

E-ffervescence!

Friday 19 June 2020

What a Week!

- What a wonderful week it has been! The welcome of Jay, preparation of the Hatherley spaces for the impending building site discombobulation, opening of the vicarage for people to say their farewells and share precious memories, and the blessing of the grounds in preparation for what is to come...

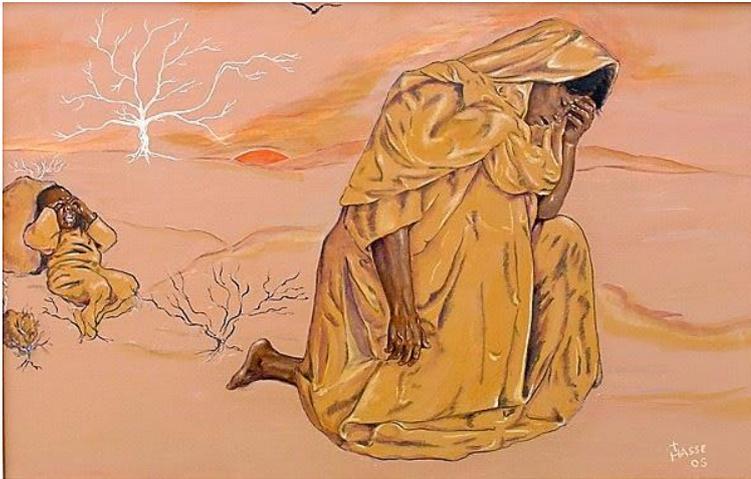
This Sunday brings our first offering of communion since lockdown, and also opportunities to sing! Pūkeko Stomp has reconvened, and our Stop In ladies are preparing themselves for open doors next week (hours will be 10am-2pm weekdays and 10am-noon on Saturdays. Pop in to view their “exclusive” range of winter clothing. There’s a bargain awaiting everyone!)

- Click [here](#) or visit www.wtanglican.nz to read the Dioicous information regarding Level One below. On the whole, it appears that anything goes! Remember, however, that it is important that each person has the right to reconnect at their own pace.
- I often hear the question: when are we getting back to normal? My internal reply is “What is normal”? Covid has changed each of us, and given opportunities for change that are worthwhile at least considering, not only in our personal lives, but also in the way we communicate and operate here at St Mary’s...
- As staff, we need to take things slowly and deliberately. Not only have we experienced lockdown, but also negotiating being part of a different team and the need to re-organise due to the beginning of construction and re-construction. We are not going to rush. We are going to be kind to ourselves and each other, in order to be truly effective in this community.
- We are also going to be mindful of our attitude to sustainability- both financially and environmentally. So this Sunday will see the 8 o’clock service using prayer books, with a song sheet only, and 10 am with a condensed liturgy which does not contain the readings. If you wish to read along, please bring your own bible! We will work on Effervescence continuing, with a truncated version continued for both services.
- The Cathedral Office is now upstairs, so please enter from the Upper Hatherly if you come to visit.
- The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 16 August following the 11 am Service
- And a note from Rodney Dunlop: *‘We are restarting the Welcome Inn at Holy Trinity on Thursday July 2nd.’*

Aroha nui Jacqui

Sunday Sermon: God who sees

Genesis 21:8-21 Sarah tells Abraham to cast out Hagar, then God tells Abraham to do as Sarah has asked. Abraham, though distressed, casts out Hagar and their son into the wilderness. Hagar and her son are about to die of thirst when God opens Hagar's eyes and she sees water. "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy." (v. 17)



Are you in the midst of some sort of wilderness? Is the path ahead unclear? Perhaps in some way you feel as if you are about to perish. Are you, in some way, crying out for help? May you, like Hagar, the slave and outcast, sense that God hears your cries and asks you to pour out your heart, knowing you are heard by the God who has not forsaken you, even if others have. May you hear those oft-repeated words, "Do not be afraid." But this time, may you hear them on a deeper level, allowing them to find their way from your thoughts to your feelings to your core sense of identity. You are a person who need not fear. Not this wilderness. For

you are not alone. You are accompanied. Heard. Understood. And may you sense God opening your eyes, to show you exactly what you need, perhaps what was right in front of you, all along.

Winter Sermon Series:

Genesis Gems...

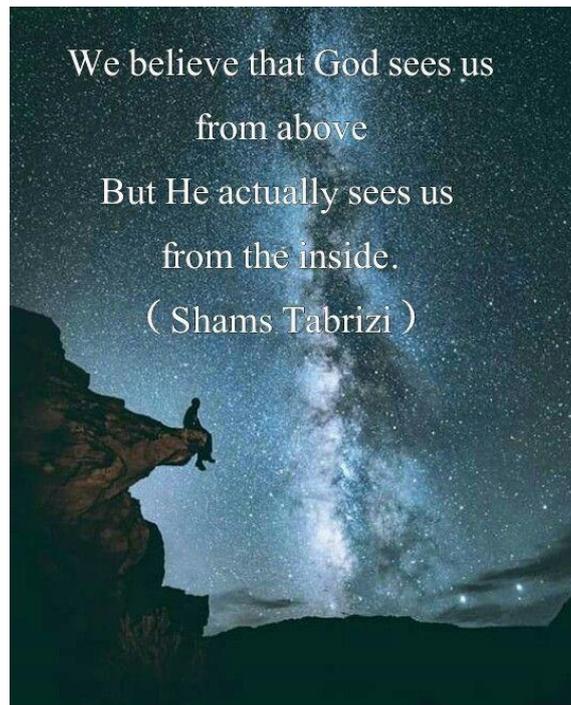
Over the winter season our Sunday worship will feature a series of "sermons" based on the characters in Genesis, whose stories are told in the first testaments readings each Sunday at this time.

Be aware though, that at the 10 am services, the 'sermon' may take a slightly different form to the traditional version, and there may be only one bible reading, depending on the topic of the day.

You may like to prepare for each Sunday by re-acquainting yourselves with the story before you arrive (and the stories in between).

21 June	Genesis 21: 8-21 Hagar
28 June	Genesis 22 Abraham and Isaac
05 July	Genesis 24: 34-38 42-49, 58-67 Isaac and Rebekah
12 July	Genesis 25: 19-24 Rebekah
19 July	Genesis 28: 10-19a Jacob between a Rock and a Hard place
26 July	Genesis 29: 15-28 Jacob, Leah and Rachel
02 August	Genesis 32: 22- 31 Jacob crossing the Jabok
09 August	Gen 37 Joseph and his brothers

Meditation of the Week!



We believe that God sees us
from above
But He actually sees us
from the inside.
(Shams Tabrizi)

**The following are the readings set for Sunday June, 2020,
which you may wish to read and reflect on.**

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Psalm 86

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God;
Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.
In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.
There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.
All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify
your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love
and faithfulness.
Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your
serving girl.
Show me a sign of your favour, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because
you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Romans 6:1-11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever

denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Kia Ora Whanau

Faith Crew α

Home

What a wet and wild week we are having! It is exciting to think we are nearly at the shortest day. And Gary told me yesterday it is 20 Saturdays to go till Christmas...I must apologize for a terrible typo in last week's contribution. Did anyone pick it up? It was brought to my attention that I ended saying "Arohani" instead of "Arohanui". It serves as a timely reminder that I, like many of us, am still learning to understand and use Te Reo. I am so keen to soak up as much as I can and in my haste, I didn't check. How often does this happen when we are forging a new path? We get so busy on that road that we forget to just slow down and take stock. Last Sunday was a lovely example of just this. We were so blessed to have a wonderful time of worship together and to hear from Jay and Archbishop Phillip. It was tricky to get my tongue around some of the Te Reo words. I loved that we are learning together. A lovely illustration given by our littlest disciples, who were busily filling a waka with little versions of themselves made from pipe cleaners, playdough and paper people. All of them were so colourful and unique and beautifully made. And the kids were unashamedly happy to give it a go and make a little person with their hands. In this time of more uncertainty as the building work gets underway and our space is beginning to look different once more, be encouraged that we are all in this together. He waka eke noa.



On Sunday the 28th June Faith Crew will be gathering during the 10 am service. It will be a low key time of prayer, games and just checking in to see where God is during this time for our youngest disciples. I can't wait to see you all again if you feel ready to return. If not, that is okay too. There is still space in the waka another time.

Arohanui, Cath

Karakia & Blessing Mark Start of Project Works



Thank you to everyone who braved the cold and rain on Monday morning to join Archbishop Philip, Dean Jacqui and Dean Jay, as Taranaki Cathedral got together with Ngāti Te Whiti and some local leaders and personalities for karakia and a site blessing. It was a special morning where we got to honour our tipuna and reflect on the past – and look forward with excitement. Now the mihi starts! If you've driven past you'll see the Cleland's crew are already onsite and getting the Vicarage ready to move. Works will make it a bit trickier to access the grounds and Hatherly Hall for a few months – so thanks for bearing with us! **Arohanui The Project Team**

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