

## Faith Community Gathering

12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Haere Mai, Aere mai, hwan-yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu,

Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa Lava,

Cantonese - Foon Ying, Malay – Selamat datang, Slovak – vitajte, Welcome



“How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.” Matthew 23:37

**Gathering Music**

*The gong is sounded three times*

**Processional Singing:** Praise with joy the worlds Creator (TUNE: Praise my soul)

**Opening words:**

Come into this Gathering place...

This congregation is ready for you

to fill this sacred space,

to create its spirit,

to generate its warmth,

to kindle its light.

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

**Haere Mai, Aere mai, hwan-yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa Lava, Foon Ying, Selamat datang, vitajte, Welcome**

The Mission of this church is to be Christ centred, Community embracing congregation  
Birkenhead, Birkdale, Beach Haven

Today is Mother's Day.

The story of the modern celebration of Mother's Day goes back to Ann Marie Jarvis who, in America, founded a group called 'Mother's Day Work Clubs' after their civil war. The group worked to bring healing to all. In the spirit of that care and healing let us share this special Litany for Women...

Mother God, Spirit-filled Woman, Source of all living things

**It was you who breathed life into us.**

**In your likeness we were formed.**

**The darkness of your sacred womb  
enwraps us in the silence of the Holy One.**

Your creative energy pulsates through every fibre of my being.

**Women: You birth forth life within me.**

Your abundance continue to sustain my very being.

You carry me close to your heart and sing your song of love to me.

You hold me close to your heart and sing your song of love to me.

**Women: You hold me close to you and comfort me.**

Cradled in your arms, I am at peace.

You bathe me with life-giving waters of your giftedness.

**Women: Reflected in your eyes is my dignity as woman.**

You nurture me and guide me to proclaim my sacredness as woman of God.

You call me forth to image your compassion, love and joy to a broken world.

**Men: Together we dance life's passionate song.**

**Singing:** Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me

**Readings:** 1Corinthians 7:1-6 Psalm 23

**"Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church."**

**Young'uns chats;**

**Prayer with the young'uns ....**

**Singing:** God of women (TUNE: Be thou my vision)

**Message:**

**Singing/offertory:** You tell me that the Lord is risen (TUNE: Ellacombe)

**Sung Blessing:** All that we have

**Our Prayers for others :-**

**Lord's Prayer:-** You are invited to pray in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit**

**Source of all that is and ever shall be,  
Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,  
May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples.  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
flourish on earth, until all of humankind  
heed your call to justice and compassion.  
May we find the bread that we need for today.  
And for the hurts we cause one another  
may we be forgiven in the same measure  
that we forgive.  
In times of trial and temptation,  
help us to be strong;  
When life seems overwhelming,  
Help us to endure;  
And thus from the yoke of sin deliver us.  
May you reign in the power of human love,  
Now and forever. (Tom Hall)**

**Singing:** Kauri Flax and Rata Trees (TUNE: humility)

**Notices**

Birthdays & Anniversaries  
Significant events  
Journeys

**Parting Words**

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.  
As we do, may we embrace the challenges  
of our lives and our world...  
Remembering that the universe is much larger  
than our ability to comprehend,  
**let us go from this time together with the resolve  
to allow wonder - that sense of what is sacred -  
to find space to open up our minds  
and illumine our lives.**

## Words of Blessing

And now may the rhythms of our coming together,  
the melodies of our worship,  
and the harmonies of our farewells,  
make musical our living,  
soothing our spirits  
and uplifting our souls,  
This day and into the beckoning future.

**Amen. May it be so.**

**Sung blessing:** Go now in wisdom

**Mothers Day this Sunday** – the blokes are providing the morning tea and dishing out the cuppa's to the lasses of the church. EXCITING. I have been made aware more than once none of the 'blokes' mothers are at church and many have died. So we honour our mothers by honouring all women.

The **Three way Churches Working Group** met Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 6pm at St Aidans. St Andrews representatives are Lisi, Rosemary (Robyn stood in for Rosemary) and Laurie. Talk with them over any and all future ideas. Two SUB-Groups have been formed 1. to look at the language and policy of being a more connected group of currently autonomous congregations 2. To look at the best practice with our current resources. **May 19<sup>th</sup>** Sunday. Congregational meeting starting directly after our service and finishing with a shared lunch (pot Luck). This meeting will be chaired by Rev, Martin Fey and as we did six months ago reviewed the Intentional Ministry to date and make some suggestions for the next twelve months. It is an opportunity for critical thinking and if required adjust our goals and set some new ones!

**NEWSLETTER** – You will see and have read some of the great contributions to the Newsletter PLEASE if you have something, a story, poetry, something you have read please send it to the Church Email, [birkenheadpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:birkenheadpresbyterian@gmail.com) Contributions will be kept on file if not used this month.

**Regional Presbytery met – Thank you Barbara Wadams and your fabulous team for a fabulous dinner.** The speaker for the night was great as well, clear and concise encouraging the making of connections in and with your community. Look up, Love Your Neighbour – Howard Webb



**SATURDAY May 11<sup>th</sup>** Elders gathering. Saturday 10:30 finishing with a lunch and lunch is kindly provided. All those who are Elders of the Parish are invited to gather in the Church Hall. This is an opportunity to discuss the life of the Parish with the Parish Council, Working Group Representatives and Colin. It is a time where we create conversation, talk of innovation and what is hope to be achieved. This is an important conversation prior to the following weeks Congregational meeting. RSVP Colin or Rosemary

**ATTACHED:** Is from the PCANZ National Office regarding the end of life BILL. If you feel you would like to join a discussion group on this topic RSVP Rosemary or Colin and we will arrange a time and speakers.

Thanks to this months volunteers				
	5 <sup>th</sup> May	12 <sup>th</sup> May	19 <sup>th</sup> May	26 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Welcoming /Duty Elder</b>	Karen Davies & Lisi Foulagi	Barbara, Kay & Laurie Wesley	Pauline Fish & Penina Faa'ee	Don & Lexie McDowall
<b>Church Prep.</b>	Duty Elder	Duty Elder	Duty Elder	Duty Elder
<b>Musicians</b>	Anne Green	Gwen Kesang	Anne Green	Inae Hong
<b>Prayers</b>	Margerat Larsen	Laurie Wesley	Pauline Fish	Lexie McDowall
<b>Readings</b>	Jocelyn Collinge	Beth Yarton	Penina	Karen Davies
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Jocelyn Collinge	Ian & Robyn Bogue	Elizabeth Wong & Karen Davies	Pauline Fish & Robyn Thorndon
<b>PA</b>				
<b>Preaching</b>	CRG	CRG	CRG	CRG
<b>Kidz Church</b>	Lisi & Rosemary	Lisi & Rosemary	Lisi & Rosemary	Lisi & Rosemary
<b>Bible Readings</b>	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29