

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

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



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension)**

### *Dear Friends*

The feast of the Ascension occurs on a Thursday - forty days after Easter and ten days before Pentecost. We get these timings from Luke as recorded in his gospel and the book of Acts. In the other gospels there is a different emphasis. Sometimes the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit are all seen as part of the one event. Luke teases them out for us.

Clearly the Ascension was seen in the early church as an important part of our faith - it entered both of the early creeds we know so well - the Nicene Creed and the Apostles creeds formulated in the 4th and 5th centuries.

What about the Ascension makes it an essential part of our faith? Our book "For all the Saints" expresses it this way "The early church wanted to savour the festival of Easter and made it last for fifty days. That encouraged them to follow Luke's account of events, in which the lordship of Christ is proclaimed by the description of his ascension in glory to reign over all things. The message of the Ascension is the exaltation of Christ."

The Ascension, like the Transfiguration, is a mountaintop experience. Both led to worship. Then one descends to the valley and in the gospels this valley is not a crushing depression as one might experience after an emotional "high". The valley this we descend to is one of service and ministry. The story of the transfiguration is

followed by the ministry of healing. The story of the ascension is linked to our mission.

Paul speaks of Christ's exaltation in the reading assigned for Ascension Day from Ephesians I *God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.* There is a link between Christ's ascension and our identity as church. The exalted Lord is our head and we are his body on earth.

The story of the ascension is not only one of exaltation - it is also one of grace. Christ was taken bodily into God-space with all of his humanity, and the last act he performed before going from their sight was to lift his wounded hands in blessing.

Arohanui, *Sue* +

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

### **Sentence**

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. *John 17:3*

### **Collect**

**Holy God,  
you have not left us alone  
but promised your abiding protection.  
In all we face,  
grant us such a knowledge of your presence,  
and abiding care,  
that nothing can destroy our trust.  
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 1.6-14*

**2nd Reading**      *1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11*

**Gospel**              *John 17.1-11*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the work of the Anglican Board of Mission among Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and for the people of the Havelock North Parish and their clergy.

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

### **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 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 **26<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

### **Foodbank**

As winter approaches let's bump up our Foodbank donations – your assistance with this is much appreciated.

## **This Week Beginning: 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

<b>Monday</b>	10.00 am	Craft and Chat
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
<b>Friday</b>	9.00 am	Senior Chef
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
<b>Playgroup</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
<b>Toy Library</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

## **Service for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May –**

10.00 am Holy Eucharist  
followed by a shared lunch

## **Contact Us**

**Priest-in-Charge:** The Reverend Sue Genner

**Ph:** 576 9923 or 021 235 5051

**Email:** [sue.genner@waiapu.com](mailto:sue.genner@waiapu.com)

**Parish Office:** Lynda Wallace Ph: 576 9923

**Email:** [admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com](mailto:admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com)

**Website:** [www.stjohns-tga.org.nz](http://www.stjohns-tga.org.nz)

**Wardens:** Bill Aldridge 021 982 984  
Roger Clark 027 683 8466