



St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

All who enter here be reconciled

7th May 2023

Easter 5

Year A with The Rev'd John Heberton



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

There is morning tea after the 10am service. Please join us.

Visitors are very welcome.

Please remember to turn off your phone during the Church Service.

Liturgy 476

Psalm: 31:1-5,15-16

Page 229 NZPB

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Bible Page 891

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Bible Page 984

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Bible Page 877

Sentence

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. *John 14:6*

Prayer for the Day

God of truth,
hidden force of all creation, you long to set us free.
Confront us with your tenderness,
fire us with your justice;
that, at your coming,
we too may set the world alight.
through Jesus Christ our liberator,
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

Here we are in the fifth Sunday of Easter, and we no longer get rousing stories of Jesus resurrection. Instead, we are listening to part of Jesus' final pep talk to the disciples as they and he prepare for the horrors that lies ahead. And we hear of Stephen being stoned. It somehow seems wrong. And it is also more real. The season of Easter is a time to pay attention to how the risen Christ is among us now and active in our world today. How do our readings help us in this work?

There is a lot of confusion in both John and Acts. The disciples are confused by what Jesus is talking about. They are afraid and want straightforward answers. Where is Jesus going and how can they follow? What is the way? And Jesus does not give straightforward answers. And yet so often we read this as if he is. Believe certain things about Jesus and you get into heaven. "Way" can be read in many ways, not just route. Another reading is that Jesus is talking about the way of life he has lived, a way of life that reveals the heart of God – a big theme in John's gospel. When we live this way, we live the truth of God's dream and hope for them and all creation; the dream and hope of abundant life. The first Christians were called people of the way – whose lives of compassion were in marked contrast to those around them. How does this help us see the risen Christ among us now and active in our world today?

Angela N. Parker says, "We must be people of the way, being the dream and hope of God, as we participate in abundant life while here on earth together.... Our greater works must exhibit the way, the truth, and the life for communities that continue to be disconnected and denied access to all of the areas that can bring abundant life such as quality food, access to medical care, affordable housing, and continued dignity no matter what their identities are. That is the way, the truth, and the life for a collective people with a singular heart."¹

Prayer

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

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.

¹ <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/fifth-sunday-of-easter/commentary-on-john-141-14-6>

Our Church: We pray for the people of East Coast Parish; for all Messy Churches in Waiapu, for their leaders and volunteers.

Wider Church: We pray for the Sisters and Brothers of the many religious orders in the Anglican Church in Melanesia as they work to support people, especially those affected as a result of civil conflict.

Notices



Coffee with the Vicar (Coffee Meet): Tuesday 9th May 10.30 at Columbus Café in Mitre 10 at Gate Pa.



Parish Pub Night: Friday 12th May at 5pm Oasis is still closed so we will have to find another venue. Thoughts? All welcome.



Planning day: Saturday 13th May 9am - 12.30 in the Church Lounge. All are very welcome. Come along and have a say about the future of our parish.



Taizé Service 18th June, 7pm at St George's. Come and join us for a contemplative service based on the music of the Taizé Community.



The Armed Man - a mass for peace. Tauranga Civic Choir present this powerful work by contemporary Welsh composer Karl Jenkins. Friday 19th May 7.30pm and Saturday 20th May 3pm at St Peter's Spring St Tauranga. Tickets \$22.20 booking through Eventbrite or talk to Bonnie who can book for you.



Religious Diversity Centre
Aotearoa New Zealand

Building a Climate of Hope –

a series of webinars at 7.30 pm:

June 14 - Hope for an Endangered Planet	Dr Jane Goodall
June 21. Hope for Aotearoa NZ, 2050+	Rabbi Shapiro & climate experts
June 28. Hope for our Pacific Region	Pacific Climate Warriors
July 5. Hope for our World	Rt. Hon Helen Clark

Rod Oram will introduce keynote speakers and facilitate panel discussions

Registration: details later

Our faith traditions call us to act justly, tread gently on the Earth, and care for one another



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



The Friday Parish Prayer Circle If you would like prayer for yourself or another, please contact the Rev'd Joyce Crawford (579 4363) or Shirley Scott (571 2450). Please let them know if prayer is no longer needed.

This coming week at St George's

Tuesday 9th May 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th May 8.30am and 10am Holy Communion Service

Service Next Week 14th May - Easter 6

Liturgy page 476

Psalm: 66:8-20

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel: John 14:15-21



Dates to Note in your Diary

Coffee with the Vicar (Coffee Meet) Tuesday 9th May 10.30

Pub night Friday 12th May 5pm

Planning Day Saturday 13th May 9am – 12.30pm. All welcome.

Taizé Service Sunday 18th June 7pm

Vicar	John Hebenton	021 679 202 john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Priest Assistant	Debbie Garrett	021 868 869
Ministers	The Congregation	
Parish Administrator	Charmaine McMenamain	578 7916 admin.gatepa@waiapu.com
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369
Website	https://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