

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Waiapu Cathedral of
St. John the Evangelist

*A virtual Ante-Communion:
10.00 am, May 2020*

*The Way, the Truth
and the Life*



Informal welcome as we gather

Dean Ian:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

SENTENCE for Easter 5:

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me." (*John 14:6*)

INTROIT: *from the Tattersall household*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Led by the Liturgist (Christine Kerr)*

Come, people of God!

Let us sing the praises of the One who has called us
out of darkness into this marvellous light!

**For once we were not a people at all,
but now we are God's people!**

For we are a chosen people,
royal priests, a holy nation.

God's very own family!

**Let us proclaim together the goodness of God:
Come, let us worship.**

Christine Longhurst, based on 1 Peter 2

HYMN: *Christ is our cornerstone*

1: Christ is our corner-stone,
the rock on which we build;
with friends of God alone
the courts of heaven are filled;
on steadfast love our hopes we place,
of present grace and joys above.

2: With psalms and hymns of praise
our homes and churches ring;
our voices we will raise,
the Three-in-One to sing;
and thus proclaim in joyful song
both loud and long, that glorious name.

/continued

3: Here, gracious God, draw near
as in your name we bow;
each true petition hear,
accept each faithful vow;
and more and more on all who pray
each holy day your blessings pour.

4: Here may we gain from heaven
the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given,
be with us evermore,
until that day when all the blessed
to endless rest are called away.

J. Chandler (adapted), Tune: DARWALL

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Liturgist:

Hear God's word to all. God shows love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

Amen.

If we confess our sins,
God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins
and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

Silence

Let us confess our sins.

**God of grace, we confess that we have sinned,
in what we have thought, and said, and done.
Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ
our Way, and Truth, and Life.
Amen.**

The Absolution is declared by the priest, saying

God forgives your sins.
Know that God pardons you and sets you free.
Amen.

Form of confession from “The Ministry of Healing” NZPB/HKMOA

COLLECT *for the 5th Sunday of Easter:*

Liturgist:

Let us pray we may dwell together in the life of Christ:

**Eternal God,
your Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth and the life for all creation;
grant us grace to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
that together we may be built into a dwelling
fit for your holy presence.
We make this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

Down to the river to pray (Alison Krauss)



Epistle Reading: *1 Peter 2:2-10, read by the Liturgist*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

/continued

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, *‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’*, and *‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’* They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: Hidden Christ, alive forever

1. Hidden Christ, alive for ever,

Saviour, Servant, Friend and Lord,
year by year, unseen, you offer life undying, love outpoured.
Day by day, you walk among us,
known and honoured, yet concealed,
freeing, chiding, leading, guiding, till your glory is revealed.

2. Endless orbits by our planet

spinning round its speeding star
cannot trace creation's secret: why we live, and whose we are.
Jesus, you alone uncover
nature's rhythm, reason, rhyme,
so your birthday is our centre: hinge of history and time.

3. Still your life and way of living,
 God-revealing, Spirit-blown,
teaching, healing, sins forgiving, measure and inspire our own;
 loving earth's despised, rejected,
 till with them you hang in pain,
broken, buried, resurrected, life laid down, our life to gain.

4. Who can tell, through earthly eons,
 all your loving power has done,
changing hearts and shaping nations, seeking all, rejecting none?
 Speeches fail, but songs soar higher,
 tracing how, in every place,
twice ten hundred years have numbered
 countless works of boundless grace!

Brian Wren, Tune: RUSTINGTON

Dean Ian: The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 14.

Praise and glory to God.



‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ /continued

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? ... Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

REFLECTION: *Dean Ian Render, followed by*
DISCUSSION in Breakout Rooms:

'He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbours.'

Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder

If I could put a notion in his head:

'Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it

Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know

What I was walling in or walling out,

And to whom I was like to give offense.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,

That wants it down.' (Excerpt from Robert Frost: "Mending wall")

What is your current experience of being a spiritual house?

How could we end up walling people in, or out?

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**All: We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

/continued

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

United Church of Canada

ANTHEM: *from the Tattersall household*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *The Rev'd David van Oeveren*

...In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Concluding collect:

God of peace, let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

(David continues:)

As Christ teaches us we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN: *This is my song O God of all the nations*

1: This is my song, O God of all the nations,

A song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is;

Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.

But other hearts in other lands are beating,

With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2: My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,

And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and vine.

But other lands have sunlight too and clover,

And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

O hear my song, true God of all the nations,

A song of peace for their land and for mine. */continued*

3: This is my prayer, O Sovereign of earth's kingdoms:
Your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall know him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, true God of all the nations;
Myself I give you, let your will be done.

*Text: vv. 1-2 Lloyd Stone (1912-1993),
v.3 Georgia Harkness (1939)
Tune: FINLANDIA*

COMMISSIONING and SENDING FORTH *Led by the Liturgist*

Merciful God,
who is more than we can ever imagine,
give us a wider vision of the world;
give us a broader view of justice;
give us dreams of peace
that are not defined by boundaries of geography
or race or religion,
or by the limitations
of worldly structures and systems.

(continued)

**Open our eyes and our ears
that wherever we go,
we may hear your voice calling us by name;
calling us to serve,
calling us to share,
calling us to praise,
so that we never give up on the promise of your reign,
where the world is transformed,
and everyone can enjoy life in all its fullness.**

Amen.

www.christianaid.org.uk

RESPONSIVE BLESSING: Led by *Dean Ian*

May the blessings of the One who is the Way
be with you in the days to come.

May God guide our feet wherever we go.

May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life
be with you in the days to come.

**May Christ lead us by the hand to those who are
our sisters and brothers in need.**

May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth
be with you in the days to come.

**May we journey with the Spirit to that
way which is everlasting. Amen.**

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THE DISMISSAL OF THE COMMUNITY

Grace be with you.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

FREE CONVERSATION

In breakout groups for those who would like to remain

This form of service is authorised under the Formulary of this Church:

“A form for ordering a service of the Word”

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Alison Krauss sang “Down to the river to pray” (various versions on YouTube)