

**Opening Service of Worship  
General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa  
New Zealand**



**7pm Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Held electronically**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

The Moderator of General Assembly, the Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio

## **Call to Worship**

Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio

## **Song: Wairua Tapu**

Wairua Tapu, Kuhu Mai  
Nau mai ki konei  
Wairua Tapu Arahia  
Korero mai ano

Holy Spirit, welcome  
You are welcome here  
Guide us, Holy Spirit  
Speak to us again

## **Prayers of Praise and Constitution of the Assembly**

Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio

## **Acceptance of the Assembly Roll**

Clerk of Assembly

## **Installation of the Moderator**

## **Prayer of Installation**

Led by former Moderator – Very Rev Bruce Hansen

## **Signing of the Centennial Bible**

## **Act of Commemoration**

## **Readings:**

### **Deuteronomy 6: 4-9**

read by the Rev Paul Morrow, Chaplain at St Andrew's College

### **Mark 10: 13-16**

read by Lila Galloway

## **Sermon**

'Empowering Generations'

### **Kupu Whakapono (Confession of Faith)**

---

From this land of Aotearoa New Zealand  
we confess that we believe in and belong  
to the one true and living God,  
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Love before all love.

We believe in God the Father,  
sovereign and holy,  
Creator and nurturer of all,  
Father of Jesus Christ,  
sender of the Holy Spirit,  
and Judge of all the earth.

We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,  
truly human and truly divine,  
who lived among us full of grace and truth.  
For our sin he was crucified  
and by the power of God was raised from death,  
forgiving us, setting us free and bringing to birth God's new creation.  
Now ascended, he calls us to repentance and faith  
and restores us to God and to one another.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
the giver of life at work in all creation,  
who inspired the Scriptures and makes Christ known,  
who transforms hearts and minds  
and gathers us into the community of Christ,  
empowering the Church in worship and in mission.

We belong to this triune God,  
women and men,  
young and old,  
from many nations,  
in Christ he iwi kotahi tatou, [we are one people]  
witnesses to God's love in word and action,  
servants of reconciliation,  
and stewards of creation.

As God's people,  
we look forward in hope and joy  
to the return of Christ,  
to the new heaven and earth,  
where evil and death will be no more,  
justice and peace will flourish,  
and we shall forever delight in the glory of God.

## **Communion**

The communion will be led by the Moderator

## **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Jesus said, *let the little children come to me; don't stop them;  
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.*

E te whānau a te Karaiti, family of Christ.  
When we share this meal, we receive the kingdom of God.  
So come, receive it as a little child,  
with open-eyed wonder and sincere trust.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks,  
nurturing and loving God before whom generations rise and pass  
***for salvation comes through new birth.***  
Out of nothing, you crafted the heavens and the earth:  
your Spirit brooding, cradling, animating the unformed mass;  
your Word ordering, naming, calling, awaiting creation's response.  
This theatre of your glory in which we live and move and have our being  
is an overflow of your abundant and life giving love.  
We give you thanks,  
nurturing and loving God before whom generations rise and pass

***for salvation comes through new birth.***

Though Sarah was old and barren,  
you chose her as the bearer of your promise to Abraham.  
Through the mothering compassion of Pharaoh's daughter,  
your liberator, Moses, was kept safe from harm,  
like a seed nurtured in hostile soil.  
When Israel was lost and overwhelmed by violent forces,  
you chose Hannah who, though barren,  
gave birth to your prophet Samuel.  
Time and again, your promises have been fulfilled and expanded  
through the miraculous gift of a child.

And so we praise you,  
nurturing and loving God before whom generations rise and pass  
who brings life from nothingness,  
and who speaks through the generations.  
In remembering, we desperately cling to your faithfulness anew.  
And so we join our voices now  
with our tīpuna who have paved the way before us  
and our mokopuna who will come after us,  
and indeed with all heaven and earth,  
in the birth-cries of the new creation:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Tapu, tapu, tapu, e Ihowā, e te Atua o ngā mano.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Kī tonu te rangi me te whenua i te nui o tōu korōria.  
hosanna in the highest.  
Hōhana i runga rawa.  
Blessed is the one who comes  
Ka whakapaingia tēnei e haere mai nei  
in the name of the Lord,  
i runga i te ingoa o te Ariki.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hōhana i runga rawa***

We give you thanks,  
nurturing and loving God before whom generations rise and pass  
***for salvation comes through new birth.***  
Your promises, carried by the generations of Israel,  
came to fulfilment in Jesus Christ.  
Born of the virgin Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us as we are.  
Leading his followers, he guides us.  
Suffering under Pontius Pilate, he bears the judgment of the world.  
Dying on the cross, he rescues us.  
Risen from the dead, he gives new life:  
the firstborn of the new creation.  
Ascended with you, he lifts us into your loving embrace.

Great is the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

Amen.

### **The Words of Institution**

In sharing this meal, God's words of life  
are bound to our hands, on our lips, in our hearts,  
as a sign that even now God's new creation is being born  
in us, among us, and around us.  
We can taste it. We can touch it.

The Lord Jesus instructed us to celebrate this meal for that very reason,  
so that even in the face of sin, evil, death, and dying,  
we might cling to the hope of resurrected life with him.  
And so we remember:

On the night he was betrayed,  
Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks,  
he broke it and said:  
this is my body which is for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper,  
he took the cup, saying:  
this cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the death of the risen Lord until he comes.

### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

Let us pray.

Nurturing and loving God before whom generations rise and pass  
Pour out your life-giving Spirit on us now.

Even though we are far away from one another,  
in sharing these gifts of bread and wine,  
may we become one with you, one with each other, and one with your  
world.

And may we become a sign of the new creation that you are bringing to  
birth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we raise is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

E te whānau a te Karaiti, family of Christ.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

*\*Communion is shared\**

### **Passing of the peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

Thank you for this meal, O God,  
which is a reminder that your kingdom is becoming present among us.  
In this meal we have been united to one another as siblings of Christ:  
children in the whānau of God.

May our discerning, our talking, our relating, our behaving,  
be a living expression of our unity in you.

To your glory, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession led by Ms Marina Rakuraku, Moderator, Te  
Aka Puaho.**

**Hymn Guide Me**

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open thou the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream shall flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.

## **Blessing**

### **Adjournment**

Clerk of Assembly