McMenemy 578 7916 [admin.gatepa@waiapu.com](mailto:admin.gatepa@waiapu.com)

Vicar's Warden Clark Houltram 543 2366

People's Warden Faye Mayo 543 3369

**Website** [www.stgeorgesgatepa.com](http://www.stgeorgesgatepa.com)

**Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican>

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

***Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known***