

Welcome! Haere mai!

## St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



**Sunday 4 October**  
**St Francis of Assisi**

### *Dear Friends*

One of the things Francis of Assisi is best known for is his love of nature. His *Canticle of the Creatures* tells us that creatures and natural elements reflect in their beauty and strength the blessings that come from God. This is one of the ways God is present with us today. The Canticle begins:

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour, and all blessing.  
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.  
Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures...*

St Bonaventure (1221–1274), an early Franciscan mystic, taught that 'As a human being, Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence; with plants he shares life; with animals he shares sensation; and with the angels he shares intelligence.'

In saying this, Bonaventure was trying to give theological weight to the deep experience Francis, who, as far as we know, was the first recorded Christian to call animals and elements and even the forces of nature by familial names, much as indigenous people have done for centuries. In the *Canticle of the Creatures* Francis speaks about 'Brother Sun', 'Sister Moon', 'Brother Wind', 'Sister Water', 'Brother Fire', 'Sister Mother Earth'.

Francis was fully at home in this created world. He understood that our life is intimately connected with creation, with God's creation. God's artistry is in everything, everywhere and we as humanity are part of God's creativity. It is within creation where divinity and humanity became one, when Jesus came among us, and it is within creation that God's Holy Spirit dwells with us today.

We cannot jump over this world or its woundedness and still try to love God. We must love God *through, in, with,* and even *because of* this world. This is the message Christianity was supposed to initiate, proclaim and encourage and what Jesus modelled. God 'empties' Godself into creation and then we humans create systems to control and subdue that creation for our own purposes and profit, reversing the divine pattern.

In the *Canticle of the Creatures* Francis displays a confident humility, a humility that rejoices, offers praise, gives thanks and shows love to God. There is no demand made of God and no focus on self.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

### **Sentence**

Let the whole creation bless the Lord; praise and exalt our God for ever.  
*Song of the Three Young Men 35 (adapted)*

### **Collect**

**Gracious and merciful God,  
you kindled in the heart of Francis  
such a flame of love that he became wholly yours;  
increase in us a wholehearted trust in you  
and a humble love of all your creatures,  
that we may know the joy the gospel brings;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
Amen**

## 1st Reading

*The Song of the Three Young Men, vs 52-65*

## 2nd Reading

*Galatians 6.14-18*

## Gospel

*Matthew 11.25-30*

## Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the people of the Edgecumbe-Kawerau Parish and their Ministry Support Team, and for the Diocese of Polynesia's Water for All projects.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Cherie, Sherryl, Phyllis, Ron & Sue, Norman & Dinah, Susan, Craig.

### **WORSHIP in LEVEL 1**

- there is singing at both services and post 10am morning tea!
- please share the peace using a non-contact method
- communion wine will be offered. If you are uncomfortable about taking the chalice, please remember that communion is complete in one kind (bread). Dipping of wafer into wine is not permitted.

### **HEALTH & WELL-BEING whatever the Covid alert level**

- use the *Contact Tracing App* and *maintain physical distancing*
- *good personal hygiene* remains highly important: washing your hands frequently, use hand sanitiser, cough into your elbow.
- in addition to Covid, other respiratory illnesses – such as colds, 'flu and sore throats – and stomach upsets are infectious. *Please do not come to church if you are unwell or have had any symptoms of these illnesses in the prior 48-72 hours.* Let's keep each other safe!

## PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be ***Friends and Friendship***.

Thanks to those who have sent their contributions in so far. We are looking for some additional stories. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, or the Vicar by **12 October**.

## **COVID TRACER BOOKLETS**

For those who do not have smart phones, we have obtained a supply of Covid Tracer Booklets in which you can record places you have visited. They are available in the foyer in packs of 10 – help yourself.

## **TAIZÉ SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE'S**

St George's Church, Gate Pa are offering a quiet contemplative Taizé style service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm. The life and death of Saint Francis of Assisi will be remembered.

### **This Week Beginning: 5<sup>th</sup> October**

<b>Monday</b>	9.00 am	Walking Group
	1.00 pm	Mahjong in the lounge
<b>Tuesday</b>	3.00 pm	Matua Lifecare Communion
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	Golden Age in the hall
	4.00 pm	Music group practice
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
<b>Playgroup</b>	Closed for school holidays	
<b>Toy Library</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

### **Services for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October – OT 28**

*Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14*

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.00 am Holy Eucharist

4.00 pm Messy Church

## **Contact Us**

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