



SAINTS A & A



Worship@Home Sunday 6th September 2020 **Meeting by Zoom Saints A & A**

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.*



Sunday 6th September 2020
Saints A & A

Birkenhead Northcote
Aotearoa New Zealand

"When we work with love we renew the spirit; that renewal is an act of self-love, it nurtures our growth." - bell hooks

How do you renew your spirit through acts of love?

9:30am Gathering song:

- All of life is filled with wonder
- Be still and know that I am God

September to October is a celebration and reflection on creation



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



Welcoming Space

We gather in the image of the Creator
who is a community of love.

We gather in the name of the Redeemer
who reconciles all of creation.

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.

We gather in the name of the Triune God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!
Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and life,

Creator of the Universe,

Source of all life,

whom the angels sing;

wondrous Light of all mysteries

known or unknown to humankind,

and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)



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

You are invited ... to confess (based on Leviticus 25:1-25)

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,

You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

We confess our demand that the earth produce beyond its limits,

and our bondage to desire more.

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping
in ways that destroy the soil.

We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.

You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently,
because the land is Yours, and everything in it.

We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed
our neighbours, animals, and replenish the earth.

We confess our failure to share what we receive from the earth.

You call us to fairness and justice.

**We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and
strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.**

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

**and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures,
through the Good News of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we
ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God,
who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the
Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Singing: Put peace into each other's hands

Chat rooms for 2min – “The peace of Christ be with you”

Readings: Matthew 18:15-20
Exodus 12:1-14

Reflections on life with COVID-19 – other parts of the world

Reflective song: Come taste the goodness of the Lord

Celebrating the Eucharist

May we find pleasure in receiving from life
and satisfaction in enriching life.

The earth has gone the round of seasons:
from the vibrant green of spring's new life
to the lush richness of warm summer,
to the brilliant fulfilment of riotous autumn,
to the generosity and self-giving of winter.
Now we stand again, touched by the promise
of new life in the spring.

As we celebrate the renewal of life and hope,
we also celebrate the presentness
of the Spirit of Life and Hope and Creativity,
everywhere around and within us.

Silence

No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome
at this table with its symbols of God's Creative Presence.
**In company with all who seek nourishment at this table,
we come to celebrate community, and to share
these life-giving symbols.**

In the early spring, pale green blades of wheat
broke through the earth's surface.

*This hand of mine began to take shape millions of years ago
as the first leaves stretched out for nourishment and light.*

Eons ago the earth itself was glowing with heat
as it separated itself from the sun.

***You send your breath.
And they come to life.
You give the earth
the bloom of youth.***

By mid-summer the wheat stems sway heavily
in the breeze for acres and acres
of green and golden earth.

*The early species of kiwi,
able to wobble and forage in a way
we can only imitate, learning which plants
were best for them to eat and sought them out.*

The ground we stand on carries in it
the remnants of volcanos and oceans
which once dominated the landscape.

You send your breath.

And they come to life.

***You give the earth
the bloom of youth.***

This morning we gather around the bread,
which comes from the wheat in the paddocks.

*This morning we celebrate our oneness
with the plants and the animals,
which precede and surround us.*

This morning we remember we are earth people,
united with each other and to all on this globe
by the ground under us.

One body, one history, one home for us all.

You send your breath.

And they come to life.

***You give the earth
the bloom of youth.***

One body, one history, one home for us all.

You send your breath.

And they come to life.

***You give the earth
the bloom of youth.***

Silence

One body, one history, one home for us all.

You send your breath.

And they come to life.

***You give the earth
the bloom of youth.***

On the night of his arrest, so the story is told,
Jesus shared the Passover meal with his friends.

He took the bread, offered thanks, broke it,
and gave it to them, inviting them to eat.

Bread broken

Afterwards, he poured a cup of wine,
offered thanks, and gave it to them,
inviting them to drink.

Wine poured out

Our Prayers for others:

The 'Abba' Prayer:

You are invited to pray in the spirit of the Abba/Lord's Prayer.

Holy Being,

whom we call by many different names,

Blessed are you.

Blessed are we in you.

May we create with you a realm of mercy, peace and justice.

May love be done in the here and now as it is in the infinite.

May we share life in bread and hope.

For our failures to love, we need forgiveness.

May we find the paths of reconciliation.

In the midst of evil's every incarnation,

From the powers that possess our spirits and our structures,

May we find liberation.

**In the power that is love, we seek to live and move and have our
being.**

May it be so, now and forever. ⁱ

We remember...

Life grows from the earth.

The kernel of wheat lives in the soil before it breaks ground.

As it stretches itself skyward, it also reaches deeper into the earth.

*Water and nourishment blend with sunlight as the stalk
begins to produce kernels of its own.*

This bread holds those kernels, that sunshine, that soil and water.
 As we take it into ourselves, we affirm our own roots in the earth.
This is the ground we stand upon,
the earth yearning to be inside us.
It is the life we have taken in order to live ourselves.
Life flows toward us from the Source beyond us.
It is a stream that creates us anew each day.
 It is a stream that wants to make its way through us.
 A stream that flows through the city and country.
A stream that readies a harvest in every season.
 This is the life we have received from the earth
 and from our forbearers.
 This is the pulsing energy that has made a home in us
 and that we give on.

Communion

To eat and drink together reminds us
 of the deeper aspects of human fellowship,
 for from time immemorial
 the sharing of bread and wine has been
 the most universal of all symbols of community.

*Bread and Wine, on your tables at home, tables of fellowship, tables
 of family and invitation. Eat Drink remember that Jesus the host is
 always present.*

Fall in love with living
 Wrestling with the chaos and the pain
 Within yourself and within the world.
 Join the celebration of life,
 Dancing with the angels and the clowns.
 And may the God of peace and joy,
 Who is continually making all things new,
 Embrace you
 As a partner
 In the divine creating.ⁱⁱ
Amen! May it be so!

Blessing: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

NOTICES –

Birthdays and anniversaries

Significant events

Greetings to one another

Following the singing and blessing 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.



Fathers Day - Sunday

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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Dial by your location

+64 4 886 0026 New Zealand

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THE SPIRITUALITY OF MUSIC NIGHT

Josh Jones & The Secret Chords

ALBANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

539 Albany Highway

Saturday 29th August

7.30 pm

A celebration & exploration
of the power of music
to transcend barriers of language,
culture, age & race.

Featuring music by the Beatles, Dylan, Coldplay
Leonard Cohen, U2 & self composed songs

Entry by koha - includes refreshments

ⁱ (Nancy L Steeves)

ⁱⁱ (Joyce Boyce-Tillman/wb)