



SAINTS A & A



Worship@Home Sunday 17th May **Meeting by Zoom Saints A & A**

Saints A & A Worship Service Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am – 11am (service actual 9:30 – 10:30am)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88965044167?pwd=alZyTS9DUmxIRzBrOWtmbXl5dmdldz09>

WtmblXl5dmdldz09

Meeting ID: 889 6504 4167

Password: 094159

One tap mobile

+6498846780,,88965044167#,1#,094159# New Zealand

+6448860026,,88965044167#,1#,094159# New Zealand

Dial by your location

+64 9 884 6780 New Zealand

+64 4 886 0026 New Zealand

Meeting ID: 889 6504 4167

Password: 094159

9:00am - 9:25am Welcome and settling in ... *you are welcome to grab a cuppa and bring it into our service by getting your own ☺ so as not to bust the bubble.*



Saints A & A

Birkenhead Northcote

Aotearoa New Zealand

“The chief enemy of creativity is
‘good’ sense.” — Pablo Picasso

What impedes your creativity?

9:30am Gathering songs:

Welcome to the family
Here I am Lord

Welcoming Space

As we gather in this sacred place
let us open our minds to the challenge of reason,
our hearts open to the healing of love,
our lives open to the calling of conscience,
and our souls open to the comfort of joy.

**Astonished by the miracle of life,
grateful for the gift of fellowship,
and confident in the power of a living faith,
we celebrate this time together.**

We give thanks for the opportunity we have
to gather and celebrate this day.

May we be surrounded
with a very real sense of the Presentness
of the Source and Sustainer of all that exists
as we spend this time together.

May a spirit of wisdom inspire and challenge us.

For every time we make a mistake
and we decide to start again:
we light this flame.

For every time we are lonely
and we let someone be our friend:
we light this flame.

For every time we are disappointed
and we choose to hope:
we light this flame. ⁱⁱ

**Let us light our community candles – the
community of God.**

Wisdom from the Religious Traditions

O Lord,

Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;

Open my ears that I may hear their cries;

Open my heart so that they need not be without succor;

Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,

Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,

And use me to bring them to those places.

And so open my eyes and my ears

That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for
thee. Amen.

(That prayer was written in the early twentieth century by the one-time prison warden, turned writer and anti-apartheid, South African activist, Alan Paton. In his striving for justice, he saw the value – and even the necessity – of opening our eyes, particularly when we're blind to the roles we play in harming others.)

Acts 17:22-29

1 Peter 3:8-17



Preview -

Chat Rooms – with 2 questions to consider (10min)

1. *What does the word god or God mean to you?*

2. *How does God help when we are suffering?*

Returning from chat rooms – one speaker from each group to report back

FEED BACK

Review -

Singing reflection: Grateful

Our Prayers for others:

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe that horizons of hope are never fixed.

They always move beyond, in the creativity of God.

We believe that powers of evil cannot kill God.

God walks on free and leaps ahead of us in the risen Christ.

We believe that the Spirit can never be confined.

She dances forth in the world

and is found in surprising places,

leading us on until the end of timeⁱⁱⁱ

Song: Touch the earth lightly



Words of Blessing

Let us embrace the wonder of this week
with expectation and imagination...

Community Candles are extinguished

There is hope!

Our God is a God of life,
and the power of the God's Spirit permeates all creation.

**To live according to the Spirit
is to acknowledge Presentness in all creation.**

May the blessings of the Holy One be upon us and upon all peoples of
creation.

May the memories gathered, give us hope for the future.

May the love shared, bring strength and joy to our hearts,
and the peace of this community be with us
until we meet again. ^{iv}

Amen! May it be so!

NOTICES –

Birthdays and anniversaries

Significant events

Greetings to one another

NEXT WEEK – is a Contemplative Service

Following you are welcome to sign off or as has been happening the last
couple of times a number of folks have just stayed on and chatted ... Just
like on Sunday some have to get go and others stay.

Acts 17:22-29 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor^a he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God^b and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

1 Peter 3:8-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Suffering for Doing Right

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For

“Those who desire life

and desire to see good days,

let them keep their tongues from evil

and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good;

let them seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,ⁱ and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence.ⁱⁱ Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.

ⁱ *LBates/adapted*

ⁱⁱ *M M Killoran*

ⁱⁱⁱ *(Adapted/ Dorothy McRae-McMahon/bst)*

^{iv} *Gary Kowalski/adapted*