

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 17th January 2021

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Dear Friends

Today's Gospel passage begins straightforwardly with Jesus calling Philip: 'follow me'. And then it gets a more complicated. When Philip finds Nathanael he says, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' And Nathanael says, in effect, 'You've got to be kidding.' Nathanael is from Cana, a small village in Galilee. If Jesus comes from the rival village of Nazareth, then he can't be the Messiah, the king of Israel. It just isn't the sort of place from where kings come.

Nathanael is honest enough to express amazement that God's Messiah could come from an insignificant village. However, God can accomplish great things in unlikely places. Jesus responds saying, in effect, that he is not from Nazareth, he is from God. 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man'. In Jesus, God himself is present. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

Like Philip and Nathanael, we are – or we try to be – followers of Jesus. Can it be said of us, as Jesus says of Nathanael, that we are people in whom there is no deceit? Can it be said that we strive to do what is just and right, to reject for ourselves the false gods of greed and lust and power and to challenge them in a world where they still hold too much sway?

Nathanael is excellent disciple material with qualities of honesty, genuineness, integrity and open-mindedness. Here God takes a person who is humanly praiseworthy and makes of him something more – a disciple.

It's a two-step dance. The first step is to accept for ourselves that something good has come out of Nazareth: that from this small and insignificant Galilean village has come the Son of God. The second step – and it is, in fact, a lifelong journey, often full of wrestling and strife – is to follow him. It is a journey in which we seek to walk with and be united with God, not in our own power but in the power of the Son of Man.

Arohanui

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 17th JANUARY 2021

Sentence

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of Israel!

John 1:41, 49

Collect

**God of call and vocation,
you call the greatest and the least to follow you;
open our ears to hear your call,
empower us by the Holy Spirit to respond
and willingly embrace the new and living way of discipleship.
For you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

1st Reading *1 Samuel 3.1-10*

2nd Reading *Psalm 139.1-5,12-18*

Gospel *John 1.43-51*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the work of the Australian Anglican Missions Board and for the people of the Waipaoa Parish and their clergy.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Cherie, Phyllis, Ron & Sue, Mike & Rachael, Tony.

ST GEORGE'S, GATE PĀ SUMMER LECTURES

Sunday 24 January 7pm: The story of the early CMS missionaries in New Zealand. Lt Col Dr Cliff Simons. *Cliff is a well-known historian, speaker and author. Cliff will place the story of the early missionaries within the historical context so that we can understand the enormous contribution they made to Aotearoa-New Zealand, for better and for worse, in the 19th and their legacy.*

Sunday 31 January 7 pm: The Battle of Pukehinahina-Gate Pā. Buddy Mikaere and Lt Col Dr Cliff Simons. *Buddy is a former Director of the Waitangi Tribunal and is a consultant, author and historian. Buddy and Cliff are co-authors of the book: Victory at Gate Pā? Buddy and Cliff will explore why this battle happened, what happened during the battle and the aftermath and its importance for all of us living in Tauranga today.*

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday 27th February from 10.30am until 3.30pm we will hold a **reflective and practical workshop with Alister Hendery** entitled **Loss and Grieving**. This is for anyone who wishes to reflect on their own experiences of loss – whatever the cause – and for people who want to support others who grieve.

Alister is an Anglican priest, currently serving in Hawkes Bay. Loss and grief have been a special focus of his ministry for the past 40 years. He has served as a parish priest, educator, counsellor, as well as specialising in funeral ministry.

Further details and registration information will be available shortly. In the meantime, if you have questions please speak to the Vicar.

This Week Beginning: 18th January

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Wednesday	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Mid-week Eucharist SAYGo in the Hall
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)	
Playgroup	Closed: re-commences Tuesday 2 nd February	
Toy Library	Closed: re-opens 26 th January	

Service for 24th January – Epiphany 3

9.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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