

Sunday Morning Worship:

A Christ-centred, community facing church is one in which we join Christ in mission by becoming partners with those working with compassion, solidarity and justice.

The Assembly Candle is lit

Call to worship *Sarah*

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. The Lord be with you:

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. The Lord bless you.

God in Christ is at the centre and the boundaries,
exploring truth and inviting us to follow.

Thanks be to God.

God the Creator is within and without
expanding and enhancing, always adding to our life

Thanks be to God.

God the Holy Spirit moves and motivates,
calls us and leads us, hovering over us with peace.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

‘Praise with joy the world’s Creator ...’

Prayers *Sarah*

More awesome than lofty mountains or rolling ocean, are you, holy Friend. More cheering than the sunshine through winter windows, fairer than springtime and more fruitful than mellow autumn, more abundant in mercy than the number of stars in the Milky Way, and as expensively loving as Christ crucified, are you, God of all space, time and eternity!

There is nothing like you in the heavens above or on earth below! You always keep faith with your stumbling people and pour grace upon those who trust and serve you!

Thank you empowering God, for all that is loving and beautiful in the way we have lived our lives. Thanks for friends cherished, strangers welcomed, enemies forgiven, the needy enabled, hard lessons learned, integrity maintained, obstacles surmounted, injustices fought, and faith enlarged. We praise you for the graces that have flowered in our weakness, and for the blessings that have stretched our strengths.

Forgive us for the darker side of our performance. For the things that have been slipshod or cowardly, insensitive or unhelpful, sly or vindictive, self promoting or pompous, degrading or despairing. Have pity on us also for the twists and knots in the labyrinth of our minds; those dark chambers where we rarely see the truth clearly, and seldom deal with the dark forces effectively. We ask not only the word of your forgiveness to release us from shame and discouragement, but also your healing fingers to probe deeply those shadowy places where corruption needs dislodging and motives need straightening.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Liberator and Physician we pray Amen

Assurance of Pardon

E te whanau, let us together claim God’s forgiveness

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We are forgiven, and by grace have become the liberated children of God’s new age. Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: *The congregation stands and sings the Hallelujah twice*

The Prayer of Christ *Please remain standing*

“Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-Giver,...”

The First Reading 1John 4: 7-12, 16-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church:

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading Luke 4:16-30

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’ He said to them, ‘Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Doctor, cure yourself!” And you will say, “Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.”’ And he said, ‘Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.’ When they

heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

Praise to Christ the Word.

Meditation

Sermon

Hymn

“Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace...”

Offering for CWS

Dedication

We pray together

O God, all that we have is the fruits of your life in us.

**Receive now the gifts which we bring to you
to be shared with others.**

Amen

Prayer for Others: (*We will remain seated as we offer our prayer in song*)

“Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair, ...”

The prayer continues:

O God you call us to your mission of justice. All that we are and all we do in faith is dependent on you. We place ourselves in your hands again and ask for all that we need to continue the task.

In the silence, the people name the gifts they need

We gather in our midst all those who are our partners in your mission – and place them in your hands, loving God.

In the silence, the people name people and churches with whom we share the task

Into our emptiness: **Breathe your fullness.**

Into our tiredness: **pour your energy**

If we are discouraged: **bring us your hope,**

If we are afraid: **bring us your courage.**

If we do not know the way:

Give to us your wisdom.

For we are your people and you are our God, forever and ever. Amen

The Peace *Sarah*

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou;
The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn

“Brother, sister, let me serve you, ...”

Benediction *Sarah*

“Look at your hands, see the touch and the tenderness –...”