

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 7th May 2023
5th Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends

“Let not your hearts be troubled” said Jesus and yet anxiety, worry and sadness are a part of our lives. Christianity is not about only experiencing the “good” emotions – we still experience the full range; it is part of being human. Sometimes when we tell others not to worry it’s more about our own discomfort than about the other person.

In John’s gospel a whole lot of worrying things had been happening. When Jesus proposed returning towards Jerusalem his disciples sounded the alarm, it would be dangerous. Jesus went anyway and raised Lazarus, further stirring the pot. Now there were threats against others as well Lazarus was also in the crosshairs and who knew what that meant for the rest of the disciples. Jesus’ controversial “triumphant entry” into Jerusalem followed. In chapter thirteen, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, predicted Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial and then started to speak of leaving them. The disciples had every right to be anxious, worried, and confused. And they really had no idea yet about what the next few weeks held for them.

So why was Jesus saying don’t worry? We need to think about the Jesus we know and what is consistent with his nature. This is not Jesus wanting to airbrush out their negative emotions because they might bring him down. Sometimes we need to consider the tone of Jesus voice. The Jesus we know would have held their shoulders and looked right into their eyes and said, “Hey guys, I know everything looks really scary at the moment, but you need to know I am here with you and I have things under control.” Just as Jesus entered into the world’s

suffering, he entered into all the feelings we experience in this world - this is the Jesus who sweated blood at the garden of gethsemane, who wept with his friends at the graveside.

Jesus looked at his worried anxious disciples and he didn't dismiss their worries as unjustified, he lovingly offered them relationship, belonging, stability and hope. Because that relationship is with the eternal and infinite God it has those dimensions also but it's not primarily about pie in the sky (or even a mansion) when you die. This same offer is extended to us, we can offer it to each other, and we can offer it to the world around us, In the midst of Jesus' odd actions and disturbing predictions in the previous chapter he also spoke of love; when he gave his disciples and us the new commandment to love others as he loves us. There is no lack of room and no lack of love in the household of God. May we know and live that truth.

Arohanui, *Sue +*

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 7th May 2023

Sentence

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.'

John 14:6

Collect

**God of truth,
hidden force of all creation, you long to set us free.
Confront us with your tenderness,
fire us with your justice;
that, at your coming,
we too may set the world alight.
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 7.55-60*

2nd Reading *1 Peter 2.2-10*

Gospel *John 14.1-14*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Sisters and Brothers of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and for the people of the East Coast Parish.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: John Boyd, Lou, Isabel, Sheryll, Taylor.

We pray for the soul of the recently departed, Eve, and for her family.

Pentecost Lunch

We hope you will be able to join us for a finger-food lunch after the combined Pentecost service on 28 May. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The new edition of our parish magazine has been published - hard copies are available in the foyer and it is also available on our website.

The theme for the next edition will be **“Helping Hands”** (social service, helping others, charities and charitable acts). Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **26th June 2023**.

This Week Beginning: 8th May

Monday	9.00 am	Craft and Chat
Tuesday	7.00 pm	AAW meeting
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	3.00 pm	Radius Matua Communion
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 14th May -

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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