

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

*Matawhero Church – Church Lane
St Andrew's Church and Community Centre:
176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

15 October 2023

Pentecost 20



*We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.
Please sign the Visitors' Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who
stand at the back of the church. A toilet is located in the foyer.
In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes,
especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language
with which you are most comfortable. **BOLDED WORDS** are for
congregational response.*

We gather together as the people of God

Prelude

Welcome and Notices

(Offerings placed in the Offering bags as you come in)

Introit Tune Woodworth BG106; Alexander 265: words CH4 553 vv2-3

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, you will receive,
will pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come

Call to Worship: verses from psalm 106 1-5 (Good News Bible)

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good

His love is eternal

Who an tell all the great things He has done?

Who can praise him enough?

Happy are those who obey His commands and do what is right.

**Remember me, Lord, when you help your people. Include me
when you save them.**

Let me see the prosperity of your people and share in the happiness of your
nation!

In the glad pride of those who belong to you.

Prayer Intercession and World Peace

***Hymn:** Words Mary Pearson; tune Londonderry Air CH4 729

**Who is this man, who gathered people to him,
and touched their lives along each dusty way:
who spoke to all with passion and with peacefulness
and valued all their ordinary days?
Who is this man, who, at the long day's ending,
would draw apart to wait on Gad and pray,
and, in the mystery that knows no ending
would find God's wisdom
and would know God's words to say?**

**Who is this man who gave to women dignity
in partnership of worth and equal grace?
Who listened to the stories that they told him,
and honoured each, whatever was their place:
who let them choose to come and join his company
and learned with them God's love of every race,
who showed to each the courage of their nature
to care and tend each lonely and each suffering face.**

**Who is this man who calls us now to follow,
a shadow presence asking us to be
companions on the way through this life journey,
to live in truth, to set our tired world free?
So, let us find each other now in partnership,
with ears to hear and eyes awake to see,
that we might grow in grace and understanding,
and walk beside that man who comes from Galilee.**

Today we will hear some stories of Jesus using the verses of a lovely old song and various readings from the gospels. The first reading comes from the gospel of Mark (and is also found in Matthew and Luke)

Bible Reading: Mark 10: 13-16 Jesus blesses little children

Some people brought children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, He was angry and said to His disciples” Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it”. Then He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on each of them and blessed them.

Reading: The first two verses of the song *Tell me the stories of Jesus.*

Family time It is so important to listen

Children’s Blessing:

God of love, hear our prayer
Give us the space to sing and dance
in joy at the miracle of your presence with us.
We are all your children.
May we know you as our Saviour, and friend. Amen.

Hymn: Come into the streets with me CH4 366

Come into the streets with me!
Come to where the crowds will be,
see a strange and gentle king
on a donkey traveling --

***Refrain:* Come and follow my leader,**
come and follow my leader,
Jesus Christ is riding by,
come and follow my leader!

All the people shout his name,
waving branches, sing his fame,
throw their coats upon his road,
glad to praise the Son of God --

***Refrain:* Come and follow ...**

If the soldiers draw their swords,
will we dare to sing these words,
be his friends for just a day,
cheer him on, then run away?
Refrain: Come and follow ...

Jesus goes where things are rough,
Jesus knows when life is tough,
always comes to us, his friends,
so his story never ends.
Refrain: Come and follow

Reading: Matthew 21: 6-9 (Also found in Mark, Luke and John)

Look your King is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey! The disciples went off, as Jesus had told them, and found the young donkey, they threw their cloaks on him and Jesus got on. A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The people walking in front and behind Jesus began to shout “Praise to David’s Son! God bless Him who comes in the Name of the Lord! Praise God!”

Two poems

Verse four of our focal song tells of a storm – it was not “plain sailing” for Jesus and his followers.

Reading: Luke 8: 22-25 (also found in Matthew and Mark)

Jesus calms the storm One day Jesus got into a boat with the disciples and said to them “Let us go across to the other side of the lake” So they started out. As they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep. Suddenly a strong wind blew down on the lake and the boat began to fill with water so that they were all in great danger. The disciples woke Jesus saying “Master, Master, we are about to die!” Jesus got up and gave an order to the wind and the stormy waters. They died down and there was a great calm. Then He said to the disciples “Where is your faith?” But they were amazed and afraid, and said to one another “Who is this man? He gives orders to the winds and waves, and they obey Him!”

We are still asking “Who is this man?”

Hymn: Jesus calls us o’er the tumult CH4 509 (may omit vv2-3)

**Jesus calls us! O’er the tumult
Of our life’s wild restless sea,
Day by day his voice is sounding,
Saying, ‘Christian, follow me’.**

**As, of old, Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for his dear sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, Christian, love me more’.**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
‘Christian, love me more than these’.**

**Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Saviour, make us hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
Serve and love you best of all.**

Reading: Jesus tells of Gods love in so many ways. Verse 5 of our song is worth another look

Tell how the sparrow that twitters on yonder tree
And the sweet meadow-side lily may speak to me –
Give me their message, for I would hear
How Jesus taught us our Father’s care.

Poem

The last verse of our song is bitter-sweet but is not the end of the story.
Rather it is a new beginning; full of hope.

Reading: Matthew 28: 5-8 (also found in Mark, Luke and John)

The angel spoke to the women “You must not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified, He is not here, He has been raised, just as He said. Come and see the place where He was lying. Go quickly now and tell His disciples He has been raised from death and is going to Galilee ahead of you, there you will see Him! Remember what I have told you”. So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy and ran to tell His disciples.

Offering (**Note:** *The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you missed noticing this, you may place a retiring offering into the offering boxes at the door as you leave.*)

Please stand and sing as offering is brought forward.

***Doxology:** words CH3 462 vv 1,5 tune CH4 502

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

***Dedication:** Loving God, we thank you for all your gifts to us.
As we bring these gifts today, we pray that you will
bless them and bless us as we seek to serve you. Amen.

***Final Hymn:** (Please be seated if you would like to)

Tune There's a light upon the mountain WOV 207

- 1 **For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
Burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice:
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!**

- 2 **Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and lovesong
catching heaven in a note.**

- 3 **All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease!**

***Blessing**

God goes with you into your future. May the Light of Christ guide all your steps, your thinking and your actions as you keep singing a song of faith. The spirit of God is with you always in times of joy and times of challenge.

God loves you. God bless you.

***3-fold Amen**

Please join us for a time of fellowship and friendship over a cup of tea or coffee.