



SAINTS A & A A New Church Emerging



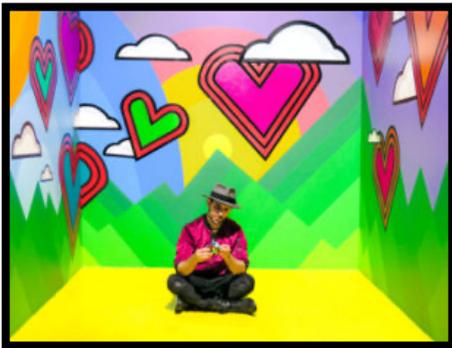
Northcote

Aotearoa New Zealand

Birkenhead

Worship@Home Sunday 4th October 2020 meeting by zoom as we journey in faith

9:00am - 9:25am Welcome and settling in ... *This morning we gather again via ZOOM for those who can. Those who can't, you are welcome at St Andrews. We will be signing in, physical distancing and not finishing with a cuppa but we will worshipping together.*



If you have been sheltering in the same place for months now, you might well be feeling like the walls are starting to close in. We have lost a lot of freedoms. We have to stay within walls, real or perceived.

But we can reimagine those walls in some more colourful, more creative form.

What new thing have you tried while sheltering in one place?

Jay McDaniel in his book *Of God and Pelicans*, is concerned that we need to shape a new way of thinking about God - a theology which lives out of a sense of kinship with all life, not just human life alone.

As we come to celebrate the last of our Seasons of Creation, we think of Saint Francis of Assisi and how he change the way we think of God in creation.

We are joined as one 'fellowship' in worship, sharing in hospitality we the people of Saints Aidans and Saint Andrews and beyond.

9:30am Gathering song:

- All creatures of our God and king

Welcoming Space

As the curtain of night is drawn back,
and the golden robes of the day arrive over hill and sea,
may there be expelled from our minds all sour thoughts
so we might greet this new day as a gift,
fresh from the rhythm of creation,
and filled with hope.

From the earth we have come.

By its fruits we live.

This earth is our home.

We celebrate the beauty of our days,

and all their splendid avenues of love and hope.

Together this day, let us sense the face of God in all creation. Friends
we greet each other in our own languages and language of God .

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

As we come to light our community candle – the
community of God let us continue in prayer

Spirit of life, bring to us beauty:
the beauty of kowhai and daffodil.

Bring to us strength:
**the strength of flowing creeks
and the quiet strength of roots
pushing deep into the ground for nourishment.**

Bring to us pleasure:
**the pleasures of toffee apples sweet on our tongues
and the wind grabbing a kite and taking it high...
if only we could go too!**



Bring to us wisdom:

the knowledge that new life springs up without help.

**In spite of everything we do or don't,
grass and weeds and dandelions will appear.**

Bring to us love:

The springtime love that has magic in it.

May springtime love permeate our lives.

Spirit of life, come to us

that all the energy and power of Spring
will make us tall and smiling and expectant.

Singing: Celebrate a new day dawning

Reading. Isaiah 5:1-7, Matthew 21:33-46

Song for reflection:

Food for thought:



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN THE TRADITION
OF THE FLOWER COMMUNION**

The Flower Communion service had its origins in 1923 when Dr Norbert Capek, a former Baptist and founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, introduced it to his congregation. This liturgy is shaped by sections of two other modern liturgies, written by Dr David Bumbaugh.

Haere Mai

Enter into this sacred time.

Enter with joyful hearts.

Enter with reverent thoughts.

It has taken long months beneath cold ground
for flowers to prepare their blooming.

It has taken each of us long times of growth,
through sorrow and joy,
to prepare for our living now.

The blooming season is short.

Flowers stay only a brief time.

We are travellers upon the earth:
travellers through all too brief life times.

Therefore let our moments together be bountiful.
And let us rejoice in our unique colours, aromas, and sounds.

Offerings – Foodbank, flowers, bread and wine, offertory.

Creating God, the landscape of life and your presence is near:
a daffodil in bloom,
a single green leaf,
the white and green flash of the kereru.
May we too be a people of adventure and life,
grace-filled companions, offering
courage and hope in unexpected places.

Have you considered the flowers, the lilies of the fields?

**They spin not, neither do they sew,
yet Solomon, in all his glory
was not arrayed as one of these.**

Say what you will about the economy of life,
flowers are irrefutable proof of nature's extravagance.

Flowers do not bloom for us.

They do not care whether or not we see them.

They grow and bloom because they are full of life.

They are a gift of grace.

They invite us to seek the beauty in each moment.

They encourage us to find fulfilment in life and the living of it.

As you came into this sacred place this morning,
you brought with you a flower,
from your garden,
obtained from along your street,
from a florist,
from your neighbour's flower bed,
from the basket in the entrance.

From many different sources these many different flowers have come.
 Together on this table they symbolise
 the extravagance of nature,
 for as various as these flowers are,
 they do not begin to exhaust nature's inventiveness
 in creating forms
 and colours
 and beauty.
 And what nature has done for flowers,
 for bread and for wine, nature has done for us.

Bread and Wine

In all the colours and scents and tastes and sounds of the world,
 we see the beauty of the universe.

In this season of spring it is fitting we should celebrate
 the renewal of life and hope using
 the symbols of bread and wine and flowers.
 Time out of mind we have watched grain buried in the dark soil.
 Time out of mind we have watched sprouting seeds
 break through the soil, reaching towards the warm sun.
 Time out of mind we have watched grain broken,
 ground into dust-like flour.
 Yet mixed with water and leavening,
 it stirs, rises, becomes bread,
 the sustainer of our lives.
 For longer than we can remember the fruit of the vine has been our
 companion.
 It's clustered fruit is harvested and crushed,
 and juice is stored and fermented
 saved for festive occasions.
 We have shared the fruit of the vine in moments of joy and sorrow,
 and to mark momentous turnings.

Communion

Remembering the meal tradition surrounding Jesus...
we break this bread and fill this cup.

We give thanks

And seek to live in harmony with all about us.

We give thanks

**And take our place in the human story,
struggling for the unity of humankind.**

We give thanks

And join with all in a quest for justice.

We give thanks

For all that Jesus, human like us, means to us.

Singing: Forgive our sins as we forgive

AND SO WE PRAY OUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Gracious Spirit,

Who loves us like a mother,

Whose realm is blooming among us now.

And within.

We pray that your compassion guide us in every action.

Give us what we need for each day,

and help us to be satisfied with the miracle of that alone.

Forgiver, whose embrace brings us to wholeness without our asking,

May we reconcile ourselves to one another in humility.

And may we cancel the crushing debts that imprison our neighbours

So that communities of joy and health may flourish.

May we neither profit from nor ignore evil.

But ever work to thwart it with non-violence

As we co-create the realm of peace in this world.

Now and each day.

Amen.

Now we prepare to leave this place.
 As you do, you are invited to take one of the flowers.
 Take a different one than the flower you brought.
 Take it not to keep forever and forever.
 Nothing is forever.
 Take a flower as a symbol of gratitude
 for beauty we did not create,
 for joys which come when unexpected.
 Take a flower as a symbol of your participation
 in the community of this congregation,
 in the community of human kind,
 in the community of all living things,
 in the universal community.
 Take a flower as a symbol that
 beauty and grace and joy and love
 are not matters of reciprocity.
 In this world we cannot earn or deserve
 that which is most important.
 It comes to us as a gift.

Words of Blessing

The presentness of God reaches beyond this place...

The Community Candle is extinguished

As the sun in its shining brings glory
 As the stars in the night scatter dark
 As the moon gives us hope in its radiance

So may the light of God fill your hearts
 and your minds
 and your lives.

Amene. May it be so.

Singing our way home: Celebrate all human beauty

NOTICES –

Birthdays and anniversaries

Significant events

Greetings to one another

Following you are welcome to sign off or stay and chat with others.

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

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Saints A & A