

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 20th September 2026

Liturgy: p476

OT 25

Psalm 105:1-6,36-44

From Tonga to the Season of Creation: Reflections on General Synod

Malo everyone,

In our service on Sunday, I have the privilege of sharing some of my recent experiences from the General Synod in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. This gathering was a significant milestone across our Three Tikanga church with over 150 delegates and contributors, observers attending. This was the first time that Synod was held in Tonga, and the historic bicentennial celebration of 200 years of Christianity in Tonga.

Our time together was marked by learning through talanoa (discussion) and extraordinary hospitality from the four episcopal units, churches and Anglican school communities across Tonga. Informed by the lived experiences of our Pacific neighbours facing rising tides and climate shifts, the Synod turned prayer into concrete commitments in response to those needs in our Province, across New Zealand and the Pacific.

Our Gospel reading this week features the parable of the vineyard workers (Matthew 20:1–16). In the story, a landowner hires labourers at various points throughout the day—some at dawn, others at noon, and a final group at the eleventh hour, just sixty minutes before the

end of work. When the day ends, everyone receives the exact same wage: a full denarius regardless of how hard the people laboured.

Whether a person has walked the path of faith for a lifetime or has only just arrived at the final hour, the reward remains the same: God Himself, His mercy, and His invitation to life to the full. Like the vast, deep ocean that surrounds our Pacific islands, connecting rather than dividing us, God's grace flows abundantly to everyone—especially the exhausted, the latecomer, the vulnerable, and the overlooked.

As we continue through this Season of Creation, we are reminded that we do not compete for a limited supply of God's love. Instead, we are called to let go of comparison, to approach the world with radical humility and generosity, rejoicing when others are blessed and giving to those in need.

Blessings,

Tim Cross



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 20th September 2026

Sentence:

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8–9

Collect:

Grant us, Lord, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, to hold fast to your promise and commit again to active hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

OT Reading *Exodus 16:2-15*

NT Reading *Philippians 1:21-30*

Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for those who must migrate, rebuild, or change their way of life in the face of ever-changing climate including the Pacific Islands, facing the cruel routine of flooding, cyclones, and weather patterns that devastate agriculture, homes and development. We pray for the people of the Gate Pa Parish and their clergy.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Lynda, Lawrence, Reg, Jon, Angela R, Robyn, Vaughan, Wendy.

Working Bee

Thank you to all involved in the working bee. It was a very successful day. There were lots of people helping including 2 volunteers from the Op Shop. Over 60 tasks were completed which is very impressive. Well Done!

This Week Beginning: 21st September 2026

Monday 10:00 am Lavendar Craft Group Meet
Wednesday 10:00 am Mid-week Communion
 7:00 pm Vestry meeting
Friday 9:30 am Senior Chef
Sunday 9:30 am Holy Communion

Op Shop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday
Playgroup 9:30am – 11:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library 9:30am – 11:30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Contact Us

Priest in charge: The Reverend John Hebenton tssf
Email: john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Ph: 07 576 9923 or 021 679 202

Parish Office: Erica Orrick Ph: 07 576 9923
Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm Tuesday - Friday
Email: admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com
Website: www.stjohns-tga.org.nz

Administrator: Lynda Wallace Ph: 027 780 3653
Email: admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com

Wardens: Roger Clark 027 683 8466
Angela Stensness 021 040 6748