



SAINTS A & A



I pack my daughter's lunch
in the pine lunch box
not sure if these actions are
mundane
or part of the endless
preservation of the world.

— Miriam Sagan in *Essential Zen*

Sunday 20th September

Saints A & A

Birkenhead Northcote

Aotearoa New Zealand

Cafe Church

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.



Enough is Enough

Welcome to the third Sunday in the creation series of services where churches of every denomination around the world are joining together to pray and act for our common home, planet Earth.

This particular year is called a Jubilee for the Earth and the emphasis is on restoration and hope. In particular for Christians to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation. The Café worship team have decided to call today's service "Enough is enough".



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

Welcoming Space

The God of creation provided and sustains this beautiful world for us to share with all and with future generations yet to come.

We are called to be the planet's caretakers.

God created us in the Divine's own image
and set us free to be stewards of the earth.

God calls us to work together, as one worldwide community.

Let us worship God that we may work well on behalf of Mother Nature.

Lighting the community candle

As we now bring fire to this candle wick,
 Making it glow with light,
 May we also bring the fire of love,
 To this time of prayer and worship.
 May this holy candle send forth dancing rays,
 Like sunrise on the most glorious morning.
 And may these rays of light,
 Encircle us and those we love.
Amen.



Song: These hills where the hawk flies lonely

Reading: Exodus 16: 2-15

²There in the desert they all complained to Moses and Aaron ³and said to them, “We wish that the LORD had killed us in Egypt. There we could at least sit down and eat meat and as much other food as we wanted. But you have brought us out into this desert to starve us all to death.”

⁴The LORD said to Moses, “Now I am going to cause food to rain down from the sky for all of you. The people must go out every day and gather enough for that day. In this way I can test them to find out if they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to bring in twice as much as usual and prepare it.”

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt. ⁷ In the morning you will see the dazzling light of the LORD's presence. He has heard your complaints against him—yes, against him, because we are only carrying out his instructions.” ⁸ Then Moses said, “It is the LORD who will give you meat to eat in the evening and as much bread as you want in the morning, because he has heard how much you have complained against him. When you complain against us, you are really complaining against the LORD.”

⁹ Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole community to come and stand before the LORD, because he has heard their complaints.” ¹⁰ As Aaron spoke to the whole community, they turned toward the desert, and suddenly the dazzling light of the LORD appeared in a cloud. ¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them that at twilight they will have meat to eat, and in the morning they will have all the bread they want. Then they will know that I, the LORD, am their God.”

¹³ In the evening a large flock of quails flew in, enough to cover the camp, and in the morning there was dew all around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew evaporated, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was as delicate as frost. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they didn't know what it was and asked each other, “What is it?”

Moses said to them, “This is the food that the LORD has given you to eat.

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

- 1. *How does this story relate to our lives today?***
- 2. *What is a lesson that we might learn from it?***

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

FEED BACK

Review -

Singing reflection: Touch the earth lightly

Reading 2: Matthew 20:1-16

The Workers in the Vineyard

20 “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them the regular wage, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. ³ He went out again to the marketplace at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, ⁴ so he told them, ‘You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.’ ⁵ So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. ⁶ It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the marketplace and saw some other men still standing there. ‘Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?’ he asked them. ⁷ ‘No one hired us,’ they answered. ‘Well, then, you go and work in the vineyard,’ he told them.

⁸ “When evening came, the owner told his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.’ ⁹ The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. ¹⁰ So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. ¹¹ They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. ¹² ‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun—yet you paid them the same as you paid us!’ ¹³ ‘Listen, friend,’ the owner answered one of them, ‘I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. ¹⁴ Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?’”

¹⁶ And Jesus concluded, “So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last.”

Table Talk 2: Introduction: Jesus is telling this parable in response to questioning from the disciples about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. In other words who is most worthy of reward from Jesus. But in this story all are offered the same reward - each of the workers receives a day's wage whether they had worked all day or not.

Questions: What is your reaction to the story? Did you feel comfortable with it? Who did you identify with? Do you think it was fair for the workers? What do you think it is saying to us for our lives today? In other words a general discussion - your reaction to it and the story's meaning.

Chat Rooms/Table talk – with questions to consider (10min)

- 1. *What is your reaction to the story?***
- 2. *Did you feel comfortable with it?***
- 3. *Who did you identify with?***
- 4. *Do you think it was fair for the workers?***
- 5. *What do you think it is saying to us for our lives today?***
- 6. *In other words a general discussion - your reaction to it and the story's meaning.***

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

FEED BACK

Review -

Singing reflection: Our life has it's seasons

A Prayer of Gratitude for Creation

God of the Universe

We thank you for your many good gifts

For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits

For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted

And wasted what You have given us.

Transform our hearts and minds

So that we would learn to care and share,

To touch the earth with gentleness and with love,

Respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste,

Greed and indifference,
 And we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough
 Food and clean water.
 Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species
 And help us to willingly share your gifts
 Today and always. Amen.

Fiona Murdoch

Final Hymn: God who sets us on journey

Dismissal

Creator God, may we live in harmony with all of creation.
 "As the swift seasons roll,"
 May we daily heal our world,
 both her peoples
 and all that share life upon her.
 And in healing,
 may we help create the universe as You intend it.
Amen.

Jim Garrison

Notices, birthdays etc

End quote: American economist, Kenneth Boulding, said, ***"Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist."***

Saints A & A Worship Service

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81451789516?pwd=UWkwVVV4RUhrbnFabmdDOTNKS0Fvdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5178 9516

Passcode: 518373

One tap mobile

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+6498846780, 81451789516# New Zealand

Dial by your location

+64 4 886 0026 New Zealand

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NEXT WEEK – is a Contemplative Service still at home.

Please bring some eucalyptus leaves.

Following today's service 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.

