

Western Bay of Plenty Methodist Circuit
June 28, 2020



WELCOME!

Kia ora! Bula vinaka! Mālō e lelei! Goeie môre!
Welcome to worship!

This is a service prepared for the
Western Bay of Plenty Methodist Circuit.

If you are participating from another place or parish, a very warm welcome to you, too!

LIGHTING A CANDLE:

At the beginning of a service we normally light a candle and think about our community .

So let us quietly pray for those around us.

Even as we rejoice at having a little more freedom
to meet and travel, we remember those
who are still lonely, isolated, in pain or grieving.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 13 (para.)

How long, O Lord? How long?

Will I stumble along like this forever?

But I trust in your steadfast love.

Must I always live with anxiety and an ache in my heart?

How long do I have to put up with this?

My heart shall rejoice in my salvation.

Lord, my God, say something, do something – please!

I will sing to the Lord,

because he has dealt bountifully with me!

You are the God who formed us,

The God who knows us,

The God who loves us,

The God who leads us,

The God who feeds us,

The God who blesses us,

The beginning and end

of all that we are,

and hope to be.

Worthy of our praise.

John Birch

HYMN:

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come now before him and rejoice!

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom Heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

A TIME FOR HONESTY

We have come to God with our pleas and praises.
But when we stand in the light of God's presence,
we are also forced to look at ourselves
in all our humanness and imperfection.
So let us come to a time of honesty and confession.

CONFESSION

When faith is tested to the limit, and we stumble,
forgive us.
When feet stray from the path, and we wander,
forgive us.
When our neighbour is in need, and we pass by,
forgive us.
When the voices of this world drown out your whisper,
forgive us.
When love draws us to your feet in repentance,
forgive us.
Remind us when our lives fall apart,
that you are an expert in the art of restoration.

Amen

John Birch

READING: Genesis 22: 1-14

REFLECTION

PRAYER

When it seemed there was no hope
you showed us new ways forward, O God.
When it seemed there were only endings
you showed us new beginnings.
Strengthen our belief in the power of life over death.
Strengthen our belief in the force of truth over falsehood
that we may be bearers of hope in the world,
that we may be bearers of hope.

John Phillip Newell

RESPONDING TO GOD

Over this last week we have given of our time, offered encouragement, acted wisely, listened and prayed – often without realising it. None of these small actions are lost in the eyes of God. So let us bring these little gifts to our loving God.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

We give thanks for our life
and the courage we are given to live it.
Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in our action.
Let our hope in the future find full expression
in our daily attitude of mind. **Amen**

Francis Macnab

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

HYMN

Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.

Though my body be confined,
let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern
how much more there is to learn,
see a world becoming whole
through the window of the soul.

Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change,
to accept, and not estrange,
let my joy be full and deep
in the knowledge that I keep.

Let my spirit always sing,
to your Spirit answering,
through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust your love, through life and death.

Shirley Erena Murray

DISMISSAL

Go into this week, knowing that God longs to bless you.
Live prepared for surprises and changing directions
as God opens up the possibilities before you

Go in peace and love, listening to the voice of God
amid the blur and noise of the world,
offering nourishment to neighbour and stranger,
and holding firm to the love of our surprising God.

We go with renewed hope and a growing faith. Amen

Acknowledgements

<https://www.faithandworship.com/> John Birch's prayers

Google Commons for the photo of Mount Moriah

Caravaggio: The sacrifice of Isaac (1603)

Nicola Grassi: The Banishment of Hagar and Ishmael

John Phillip Newell: [Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayers](#)

Norman Goreham for the Prayers for Others

Jeremy Whimster, Viv Whimster, Morven Denize for music and readings.