

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

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



**Sunday 25 July 2021**  
**St James and St John, Apostles**

*Dear Friends*

The brothers James and John, both apostles, were part of an inner circle of disciples who, with Peter, were present at key points in Jesus' ministry. Today's Gospel recounts a rather unflattering incident as their mother asks Jesus: 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.'

Jesus has just explained how he will suffer, die and rise, so imagine his sadness when he hears this request. Jesus replies directly to the brothers with a question of his own: 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I will drink?' 'We are able', they reply – without apparent hesitation despite Jesus' warning.

To adapt Jesus words: are we able to drink the cup we are given? Do we accept the life we are given as a gift from God? How do we react to uncertainty, change and difficulty in our own lives? Our lives – the cups of our lives – are cups of joy and sorrow, of light and dark, of death and life. We have little choice but to drink the life contained in our cup – for better for worse. Sometimes we want to control our lives, to make them different but are unable to make change happen.

To accept and embrace the cup of our life is a matter of faith and trust in God, maybe a leap of faith contrary to our natural instinct. We want certainty so we can plan. If nothing else, the COVID pandemic has taught us how plans go awry. But as we learn to accept who we are and the life we are given, to drink our cup, we learn to place our trust in God.

For this we need patience, guidance and the freedom to *let go and let God* instead of tightening our controls and certitudes. Although this is not easy – partly because we live in a culture of progress and efficiency, impatient with gradual growth – we should not underestimate the long-term life benefits of grace-filled transformation. God’s way of restoring things within us is much more patient – and finally more effective. Sometimes we run in the wrong direction until we find a long, painful, circuitous path to get back to where we need to be, despite ourselves. Looking in our own ‘rear-view mirrors’ can fill us with gratitude for God’s work in our lives. Every time we say yes, every time we sip the cup, every time we continue to trust, we rise again, we embrace the life in that cup more deeply, we can find grateful hearts for the life that we are given.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

### **Sentence**

Jesus said, ‘In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer,  
I have overcome the world.’

*John 16:33b*

### **Collect**

**Grant us, Christ our life,  
the courage of James and John, your friends,  
to undergo your baptism,  
to drink the cup you drank,  
to follow you, even to the place of death.  
Hear this prayer for your name’s sake. Amen**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      *Jeremiah 45.1-5*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      *2 Corinthians 4.7-15*

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 20.20-28*

## **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for the students of the Msalato Theological College in Dodoma and for the people of the Woodville parish.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Bridget, Mike.

### **St Christopher**

St Christopher, who became the patron saint of travellers and of children, is also celebrated on 25 July. This reminds us that, although we cannot travel far at the moment, we can give thanks for all the travelling we have done in the past.

There is little historical information about Christopher. It is thought that he died sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, apparently martyred under the Roman Emperor of the time. There are, however, some early legends associated with his name. These tales grew and were eventually gathered in a collection of stories about the saints known as the *Golden Legend*, popular in late-medieval Europe.

According to the legends, Christopher was a Canaanite giant who, having been converted and instructed in the Christian faith by a hermit, was told to live near a certain river and help travellers across it. This is the setting for the best-known of the stories about him and one that relates to his name, 'Christ-bearer'. A child once asked Christopher to carry him across the river. Christopher found the child so heavy that he was almost bowed under by the child's weight. When he asked the child why he had found him so heavy, the child explained that he was Jesus Christ and that, in carrying him, Christopher was also carrying on his shoulders the weight of the whole world he had made.

## **This Week Beginning: 26<sup>th</sup> July**

<b>Monday</b>	9.00 am	Walking Group
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Vestry meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the Hall
	4.00pm	<b>NO</b> Music Group practice
<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 1<sup>st</sup> August – OT18**

8.30 am Holy Eucharist  
10.00 am Holy Eucharist

### **Contact Us**

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