



SAINTS A & A A New Church Emerging



Northcote

Aotearoa New Zealand

Birkenhead

Lent 4
14th March 2021
St Andrews



“It will be hard we know, and the road will be muddy and rough.” - Osibisa, “Woyaya”

How do you keep going through the muddy patches?

9:30am Gathering song: *The gong is sounded*

Welcoming Space

We come together from our separate lives,
each of us bringing our concerns, our hopes, and our dreams.

We are not yet fully present.

The traffic, the last-minute getting prepared, details still cling to us.

Our bodies and minds hold the preoccupations of the past few hours few days.

It is now time to let go of these pressures and really arrive ...

When you are ready, repeat silently to yourself:

‘Here I am, here I am, Here I am’.

Here I am, is used in the Torah to signify being present. And here we are in body, mind, and spirit present and settling into where we are and simply being here¹.

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

Singing: Be still for the presence of the Lord

Saviour I heard your voice gently say

We have come from our own places to this special sacred place.

This is a place where we know we can share community and be blessed.

Haere Mai, Aere mai, Hwan-Yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa Lava, Foon Ying, Selamat Datang, Vitajte, Bula, Welkom, Welcome



Story and Prayer with the Young'uns

Young'uns

We give up the idea that even though we are healthy, sickness does not affect us. That we do not have a responsibility to act as healers through prayer and touch and action. We give up the fear of disease, especially the fear that causes us to look away. We let go of the idea that illnesses like AIDS and Malaria and Dysentery are unavoidable, or that they don't matter because they don't happen here. We refuse to believe that quality healthcare must be for only a few. How will you help us?

Congregation

We will take on the role of healers, however we are best suited to do so. We will fund research to find cures and will support health education in impoverished nations. We will respond swiftly to natural disasters that threaten to bring new diseases to already battered people. And when sickness occurs in our midst we will not fear it. Through it we will pray and we will touch, and we will be present for each other. For the kingdom of God is at hand.

Singing: 1,2,3 Alleluia

You are invited ...

Breathe deeply... unclench your hands
and let your shoulders and neck relax.
Allow your face muscles to relax and sit comfortable,
You are connected with those
who wish for you, wellness.
(Silence)

Today is the beginning of the rest of our lives
and the world awaits the emerging wonders
we are and will yet be.
(Silence)

Deep peace to you all.ⁱⁱ

Reading: John 3:16-21
Homecoming, by Bruce Prewer *(based on Psalm 126)*

Reflective song: Holy Holy Holy

Message**Our Prayers for others:****A 'Beatitudes' Litany**

In response to the word reflected on and our prayers for others,
let us stand and share a special Lenten 'beatitudes' litany.

Blessed are the poor
**not the penniless, but those
whose heart is free.**

Blessed are those who mourn
**not those who whimper, but those
who raise their voices.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice
**not those who whine, but those
who struggle.**

Blessed are the merciful
**not those who forget, but those
 who forgive.**

Blessed are the pure in heart
**not those who act like angels, but those
 whose life is transparent.**

Blessed are the peace-makers
**not those who shun conflict, but those
 who face it squarely.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for justice
**not because they suffer, but
 because they love.ⁱⁱⁱ**

Singing: Our life has its seasons

NOTICES –

**Birthdays and anniversaries
 Significant events
 Greetings to one another**

Words of Blessing

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.^{iv}
Amen! May it be so!

Sung Blessing: E te Atua

NOTICES:

Documents for the following congregational meetings have been sent by email. If you haven't received these please be in touch with Nan Inkson and Rosemary Bold or your Elder.

NOTICE to all Members and Associate Members of;

- Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church Birkenhead (Presbyterian Church of Saint Andrew)
and
- Saint Aidans Presbyterian Church Northcote (Community of Saint Aidans)

of the following Congregational meetings.

- **First Congregational meeting will be - Sunday 21st March @ 9:30 am in the premises of Saint Aidans Presbyterian Church Northcote.**

The agenda is as follows:

- Future Church Worship Location and Facilities
- Consolidated Guiding Principles – Governance
- General business
- **Second Congregational meeting will be – Thursday 25th March @ 7:00 pm in the premises of Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church Birkenhead.**

The agenda is as follows:

- Vision, mission, values and name
- General business



Ancient rock-hewn churches in Ethiopia



with
Nic Birt

A terrifying walk along a ledge, two hundred metres up the cliff, leads to a small wooden door set in the rock face...



Inside, carved out from the stone: columns, arches and domes, all painted in a vibrant Byzantium style.

Nic Birt relates his pilgrimage experience of visiting ancient rock-hewn Ethiopian Orthodox churches in Tigray province.

We will meet in the beautiful Coptic Orthodox Church in Birkdale—a community of mainly Egyptian, Ethiopian and Eritrean Christians in Auckland.

Join us for an evening with fascinating pictures, witness to faith and music by the local community.



Saturday, 13 March 2021, 7.00-9.00pm
Location: St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church
258 Beach Haven Road, Birkdale, North Shore, Auckland
Fee: free / Registration appreciated
For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

A children's community

EASTER CARNIVAL

Friday 26th March 3.30—5.30 p.m.

Takapuna Methodist Church
427 Lake Road, Takapuna, Auckland 0622

Please join us for an afternoon of making simple Easter crafts, Easter themed activities, bouncy castle and served afternoon tea.

A FREE community event. *All very welcome.*



Takapuna Methodist Church

ⁱ (Adapted/Nan Fink Gene)

ⁱⁱ (Adapted. Rob Kleinheksel/C3Exchange, 2012)

ⁱⁱⁱ (Jacob, Santiago Chile/!o!)

^{iv} (Joyce Boyce-Tillman/wb)