

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

## **St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai**



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

*Gluten free communion wafers are available.*

*If you require one, please speak to one of the clergy before the service.*

### *Dear Friends*

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter our Gospel reading is always taken from chapter ten of John's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. This gives us a good opportunity to reflect on our call to care for creation, a good opportunity to see if we can listen more deeply to the Good Shepherd's voice.

The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep. A good shepherd makes sure that his or her flock has clean water, clean air, fresh grass, and a safe place to sleep. A good shepherd knows that the only way to care for the sheep is to protect the web of life that sustains them.

We need our Good Shepherd today more than ever, for the web of life is unravelling before our eyes. All the sheep – and everything we love – is at risk. Unless we change course fast, civilization itself may not endure. There is no going back. Human beings have irrevocably altered the earth into which you and I were born. As one commentator puts it 'The world hasn't ended, but the world as we know it has....' Our task now is not to stop global warming, because that is impossible. Our task is to keep it from getting any worse than it has to get and to find ways to live more lightly, carefully, and gracefully in this new world.

The starting point for every shepherd who wants to care for his or her sheep is to understand the landscape and to recognise the risks: sheep can't drink from a stream that is polluted, and they can't eat from a meadow that is filled with poisonous plants. Sheep can't survive unless they are protected from wolves.

So, our starting point must be to face the reality of climate change and to underscore the facts of science. But climate change is not only a scientific issue – it is also a spiritual and ethical issue as well. People of all faiths the world over are rising up and speaking out about the moral imperative to stabilise the climate and to protect low-income and historically marginalized communities, the people who are least responsible for global warming and yet most vulnerable to its effects. Science and religion are coming together to speak to this issue with a single voice: the world is precious and the world is in peril.

The task before us is urgent, but it is one that can bring great joy. Just think of that famous line from John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life'. God loves the world and we who are made in the image and likeness of God, we love it, too. If God created us to love each other and our brother-sister beings – if deep in our hearts, our bones, our genes, is a God-given affection for the rest of the created world – then rising up to protect that world is an act of love, an act of faithfulness to God. The actions we take to protect God's Creation and to re-weave the fabric of life that is so swiftly unravelling. These actions are an act of reverence to the Creator.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**

### **Sentence**

The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to the springs of the water of life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes. *Revelation 7:17*

## Collect

**Alleluia, God Eternal,  
our guide and our protector,  
in troubles and uncertainty, lead us;  
in fearfulness and hardship, secure us.  
Through Jesus Christ our Liberator,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

**1st Reading**            *Acts 9.36-43*

**2nd Reading**           *Revelation 7.9-17*

**Gospel**                    *John 10.22-30*

## **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the 70 million people who are currently either refugees or internally displaced people and for the people of the Mount Maunganui parish and their clergy.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, Shirley.

## **Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE**

The theme for the next edition will be **Stars**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Remember that, to keep readers' attention, your articles should not be too long (*up to around 700 words*).

## **This Week Beginning: 8<sup>th</sup> May**

|                    |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | 7.00 pm            | AAW meeting in the lounge       |
| <b>Wednesday</b>   | 10.00 am           | Mid-week Eucharist              |
|                    | 2.00 pm            | SAYGo in the hall               |
|                    | 3.00 pm            | Service at Radius Matua         |
| <b>Friday</b>      | 9.00 am            | Senior Chef                     |
| <b>Op Shop</b>     | 10.00 am - 4.00 pm | Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422) |
| <b>Playgroup</b>   | 9.30 - 11.30 am    | Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday    |
| <b>Toy Library</b> | 9.30 - 11.30 am    | Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday     |

## **Services for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Easter 5**

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| 8.30 am  | Holy Eucharist |
| 10.00 am | Holy Eucharist |

## **Contact Us**

|                       |  |              |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Vicar:</b>         | The Reverend Sue Beverly   |              |
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